

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

D. IV

Ethics of War

100 minutes (if allowing time for class discussions). 50 minutes if reading only.

Resource for Philosophy and Ethics, Citizenship, Conflict Resolution

Using the recent Hamas-Israel conflict in Gaza in July/August 2014, this section addresses the issues of war, and the methods used by the protagonists in this conflict. It gives a brief outline of Just War theories and discusses these in the light of Asymmetrical War, and the combating of terror.

It contains much that is controversial which could be used as starting points for much discussion. There are suggested topics for discussion on many of the slides, and 2 slides containing lists of further possible discussion topics. There are 4 suggested assignments at the bottom of this page.

Aim

To acquaint the students with the theoretical aspects of war as well as a more detailed knowledge of how the sides have conducted their conflict. The students will be able to evaluate for themselves the ethics and consequences of the methods employed by both sides.

Contents

Slide	Title
1	
2	Introduction to 'Operation Protective Edge' (Israel) 'The Eaten Straw' (Hamas)
3-4	Stated goals of each side
5	Additional Issues
6	Destruction of buildings
8-14	Casualties
15-16	International Agreements, Just War Theory, Justified methods of War, Geneva Conventions, etc
17	Asymmetrical War
18-21	Human Shields
22-24	Targeting civilians
25-26	Use of hospitals
27	Uniforms
28-9	Rights of the Child
30-31	Proportionality
32-34	Protection of own civilians
35-36	Censorship of the press
37-38	Goals. Were they achieved?
39	War crimes
40-41	Discussion topics

Assignments

1. Ask the students to research the exact terminology of the Geneva Convention in relation to the Just War Theory.(slides 14,15)

2. Based on slides 18-21 ask the students to list on the left side of the page reasons that armed groups use their own civilians as human shields; on the right side, possible ways their enemy could combat this.
3. Ask the students to write briefly on the ethics and legality of the methods of each side.
4. The world community is beginning to address the issue of asymmetrical warfare (slide 17), as it has occurred not only in the Arab-Israeli conflict, but in many other conflict areas involving NATO, Russian, UK, and US forces in Bosnia, Chechnya, Iraq, Afghanistan. Ask the students for their interpretation of wording of Additional Protocol I, particularly the word "feasible".

Outcome

The students will have increased their understanding of the issues of the Ethics of War in relation to asymmetrical warfare, and will be able to evaluate for themselves the ethics and consequences of the methods employed by both sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict.