

just and unjust wars michael walzer

Just and Unjust Wars Michael Walzer: Understanding the Ethics of Warfare

just and unjust wars michael walzer is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of philosophy, ethics, and international relations. Michael Walzer's seminal work, **Just and Unjust Wars**, is often regarded as a cornerstone in the study of just war theory, providing a comprehensive framework to evaluate the morality of armed conflict. His nuanced approach helps us navigate the complex questions surrounding when war can be justified and how it ought to be conducted ethically.

If you've ever wondered about the ethical limits of war, or how societies decide what makes a war just or unjust, Walzer's insights offer valuable guidance. In this article, we'll explore the core ideas behind just and unjust wars Michael Walzer discusses, unpack the principles of just war theory, and understand how these concepts remain relevant to contemporary conflicts.

The Foundation of Just War Theory According to Michael Walzer

At its heart, just war theory aims to provide moral criteria for war, balancing the harsh realities of conflict with the need for ethical restraint. Walzer reinvigorated this ancient tradition with his 1977 book, **Just and Unjust Wars**, emphasizing the importance of justice and morality in warfare.

Walzer argued that war isn't simply a matter of brute force or political power but is subject to moral evaluation. This perspective challenges the nihilistic or purely pragmatic views of war and insists that even in conflict, there are rules and norms that must be respected.

Jus ad Bellum: The Justice of Going to War

One of the key contributions Walzer made is clarifying the criteria for *jus ad bellum*, or the justice of war initiation. According to him, a war can only be considered just if it meets several conditions:

- ****Just cause****: Typically, self-defense against aggression or protection of innocent lives.
- ****Legitimate authority****: Only duly constituted authorities can declare war.
- ****Right intention****: The primary motive must be to secure a just cause, not revenge or conquest.
- ****Probability of success****: There should be a reasonable chance of achieving the war's goals.
- ****Last resort****: All peaceful alternatives must have been exhausted.
- ****Proportionality****: The expected benefits of the war must outweigh the anticipated harm.

Walzer's emphasis on these criteria serves as a crucial tool for assessing whether a conflict is morally defensible before it even begins.

Jus in Bello: Ethics During War

Walzer also delves deeply into jus in bello, the ethics of conduct within war. He insists that even a just war can be waged unjustly if combatants violate principles governing behavior during conflict. Key principles include:

- **Discrimination**: Combatants must distinguish between military targets and civilians, avoiding harm to non-combatants.
- **Proportionality**: The use of force must be proportional to the military objective.
- **Fair treatment of prisoners**: Enemy combatants captured should be treated humanely.
- **No means malum in se**: Certain methods of warfare, like torture or targeting civilians deliberately, are inherently wrong.

This ethical framework ensures that war does not become a free-for-all but remains bounded by humanitarian considerations, even amid violence.

Michael Walzer's Impact on Modern Ethical and Political Thought

Walzer's work has reverberated far beyond academic circles, influencing how governments, international organizations, and even military strategists think about war and peace. His arguments offer a middle ground between pacifism and realism, providing a moral lens through which to view armed conflict.

Redefining Sovereignty and Intervention

One of the most provocative aspects of Walzer's theory is his take on sovereignty and humanitarian intervention. He argues that while states have sovereignty, this sovereignty is not absolute. When a government commits gross injustices against its population or threatens others, external intervention might be morally justified.

This stance has significant implications for debates on humanitarian wars and responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrines, where the international community must decide when to intervene in another country's affairs morally.

Just War Theory in the Age of Asymmetric Warfare

In today's global landscape, conflicts often involve non-state actors, insurgencies, and

terrorism, complicating traditional just war criteria. Walzer's insistence on moral clarity prompts us to rethink how *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* apply when facing irregular warfare.

For example, distinguishing combatants from civilians becomes more challenging, raising questions about proportionality and discrimination. Walzer's framework encourages continuous reflection on these ethical dilemmas rather than abandoning moral standards altogether.

Critiques and Debates Around Just and Unjust Wars Michael Walzer Presents

No theory is without its critics, and Walzer's work has sparked lively debates. Some argue that his reliance on a "moral equality of soldiers" overlooks the political realities that shape conflicts. Others question whether just war theory can be applied consistently across different cultures and historical contexts.

Nonetheless, the ongoing discourse underscores the vitality of Walzer's contribution: it provokes essential questions about the justification of violence and the pursuit of justice in war.

