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# James V. Schall: When War Must Be the Answer: Study Guide

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# JAMES V. SCHALL: WHEN WAR MUST BE THE ANSWER: STUDY GUIDE, 2007

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## Study Questions

1. What is the fault of pacifism and liberalism, according to the historian **Christopher Dawson**? What about human nature and human institutions makes unwise to believe that measured force is unnecessary? Why does Father Schall call his “a counter-cultural position?” Why did Gen. Douglas MacArthur believe “the problem is basically theological?” Why does Schall believe these words are themselves part of the problem?
2. “**Justice, Brains, and Strength**” What was utopian about **MacArthur’s assumptions**? What else is required besides “more dialogue and peaceful means?” Why does he believe that our main problems are too little force? What does a peaceful world require? What spiritual and philosophical problem must be confronted? Why do justice and force require each other in the actual world?
3. **The Failure to Fight** What was Machiavelli’s advice? Why is war sometimes a reasonable answer? What might have prevented 9/11? What evils may follow from the loss of a war? What are the consequences of denying that we commit sins? How have the loss of wars and a lack of preparedness for war changed the course of history? What two victories shaped modern Europe [one in 732 AD and the other in 1683]?
4. **A Will to Kill** Why do the “antiwar documents produced during the 1980s by American Catholic bishops decrying nuclear war seem almost irrelevant?” Did deterrence work? Why is **just war theory** in the case of nuclear and conventional weapons, but relatively useless in dealing with or understanding the “suicide bomber?” How does Schall address the question whether the “current situation constitutes a new war of civilizations?” What is the main neoconservative project? How can the prudential approach be defended? [Here Father Schall addresses the issue of Islamic **voluntarism**, one that Pope Benedict XVI raised in his Regensburg Lecture in September 2006: the idea that the absolute will of God is arbitrary]. What is the view of the Catholic bishop of Rumbek in the Sudan?
5. “**Something Inhuman**” What is the old realist assumption? What is the problem with the “we-have-outgrown-war” position and its **theory of the world-state**? What are its assumptions? Why are many of the UN’s positions so troubling? What is the problem with claiming “to erect a definitive and unalterable order in this world?” [This corresponds to what Thomas Sowell calls “The Quest for Cosmic Justice”]. What bearing does **Augustine’s** view of war have on the idea of the international state? What does Jean Bethke Elshtain believe to be true international justice? Why was **C. S. Lewis** not a pacifist?

## Review

Christopher Dawson  
just war theory

MacArthur’s assumptions  
theory of the world-state

effects of lost wars  
Augustine

C. S. Lewis