

PEACE AND VIOLENCE IN JUDAISM:  
CONCEPTS AND TERMS

*Rabbinic Laws of War* (according to Maimmonides' *Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings*)

A. Mandatory War (*milhemet mitzvah*)

1. goals:

- a. conquest and annihilation of Canaanites
- b. annihilation of Amalekites
- c. defense

2. authority:

direct divine command or initiative of king

B. Discretionary War (*milhemet reshut*)

1. goals:

- a. expansion of borders of Israel
- b. economic benefits
- c. increase the king's prestige

2. authority:

initiative of king with approval of Sanhedrin (the rabbinic supreme court)

*Zionism*

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