Challenges of Subjectivity and Interpretation

One criticism is that terms like "just cause" and "right intention" can be subjective, allowing states to justify wars under the guise of morality. Walzer acknowledges this but maintains that public, reasoned debate is crucial to hold powers accountable.

His approach champions the importance of democratic deliberation and international law as mechanisms to prevent arbitrary or unjust wars.

Balancing Realpolitik and Moral Idealism

Another tension lies between the harsh realities of political power and Walzer's moral idealism. While some political theorists emphasize power and interest, Walzer insists on the primacy of ethics, even if imperfectly realized.

This balance challenges policymakers and military leaders to integrate ethical considerations into strategic decisions, fostering a more humane approach to international relations.

Practical Lessons from Just and Unjust Wars

Michael Walzer Explores

Understanding Walzer's perspectives isn't just academic—it has practical implications for how societies engage with conflict and peace.

- **Encouraging Accountability:** Walzer's criteria encourage transparency from governments about the reasons for war, fostering public scrutiny.
- **Protecting Civilians:** Emphasizing discrimination and proportionality helps minimize civilian casualties and uphold human rights during conflicts.
- **Promoting Peaceful Alternatives:** The last resort principle reminds leaders to exhaust diplomacy and negotiation before resorting to violence.
- **Guiding Military Ethics:** Soldiers and commanders can use just war principles to navigate moral challenges on the battlefield.

By applying these lessons, nations and individuals can better navigate the moral complexities of war, aiming to reduce unnecessary suffering and uphold justice.

Why Just and Unjust Wars Michael Walzer's Work Remains Relevant Today

Despite being published decades ago, *Just and Unjust Wars* continues to shape discussions about conflict, law, and morality. From debates over interventions in Syria and Iraq to questions about drone warfare and cyber conflict, Walzer's framework provides a moral compass.

His insistence on treating war as a political and ethical issue, rather than merely a strategic one, reminds us that even in the darkest moments, humanity's quest for justice and dignity must not be abandoned.

As global conflicts evolve, revisiting Walzer's insights helps scholars, policymakers, and the public wrestle with the enduring question: When is war just, and how can we conduct it justly? This ongoing conversation is crucial as we strive to create a more peaceful and ethical world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main thesis of Michael Walzer's book 'Just and Unjust Wars'?

Michael Walzer's 'Just and Unjust Wars' argues that war can be morally justified under certain conditions, and he provides a framework for evaluating wars based on principles of justice before, during, and after conflict.

How does Michael Walzer distinguish between 'just' and 'unjust' wars?

Walzer distinguishes 'just' wars as those fought for morally legitimate reasons, such as self-defense or protecting innocents, following ethical conduct, while 'unjust' wars lack legitimate cause or violate moral norms during warfare.

What role does the concept of 'jus ad bellum' play in Walzer's theory?

In Walzer's theory, 'jus ad bellum' refers to the justice of going to war, focusing on the conditions under which it is morally acceptable to initiate war, such as just cause, legitimate authority, and right intention.

How does Walzer address the morality of actions during war ('jus in bello')?

Walzer emphasizes that even in a just war, combatants must adhere to ethical constraints like discrimination and proportionality, ensuring non-combatants are protected and force used is proportionate to the military objective.

What impact has 'Just and Unjust Wars' had on contemporary discussions of war ethics?

Walzer's work has profoundly influenced modern just war theory, providing a detailed philosophical foundation that informs debates on military intervention, humanitarian wars, and international law regarding the morality of war.

Additional Resources

Just and Unjust Wars Michael Walzer: A Deep Dive into the Ethics of Warfare

just and unjust wars michael walzer is a phrase that immediately brings to mind one of the most influential works in political philosophy and ethics of war. Michael Walzer's seminal book, **Just and Unjust Wars**, published in 1977, offers a profound and systematic exploration of the moral dimensions of warfare. His framework, grounded in a blend of historical context, philosophical rigor, and practical politics, continues to shape debates on military ethics, international law, and humanitarian intervention. This article investigates Walzer's contributions, analyzing the core principles and controversies surrounding his

theories while situating them within contemporary discussions.

The Foundation of Walzer's Just War Theory

Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars* revitalizes the classical just war tradition, which dates back to thinkers like Augustine and Aquinas, by contextualizing it within the realities of modern conflict. Unlike abstract philosophical treatises, Walzer's approach is deeply empirical, drawing upon historical case studies ranging from the American Revolution to the Vietnam War. His work distinguishes between two key categories: *jus ad bellum* (the justice of going to war) and *jus in bello* (justice in the conduct of war).

Walzer's framework rests on the conviction that war, while inherently tragic, can sometimes be morally justified. He argues that states must have a just cause—such as self-defense or protecting innocent lives—to legitimately initiate war. Beyond that, the means and methods of warfare must adhere to ethical constraints, particularly concerning the distinction between combatants and non-combatants.

Just Cause and Legitimate Authority

At the heart of Walzer's theory is the principle that wars must be fought for just causes. Unlike wars of aggression or conquest, a just war is typically defensive, aimed at repelling aggression or preventing gross injustice, such as genocide. Walzer emphasizes that the authority to declare war must lie with a legitimate political entity, usually a sovereign state or a recognized government, to prevent chaos and lawlessness.

This insistence on legitimate authority counters the rise of non-state actors and insurgencies, raising challenging questions in contemporary conflicts involving terrorism or civil wars. Walzer's framework demands careful scrutiny of who qualifies as a rightful authority, a debate that has intensified in the post-Cold War era.

Proportionality and Discrimination in Warfare

Two other pillars of Walzer's thought are proportionality and discrimination. Proportionality restricts the use of force to what is necessary to achieve the just cause, condemning excessive violence that leads to unnecessary suffering. Discrimination refers to the moral obligation to distinguish between combatants, who are legitimate targets, and civilians, who should be spared from direct attacks.

Walzer's advocacy for discrimination challenges total war doctrines and indiscriminate bombing campaigns that characterized many 20th-century conflicts. His arguments have influenced the development of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, which codify protections for non-combatants.

Critiques and Contemporary Relevance

While Walzer's **Just and Unjust Wars** is widely regarded as a landmark text, it has not been without criticism. Some scholars argue that his reliance on state sovereignty as the basis for legitimate authority is increasingly problematic in a world where non-state actors and supranational institutions play significant roles. Others question whether his criteria for just cause are too narrow or culturally biased towards Western political values.

Moreover, the evolving nature of warfare—featuring cyber attacks, drone strikes, and asymmetrical conflicts—poses new ethical dilemmas that challenge Walzer's traditional categories. For example, the use of autonomous weapons systems raises questions about discrimination and accountability that extend beyond Walzer's original scope.

Nevertheless, Walzer's emphasis on moral responsibility in war remains influential. His framework is frequently cited in debates on humanitarian interventions, such as NATO's intervention in Kosovo or the international response to the Syrian civil war. The principle of "just cause" has been invoked to justify or criticize these interventions, illustrating the enduring relevance of **Just and Unjust Wars**.

Comparative Perspectives: Walzer and Other Just War Theorists

To appreciate Walzer's unique contribution, it is useful to compare his work with other prominent just war theorists. Unlike pacifists who reject all forms of war, Walzer accepts war as a regrettable but sometimes necessary reality. Compared to Michael Ignatieff or contemporary advocates of humanitarian intervention, Walzer offers a more restrained and historically grounded approach.

Additionally, Walzer's focus on the moral agency of soldiers and citizens contrasts with legalistic approaches that emphasize international treaties and state behavior. His insistence on the ethical judgment of individual combatants highlights the human dimension of war, often overlooked in purely institutional analyses.

Key Features of Walzer's Ethical Framework

- **Moral Realism:** Walzer asserts that moral truths exist even in the context of war, countering relativistic or nihilistic views.
- **Historical Contextualization:** He grounds ethical principles in historical examples, making his theory practical and relatable.
- **Dual Focus:** Distinguishes clearly between justice before war (**jus ad bellum**) and justice during war (**jus in bello**), preventing the conflation of these issues.

- **Emphasis on Civilian Protection:** Advocates strongly for the principle of discrimination to minimize civilian casualties.
- **Critique of Total War:** Challenges doctrines that justify unlimited violence and destruction.

Pros and Cons of Walzer's Approach

1. Pros:

- Provides a clear ethical framework applicable to real-world conflicts.
- Balances theoretical rigor with practical concerns.
- Influences international law and military ethics education.

2. Cons:

- Relies heavily on state-centric notions of authority.
- May struggle to address non-traditional warfare effectively.
- Some critics argue it is biased towards Western political paradigms.

The intricate balance Walzer attempts to strike between moral absolutes and political realities makes **Just and Unjust Wars** a continuously debated text. His work invites ongoing dialogue about the ethics of conflict, especially as new forms of warfare emerge and global power dynamics shift.

