



CHRISTIANITY AND VIOLENCE

IS THERE SUCH CONNECTION BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND VIOLENCE?

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

- Caesaropapism – Eastern Roman Empire and Russia
- Byzantine model – the Justinian code
- Russia – the Czar and the Church
- Orthodoxy Church – „Supranational“ Church
- The Holy Trinity
- Jesus Christ as God and as human
- The Orthodox Monarchy?
- Main sources of Orthodoxy – The Symbol of the Faith (Nicean – Constantinopolitan Creed)
- The Bible, The Holy Stories, The Revelation
- Oriental Orthodoxy

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

Seven Ecumenical Councils



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Papocaesarism – the Roman Bishop and “the right to exercise power”, Church is Supranational
- Imperium Christianum – The “Rex” as a source of power
- Same sources as the Orthodoxy but a lot of doctrinal differences
- Pope Leo XIII & Rerum Novarum – Church as a source of security
- Dignitatis Humanae – every human has the right to self-identity
- Pope Pius XII – democracy is also part of security
- Second Vatican Council (1965) – “the big change”
- Pope John Pavel II – Church and diplomacy
- Pope Benedict XVI – „hard power“ of Rome
- Pope Francis

VICARIUS FILLI DEI

Vicar of Christ



PROTESTANTISM

- Protestantism – lots of branches with different attitudes
- No dualism
- Christians are “independent” and “self – sufficient” community
- Sources: The New Testament, other books
- Lutherans
- Calvinism
- Anabaptism
- Quakers and Mennonites
- War is not a part of security (except Calvinism)

LUTHER'S CATHEHISIS



CHRISTIANITY AND CONFLICTS

- Denominational conflicts – Christians against Christians
- Christians vs other communities – interfaith conflicts
- Christians and the State against the others – when the State justifies the violence
- The interfaith dialogue
- Two types of Ecumenism
- Ecumenism of Love
- Ecumenism of Blood
- Pacifism
- Just War
- Crusade

ECUMENISM AND CATHOLICISM

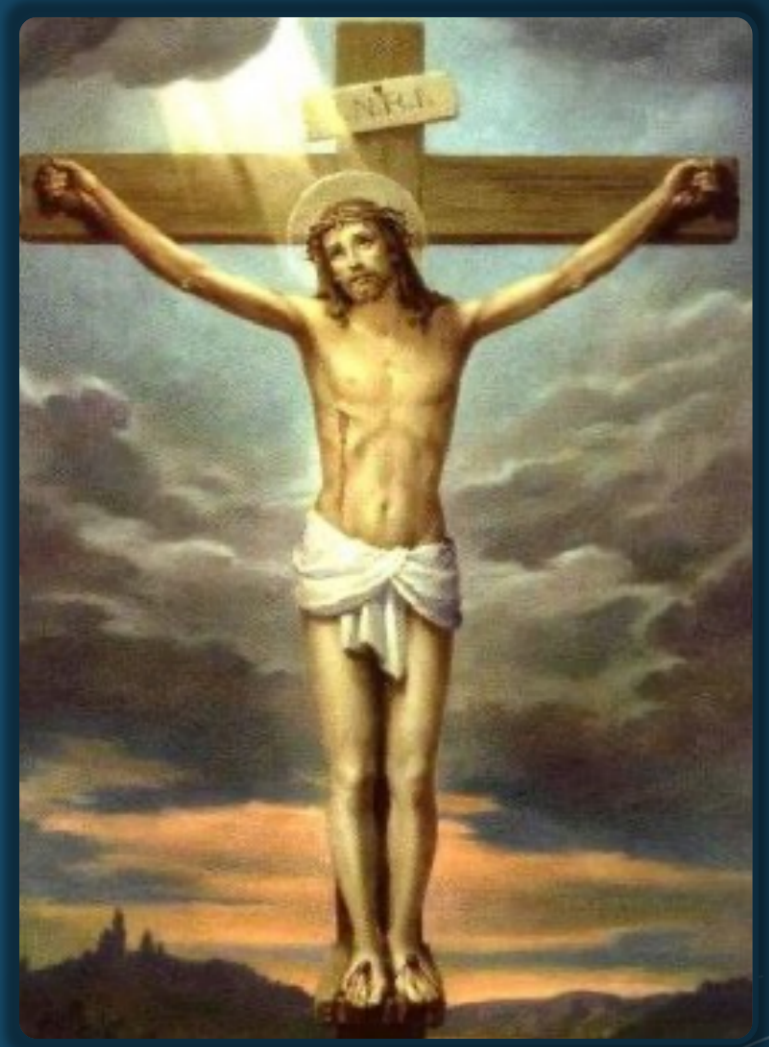


MESSAGES AND IMPLICATIONS

- Jesus Christ is a spiritual, NOT a military Savior
- Armed services are allowed in the Bible
- Salvation is the Supreme purpose
- Peace is the natural condition of humans
- All warbringers will die as warbringers
- Some Christians reject military service
- Prior to the Milan Edict – war was preached as evil
- After 313 – military service became a necessity

JESUS CHRIST AS A PEACEFUL SAVIOR

Peace, Truth, Love, Hope, Faith



THE MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF WAR

- St. Augustine
- Just War
- Legitimate authority
- Just case
- Right in his intentions
- Last resort
- Reasonable hope of success
- Non-combatant immunity
- Prohibition of evil means

