

**"Order for Justice"**  
**A Study of the Philosophy of Just War by Paul Ramsey**  
**Abstract**

In his defense of the just war against the Christian pacifist doctrine, Ramsay joins a line of theological understanding of the war extending to both St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. Ramsey asserts that decisions about war must be governed by "political wisdom". Whether a particular war should be fought, at any level of violence, depends on the cost and moral and social goals, the most important of which is "Order". Ramsey's analysis of the assumption that power is real in political life must be reckoned with or debased, and then discuss the recent challenges to the traditional ethical principles of just conduct in war, deterrence, and the theory of just war for statecraft.

Ramsay argues that the relative justice of resorting to war leads us to pay little attention to considerations of the legitimate criterion of going to war as much as justice of war conducts. The most important issue for Ramsay is the application of the principles of distinction and proportionality to legitimate conduct during war to preserve Order.

Ramsay believes that fair standards of war are inherent principles that characterize the nature of politically responsible work and are the only guarantee for achieving the difficult equation between justice and order. The principle of "proportionality" keeps us away from ideas such as that if the cause is legitimate, we do not need to calculate the cost, or the idea that political interest can be guaranteed at no cost. The principle of "discrimination" reminds us of the full respect of non-politicized or non-military persons in order to reject any military action that reverses the relationship between arms and human beings, between forces and political communities, even when the use of force is justified.