Exploring how just and unjust wars Michael Walzer defines can illuminate not only past conflicts but also guide policymakers, military leaders, and ethicists navigating the complex terrain of 21st-century warfare. The book's enduring legacy underscores the persistent challenge of aligning moral principles with the harsh realities of armed conflict.

[Just And Unjust Wars Michael Walzer](#)

just and unjust wars michael walzer: Just and Unjust Wars Michael Walzer, 2015-08-11 "A classic in the field" (New York Times), this is a penetrating investigation into moral and ethical

questions raised by war, drawing on examples from antiquity to the present. *Just and Unjust Wars* has forever changed how we think about the ethics of conflict. In this modern classic, political philosopher Michael Walzer examines the moral issues that arise before, during, and after the wars we fight. Reaching from the Athenian attack on Melos, to the Mai Lai massacre, to the war in Afghanistan and beyond, Walzer mines historical and contemporary accounts and the testimony of participants, decision makers, and victims to explain when war is justified and what ethical limitations apply to those who wage it.

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just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Just And Unjust Wars* Michael Walzer, 1977-12-19 This classic work examines the issues surrounding military theory, war crimes, and the spoils of war from the Athenian attack on Melos to the My Lai massacre.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Walzer and War* Graham Parsons, Mark A. Wilson, 2021-05-02 This book presents ten original essays that reassess the meaning, relevance, and legacy of Michael Walzer's classic, *Just and Unjust Wars*. Written by leading figures in philosophy, theology, international politics and the military, the essays examine topics such as territorial rights, lessons from America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the practice of humanitarian intervention in light of experience, Walzer's notorious discussion of supreme emergencies, revisionist criticisms of noncombatant immunity, gender and the rights of combatants, the peacebuilding critique of just war theory, and the responsibility of soldiers for unjust wars. Collectively, these essays advance the debate in this important field and demonstrate the continued relevance of Walzer's work.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Intervention, Terrorism, and Torture* Steven P. Lee, 2006-11-22 Just war theory is the traditional approach taken to questions of the morality of war, but war today is far from traditional. War has been deeply affected in recent years by a variety of social and technological developments in areas such as international terrorism, campaigns of genocide and ethnic cleansing, the global human rights movement, economic globalization, and military technology. This book asks whether just war theory is adequate to the challenges these developments pose. Just war theory provides rules for determining when it is justified to fight a war. But some have argued that the nature of contemporary war makes these rules obsolete. For example, genocidal and aggressive regimes may require the use of military force that is not strictly in self-defense, as just war theory requires. In addition, the theory provides rules for determining what the limits are on justified conduct in war. But the random violence of terrorism and the deliberately inflicted violence of torture seem endemic to our age, yet take us beyond the limits set by these rules of conduct in war. By carefully examining the phenomena of intervention, terrorism, and torture from a number of different perspectives, the essays in this book explore this set of issues with insight and clarity.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* , 1978-10 The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is the premier public resource on scientific and technological developments that impact global security. Founded by Manhattan Project Scientists, the Bulletin's iconic Doomsday Clock stimulates solutions for a safer world.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Prefaces and Postscripts* David Luban, 2018 This paper was written as a keynote address for a conference on Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust War* on the 40th anniversary of its publication. It discusses the significance of the book, and examines the updating prefaces Walzer wrote to the five editions of the book and his methodological postscript to the fifth edition. The paper contrasts Walzer's philosophical method with that of analytic just war theory, arguing that Walzer's use of historical cases and the analytic use of imaginary "toy" cases serve different philosophical ends. Noting that *Just and Unjust Wars* appeared the same year as the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, I examine the parallels between Walzer's views and those in AP I, especially between Walzer's reformulation of the doctrine of double effect and AP I's

