

War and Peace in the Qur'an: a brief analysis of the verses

Who we should fight?

“Fight (qatala is “fight”, and qatala is “kill”, the difference is only the presence of a long first “a”, through the addition of a “dagger alif” in the former) in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress (ta` tadū). Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors (Lu` mu` tadīna- this is sometimes misleadingly translated into English Korans as “do not fight them first”)” (Quran 2:190)

Muslims are clearly told even to break peaceful treaties “when the sacred months are over”, offering other nations the challenge: convert/accept dhimmitude with humiliation, or die (since refusal of the terms is a pretext of war, there is no “option 4: just leave us alone, you’re uninvited guests”):

“Proclaim a woeful punishment to the unbelievers, except to those unbelievers who have honoured their treaties with you in every detail and have aided none against you. With these keep faith, until their treaties have run their term.. God loves the righteous. When the sacred months are over slay the idolators wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lay in ambush everywhere for them. If they repent and take to prayer and render the alms levy, allow them to go their way. God is forgiving and merciful.’ (9:1-6)

“Fight against such of those to whom the Scriptures were given as believe in neither God nor the last day, who do not forbid what God and his apostle have forbidden, and do not embrace the true Faith, until they pay tribute out of hand and are utterly subdued (sāghirūna- 13 occurrences- “small/ humiliated/disgraced/abased”)” (9:29)

A disproportionate response- this belies the “self-defence” argument, torture as punishment for “defiance”. This fear tactic is straight-up terror: *“they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned...” (5:33) “Strike off their heads, strike off the very tips of their fingers.’ That was because they defied God and his apostle.” (8:13)*

This is where it started- Meccans did not begin a fight, they are being forced out of their own Kaaba. This is a central truth in the genesis of violence in Islam: *“for they have debarred others from the sacred mosque, although they have no right to be it’s guardians... Make war on them until persecution (fit` natun) shall cease and God’s religion shall reign supreme.” (8:39)*

Make war and deal firmly: *“Prophet, make war (jāhidi) on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal rigorously (wa-ugh`luz- 13 occurrences, stern/harsh/severe/ruthless) with them.” (9:73)*

“Believers, make war on the infidels who dwell around you. Deal firmly (ashiddāu- firm) with them. Know that God is with the righteous.”(48:29)


“Mohammed is God’s apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless (ghil`zatan- same as 9:73) to the unbelievers but merciful (or compassionate, kind) to one another.” (9:123)

Make war, not peace! (47:35)- "...do not falter and sue for peace when you have gained the upper hand." (48:15) 'You shall be called upon to fight a mighty nation, unless they embrace Islam'.


Hate 'em: "enmity and hate shall reign between us until you believe in God only.' (But do not emulate the words of Abraham to his father: 'I shall implore forgiveness for you, (60:1)

This is more related to the verse where Muslims are told not to befriend Christians and Jews for fear of being led astray. "They but wish that ye should reject Faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they): But take not friends from their ranks..." (4:89).

Summary: there are verses that exhort Muslims to "deal justly" (60:8 below) and indeed "justice" in Islam has nothing to do with Western system of justice rather it is sharia and the "no option 4" plan as above. This "convert/subjugate/die is really the interface of Islam with the outside world and its foreign policy. Really if one needed any more convincing them consider that there is not a single verse that says "Leave other nations alone, do not try to subjugate the nations". In fact the third option is only available to "People of the Book" the Jews and Christians. Pagans only get "convert or die", even as per all their scholars.


 **If someone want peace?** (8:61) "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah. Indeed, it is He who is the Hearing, the Knowing."

"peace" is easily taken as surrendering to Muslims aggression and expansionism. When someone has been pounded by war and threats, it is natural to "want peace". Verses like this that come into the middle of a conflict without taking into account its genesis, are deceptively "peaceful". We already saw even this contradicted in 47:35 above.

 **How to deal with non muslims?**

(Quran 60:8) Allah **does not forbid you from those** who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.

This does not say "Allah forbids you from fighting those who..." (are nice to you etc.). Rather it says "does not forbid you from being nice and acting justly" toward them- you can be nice if you want to. We already saw even this verse contradicted by the one that prevents making friends. Verses such are these which say to make alliances with those who are nice to you have no moral value, it is politics.

 **How we should Invite other people to Islam?**

(Quran 16:125) Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided.

This is only one of the ways recommended, ways, the other is the "no fourth option plan" as above.