

TRUTH, CONSCIENCE, AND THE PERVERSION OF JUST WAR REASONING

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As a storyteller, I look at how important stories get twisted or not told at all. As a Veteran for Peace, long time connected to Christian churches, I see how rarely they tell us “To be a just war, civilians can’t be harmed.”

WEBSITES/ORGANIZATIONS

www.mayorsforpeace.org Mayors worldwide, saying, “It’s not OK to bomb my city.”

www.centeronconscience.org Center on Conscience and War

www.ploughshares.org Ploughshares, working nationally to eliminate nuclear weapons

www.forusa.org Fellowship of Reconciliation, long-time interfaith peace organization

www.movetoamend.org Move to Amend, working to get big money out of political influence, including the truth about selling weapons to both sides in a conflict.

www.couragetoresist.org Helping soldiers conscientiously opposed to unlawful orders.

www.veteransforpeace.org

BOOKS AND VIDEOS

Jesus for President by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw. Written by young people coming out of Evangelical Christianity, telling the secret truth of early Christians refusing war, and the drastic change when Constantine combined church and state with Just War.

Bombing Civilians by Yuki Tanaka and Marilyn Young. We didn’t prosecute Germans bombing Europe, because we’d have been in equal violation of International Law.

The Forgotten Hero of My Lai: The Hugh Thompson Story by Trent Angers

Christian Just War Theory: The Logic of Deceit by Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

War is a Racket by Major General Smedley Butler. War makes arms dealers wealthy. If it’s a “just war”, shouldn’t they show the same sacrifice asked of soldiers?”

Franz Jagerstatter: Man of Conscience (video). German farmer, executed August 9, 1943, for refusing to participate in the Nazi army.

When the World Outlawed War by David Swanson. Story of the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, still binding, but buried so deep they can ignore it says war is illegal.

Sixty-One by Larry Johnson. My own collection of 61 stories of conscience, unearthed thru my own journeys in all of these areas.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CHAPTER 27 ON JANUARY 13, 2013

Members of VFP 27 will strive to refrain from derogatory language. We will treat everyone, no matter how extreme their opinions seem, as someone with whom we could talk frankly, learn from, and build a relationship with the potential to bring them closer to our mission of abolishing war. Further, we will strive to function similarly with the broader peace community, not letting “doctrinal differences” get in the way of our common goal. If we have a difference with someone, we will avoid derogatory mass emails, but rather discuss such differences in person, with the intent of deepening our relationship and commitment to building a powerful, cohesive movement together.

We must get the stories into the hands of those with something to tell, not just major corporations with something to sell. George Gerbner, Communications Researcher