requirement that militaries take all feasible steps to insure that attacks do not inflict excessive unintended harm on civilians. Next I examine the role that human rights plays in the course of Walzer's argument, including the awkward fit between individual human rights and his theory of *jus ad bellum*. The final sections compare the legalism of analytic philosophy's analysis of rights-forfeiture with Walzer's humanism, and warn that contemporary populism places that humanism in peril.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Arguing About War* Michael Walzer, 2008-10-01 Michael Walzer is one of the world's most eminent philosophers on the subject of war and ethics. Now, for the first time since his classic *Just and Unjust Wars* was published almost three decades ago, this volume brings together his most provocative arguments about contemporary military conflicts and the ethical issues they raise. The essays in the book are divided into three sections. The first deals with issues such as humanitarian intervention, emergency ethics, and terrorism. The second consists of Walzer's responses to particular wars, including the first Gulf War, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. And the third presents an essay in which Walzer imagines a future in which war might play a less significant part in our lives. In his introduction, Walzer reveals how his thinking has changed over time. Written during a period of intense debate over the proper use of armed force, this book gets to the heart of difficult problems and argues persuasively for a moral perspective on war.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *The Just War Myth* Andrew Fiala, 2007-12-07 As the war in Iraq continues and Americans debate the consequences of the war in Afghanistan, the war on terror, and the possibility of war with North Korea and Iran, war is one of the biggest issues in public debate. Andrew Fiala in *The Just War Myth* challenges the apparently predominant American sentiment that war can be easily justified. Even most Democrats seem to hold that opinion, despite the horrific costs of war both on the people being attacked or caught up in the chaos and on the Americans involved in carrying out the war. *The Just War Myth* argues that while the just war theory is a good theory, actual wars do not live up to its standards. The book provides a genealogy of the just war idea and also turns a critical eye on current events, including the idea of preemptive war, the use of torture, and the unreality of the Bush Doctrine. Fiala warns that pacifism, too, can become mythological, advocating skepticism about attempts to justify war.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Moral Constraints on War* Bruno Coppieters, N. Fotion, 2002-01-01 *Moral Constraints on War* offers a principle-by-principle presentation of the transcultural roots of the ethics of war in an age defined by the increasingly international nature of military intervention. Parts one and two trace the evolution of Just War theory, analyzing the principles of *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*: the principles that determine under what conditions a war may be started and then conducted. Each chapter provides the historical background of the principle under discussion, an explanation of the principle, and numerous historical examples of its application. In Part three, case studies apply the theories discussed to the Gulf War, the 1994 Russian intervention in Chechnya, NATO's humanitarian mission in Kosovo, and the U.S. military's actions in Afghanistan in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks. Bringing together an international coterie of philosophers and political scientists this accessible and practical guide offers students of military ethics, international law, and social conflict rich, up-to-the-minute insight into the pluralistic character of Just War Theory.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *The Renegotiation of the Just War Tradition and the Right to War in the Twenty-First Century* C. O'Driscoll, 2008-04-14 This book examines the manner by which the just war tradition has been invoked, engaged and developed in the context of the war on terror, paying particular attention to the questions of anticipatory war, humanitarian intervention, and punitive war.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *The Present "Just Peace/Just War" Debate* Ad de Bruijne, Gerard den Hertog, 2018-09-01 At first the end of the Cold War seemed to mark a period of relative rest. However, it became apparent that we have not reached the end of history. As a matter of fact, the world is confronted by new political constellations of so far unknown martial intensity.

Although, Muslim terrorism and the revival of tribalism and nationalism are closely connected. At the same time, the international community proves mostly powerless, as a result of the cooling relationship between East and West. These developments offer challenging questions for Western societies. Both in Germany and in the Anglo-Saxon world, debates on the concepts of Just peace/ Just war have intensified, but mutual engagement between these contexts has remained scarce. Against this background a conference was held in Apeldoorn, in a Dutch interspace, in 2016, in which ethicists from both contexts were involved. The present volume contains the edited version of the seven contributions to this conference, supplemented with four articles by others that were written deliberately for this volume. [Die Debatte Gerechter Frieden/Gerechter Krieg. Zwei Diskussionen oder eine?] Nach dem Ende des Kalten Krieges hatte es den Anschein, als breche eine Friedensperiode an. Leider hat sich inzwischen gezeigt, dass wir nicht ans Ende der Geschichte gelangt sind. Vielmehr sieht sich die Welt am Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts mit neuen politischen Konstellationen ungekannter kriegigerischer Intensität konfrontiert. Dabei hängen islamistischer Terror und das Wiederaufleben von Tribalismus und Nationalismus zusammen. Hinzu kommt, dass das Ost-West-Verhältnis sich zunehmend verschlechtert, wodurch die Machtinstrumente der internationalen Gemeinschaft kraftlos geworden sind. Diese Entwicklungen stellen herausfordernde Fragen an die westlichen Gesellschaften. Sowohl in Deutschland als auch in der angelsächsischen Welt ist die Debatte über die Themen Gerechter Frieden/Gerechter Krieg neu aufgebrochen, aber sie findet weitgehend getrennt voneinander statt. Vor diesem Hintergrund hat 2016 in Apeldoorn, im niederländischen Zwischenraum, eine Konferenz stattgefunden, an der Ethiker aus beiden Kontexten beteiligt waren. Dieser Band dokumentiert deren sieben Vorträge, ergänzt um vier Aufsätze, die speziell für diesen Band geschrieben wurden. Mit Beiträgen von Ted van Baarda, Nigel Biggar, Jan Peter van Bruggen, Ad de Bruijne, Guido de Graaff, Gerard den Hertog, Marco Hofheinz, Wolfgang Lienemann, Hans Ulrich, Pieter Vos, Greetje Witte-Rang.