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO



ST. AMBROSE ADDITION

- The purpose of the just war – to restore the peace
- Monks and priests should abstain of fighting
- War has to avenge injuries
- The war should be just in its disposition (Christian love)
- Only the supreme authority has the right to declare war
- Massacres and desecration are prohibited
- Vengeance and atrocities are prohibited
- Ambush and surprise attacks are allowed

THEODOSIUS DISPUTE

The Just War dispute

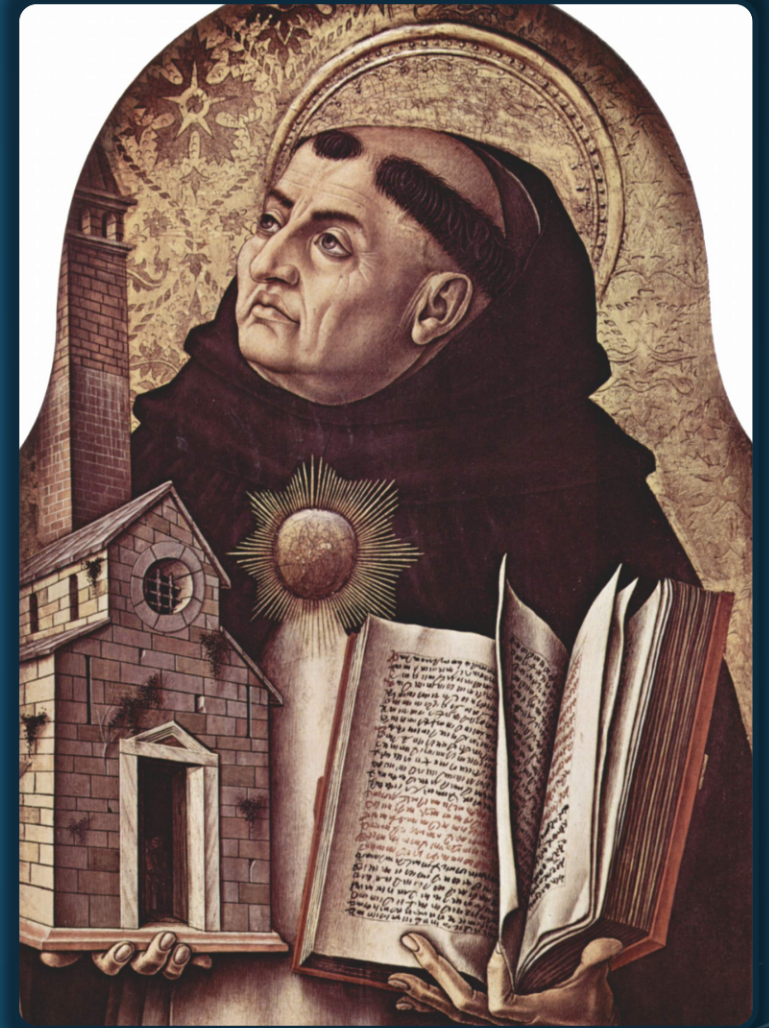


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS AND HUGO GROTIUS

- St. Thomas – the war does not have a punitive character
- Three additional conditions
- War is declared on the basis of authority, not directly by the ruler
- Proportionality – those who attack, should be attacked because of their fault
- The rightful intention – lack of pride
- Killing is allowed: to save someone's else life, to kill the aggressor, to self-defense
- The Grotius doctrine – inspired by the Spanish Catholicism
- War is the natural right of men to defense and resist
- The right of resist cannot be changed by the Church!
- European wars

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Just War and Church



HUGO GROTIUS

Peace and Law



CRUSADES

- Crusade = Holy War
- The crusade is over the just war – divinely inspired
- The First Crusade
- The Second and the Third Crusades
- The Fourth Crusade – the political approach

INQUISITION AND CALVIN'S TEACHINGS

- Inquisition – to protect the doctrines and to save errant Christians from hell
- St. Augustine's doctrine FORBIDS the execution of heretics and non-Christians
- The Second Lutheran Council abrogated this prohibition
- Execution, confiscation and imprisonment "in the name of God"
- Inquisitors – collect evidences of heresy
- Inquisition acts on behalf of the Pope
- 1965 – Inquisition is replaced by the Office of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith
- The Ecclesiastical Ordinations of Joan Calvin (1541)
- The rejection of the Ordinations was punished by death
- Each modification or disagreement was punished by torturing

JEAN CALVIN

Geneva's Pope



THE RELIGIOUS WARS OF 17 CENTURY

- The Reformation
- Four popes in Europe
- Catholic League vs Protestant Huguenots
- Great Peasant War in Germany
- Weakening of the relationships between Pope and Emperor
- Disintegration of the Holy Roman Empire
- Pacifists
- Realists

THE CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND (1914)

- Purpose – to prevent WW1
- English Quakers and German Lutherans
- Fellowship of Reconciliation was established
- FOR fought against Nazis and saved a lot of Jews
- The FOR doctrine
- Supporting non-violent actions
- Independent initiative to reduce the threat
- Cooperative conflicts resolution, promotion of human rights, sustainable development
- Responsibility of the aggressors and strengthening UN's role as a global peacemaker
- Reduce weapon use and trade by encouraging peacemaker groups and association