

Just war principals and proper authority derived from 1,600 years of "thinkers".

This has been the rule of Christian societies since the founding of the Roman church through its reformation and to this day.

Hammered out by the likes of St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Hugo Grotius, and lesser lights.

JUST WAR PRINCIPALS

1. Declared by proper authority. Church or secular.
2. War is last resort. All peaceful means must be exhausted.
3. Must be for just cause. Restore peace, justice, rule of law.
4. Prudent. Does there exist hope for victory, or is it merely a gesture of defiance.
5. Moral means. Minimize damage to innocents.

As to illegal orders and refusing them,

"...churches that fail to form in their members the moral character that would make such integrity and bravery possible are not really preparing them to be soldiers in

the Just War tradition, but to be uncritical nationalists and militarists instead."

LDM-To God a higher duty on when to fight, when to stop, and when to keep fighting when others might quit.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/just-war-theory.html>

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pol116/justwar.htm>

<https://pilgrimpathways.wordpress.com/2012/08/04/basic-principles-of-just-war-theory-a-guide-for-the-perplexed/>