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just and unjust wars michael walzer: Ethics & International Affairs Joel H. Rosenthal, Christian Barry, 2009-02-06 The third edition of *Ethics & International Affairs* provides a fresh selection of classroom resources, ideal for courses in international relations, ethics, foreign policy, and related fields. Published with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, this collection contains some of the best contemporary scholarship on international ethics, written by a group of distinguished political scientists, political theorists, philosophers, applied ethicists, and economic development specialists. Each contributor explores how moral theory can inform policy choices regarding topics such as war and intervention, international organizations, human rights, and global economic justice. This book provides an entry point into these key debates and offers a platform for further discussion. Published in cooperation with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs

just and unjust wars michael walzer: Michael Walzer's Just War Theory Elena Mertel, 2019-09-30 Essay from the year 2018 in the subject Sociology - War and Peace, Military, grade: 8,0, University of Groningen, course: Theories of International Relations, language: English, abstract: Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust War* from 1977 is considered a major work in traditional Just War Theory. Many of his assumptions are still the basis for modern warfare considerations. However, the author suggest that Walzer's concept of *jus in bello* (the conduct of war) needs further revision, especially to provide an appropriate notion of combatants. In this respect, the theoretical conception of soldiers will be examined on three different levels of analysis. These include the combatants' contradictory responsibilities in *jus ad bellum* (the justification for war), *jus in bello* and the debate on the value of a soldier's life. Firstly, the contradictory role of combatants' responsibilities in *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* by referring to Graham Parsons' criticism on the dualism of Just War Theory will be outlined. Then, the author elaborates on Walzer's claim that all soldiers are morally equal. The following critical analysis of the value of combatants' lives as individual human beings will further demonstrate the need for a revised perception of combatants in modern warfare and point out why Walzer's assumptions are insufficient. While the role of civilians and their need for

protection has developed over time and even restrictions for cruel methods of killing were introduced, the status of soldiers has basically remained the same. In this work the author argues that striving toward more just warfare also requires reconsidering the highly inhumane status of soldiers in traditional approaches.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *The Individualization of War* Jennifer Welsh, Dapo Akande, David Rodin, 2024-03-07 *The Individualization of War* examines the status of individuals in contemporary armed conflict in three main capacities: as subject to violence but deserving of protection; as liable to harm because of their responsibility for attacks on others; and as agents who can be held accountable for the perpetration of crimes.

just and unjust wars michael walzer: *Just War Reconsidered* James M. Dubik, 2016-08-12 In the seminal *Just and Unjust Wars*, Michael Walzer famously considered the ethics of modern warfare, examining the moral issues that arise before, during, and after conflict. However, Walzer and subsequent scholars have often limited their analyses of the ethics of combat to soldiers on the ground and failed to recognize the moral responsibilities of senior political and military leaders. In *Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics, and Theory*, James M. Dubik draws on years of research as well as his own experiences as a soldier and teacher to fill the gaps left by other theorists. He applies moral philosophy, political philosophy, and strategic studies to historical and contemporary case studies to reveal the inaccuracies and moral bankruptcy that inform some of the literature on military ethics. Conventional just war theory adopts a binary approach, wherein political leaders have moral accountability for the decision to go to war and soldiers have accountability for fighting the war ethically. Dubik argues, however, that political and military leadership should be held accountable for the planning and execution of war in addition to the decision to initiate conflict. Dubik bases his sober reassessment on the fundamental truth that war risks the lives of soldiers and innocents as well as the political and social health of communities. He offers new standards to evaluate the ethics of warfare in the hope of increasing the probability that the lives of soldiers will not be used in vain and the innocent not put at risk unnecessarily.

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