Waging War

POL3: INTRO TO IR
I. Defining War

War includes:

1) Organized, deliberate violence by a political authority
2) > 1,000 battle deaths in a year
3) Both sides must have capacity to harm each other
   • not necessarily equal power
II. War Classifications: *Location of Conflict*

1) **Interstate**: war between states
   - e.g. WWII

2) **Intrastate**: war takes place within a state (i.e. civil wars)
   - Different types:
     i. establishment of government for control of a “failed state” (e.g. Somalia)
     ii. ethno-nationalist movements seek autonomy/secession (e.g. Chechens in Russia)
     iii. wars between ethnic, clan, or religious groups for control of state (e.g. Rwanda)
   - Intrastate wars often affect outside states
     - e.g. forced migration, rebel safe holds
   - Outside states often influence intrastate wars
     - e.g. Vietnam or Lebanon
Syrian Civil War: Refugees in the region
Syrian Civil War: A myriad of forces

Taken from Independent Voter Network (IVN)
War Classifications: 

*Intensity of conflict*

1) **Total war:** wars in which leaders utilize all available resources
   - Massive loss in life and widespread destruction
   - e.g. Thirty Years War, WWII, Iran-Iraq War

2) **Limited war:** wars that involve less-than-total resources
   - Initiated with limited aims (i.e. less than critical)
   - Nuclear weapons *never* deployed
   - e.g. Korean War, Gulf War I (1991)
War Classifications: Types of conflict

1) Conventional warfare: uses conventional weapons and battlefield tactics
   - Conventional weapons → effects can be limited in space and time to those who are legitimate targets of war
   - Only combatants are legitimate targets
   - Lost or won when one side acknowledges defeat

2) Unconventional warfare: willingness to ignore conventions of war
   - Unconventional weapons → effects not limited (e.g. WMDs)
   - Flouting restrictions on legitimate targets
   - Refusing to accept traditional outcomes of battles

3) Asymmetric wars: one side has big advantage over the other
   - Tactics of the weak include 1) guerrilla warfare, 2) nonviolence, 3) terrorism
Unconventional warfare

Remains of Japanese civilians after firebombing of Tokyo (March 9-10, 1945)

Iranian soldier during Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
III. Just War Tradition

- Justification for entering into war (jus ad bellum)
  1) Correct intentions (e.g. not expansionist)
  2) Probability of success
     - likely the objectives will be met
  3) Last resort
     - exhausted all other options

- Just acts in war (jus in bello)
  1) Discrimination
     - target only combatants
  2) Proportionality
     - use equal force to combat the wrong
  3) Minimum force