

Just War Theory for the 21st Century: is Climate Change a Just Cause for War?
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Just war theory is the moral doctrine that governs war. It is the intellectual tradition behind the Hague and Geneva conventions and behind most countries' rules of engagement. Just war theory distinguishes the morality of a nation's or another group's resort to war (as in, "Is the war that Nation A is fighting just?") from moral conduct within war (as in, "Is X act of war carried out by Nation A morally justified, or, more broadly, is Nation A fighting its war in an ethical way?"). In order for a nation's resort to war to be just, there are five criteria known as *ius ad bellum* (Latin for "right to war"), that must be met: (1) the war must have a just cause, (2) the good that war achieves (as in, the just cause) must be proportionate to the harm that it causes, (3) war must actually be necessary to achieve the just cause (other words: if diplomacy could succeed, it is required instead of war). Intuitively, some people call this criterion "last resort," as in "war was out last resort." (4) those who initiate and fight in war must have the right intention in doing so, and (5) those who

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