

*Interpretations of Conflict: Ethics, Pacifism, and the Just-War Tradition* (1991) is a contribution to the ethics of war and peace. The book takes up the idea that just-war tenets and pacifism share a presumption against harm and uses that idea to examine points of convergence and divergence between these two moral interpretations of conflict. One of my aims is to think about the ethics of war in a context of cultural and moral pluralism. Another is to use the notions of difference and intellectual tension to open up new interpretations of these rival vocabularies for the ethics of war. I thus orchestrate a dialectical exchange between pacifists and just-war theorists regarding some shared values and interests: the presumption against killing and war, the relation of justice and order, the ethics of civil disobedience, war and civic virtue, public policy and nuclear deterrence, the ideology of American exceptionalism, and practical reasoning about the morality of war. I pay critical attention to thinkers such as Augustine and Aquinas as well as to modern thinkers like H. Richard Niebuhr, Paul Ramsey, the Berrigans, Dorothy Day, James Douglass, William O'Brien, Michael Walzer, the U.S. Catholic bishops, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gustavo Gutierrez, and James Childress. The idea of a presumption against harm functions substantively and heuristically to launch and advance the book's argument. That idea is a contested one, and I respond to various doubts about it in "Aquinas and the Presumption against Killing and War," *Journal of Religion* 82.2 (April 2002): 173-204. *Interpretations of Conflict* was awarded a Bross Prize in 1990.