

Antiquity and the Idea of Peace

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The focus of this paper is on the conception of peace in antiquity¹ with the help of Plato's *Laws*, the first and second books of Maccabees, *De officiis* of Cicero, and *De civitate Dei* of Augustine.

1. Preliminary Remarks

The diverse discussions on threats of terrorism – the so-called asymmetrical wars, and the legitimacy of armed interventions – did not stop short at theology and exegesis. This can be inferred from the fact that in recent years theology and exegesis have again been intensively discussing questions about war and peace. In this debate the Holy Scriptures of the three so-called major monotheistic religions come into view. One reason for this is that, particularly in the mid-European area, portions of the canonical texts that view religiously motivated violence quite positively, were either allowed to fade into the background, or were no longer perceived at all. In the humanities debate the central question now has become: whether monotheistic religions contribute to peace between human beings, communities, and peoples, or whether they are, in this respect, more of a factor of disturbance and a reinforcement of violence. In other words, are monotheistic religions themselves intolerant? Jan Assmann, Emeritus Egyptologist of Heidelberg, has devoted himself, increasingly in the last years, to this subject.² Regardless of how these questions may be discussed and answered in detail, for men and women today war and peace are opposed in an irreconcilable manner – also considering the background of atomic

1 Cf. ZAMPAGLIONE, *The Idea of Peace in Antiquity*.

2 ASSMANN, *Moses*; ID., *Unterscheidung*; ID., *Monotheismus*.

The Idea Of Peace In Antiquity

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The Idea Of Peace In Antiquity:

The Idea of Peace in Antiquity Gerardo Zampaglione,1973
Zampaglione,1973-01-01 *A Cultural History of Peace in Antiquity* Sheila L. Ager,2022-02-24 A Cultural History of Peace presents an authoritative survey from ancient times to the present The set of six volumes covers over 2500 years of history charting the evolving nature and role of peace throughout history This volume A Cultural History of Peace in Antiquity explores peace in the period from 500 BC to 800 AD As with all the volumes in the illustrated Cultural History of Peace set this volume presents essays on the meaning of peace peace movements maintaining peace peace in relation to gender religion and war and representations of peace A Cultural History of Peace in Antiquity is the most authoritative and comprehensive survey available on peace in the classical era **Peace in the Ancient World** Kurt A. Raaflaub,2016-03-16 Peace in the Ancient World Concepts and Theories conducts a comparative investigation of why certain ancient societies produced explicit concepts and theories of peace and others did not Explores the idea that concepts of peace in antiquity occurred only in periods that experienced exceptional rates of warfare Utilizes case studies of civilizations in China India Egypt and Greece Complements the 2007 volume War and Peace in the Ancient World drawing on ideas from that work and providing a more comprehensive examination **The Palgrave Handbook of Disciplinary and Regional Approaches to Peace** Oliver Richmond,Sandra Pogodda,Jasmin Ramovic,2016-03-15 In this handbook a diverse range of leading scholars consider the social cultural economic political and developmental underpinnings of peace This handbook is a much needed response to the failures of contemporary peacebuilding missions and narrow disciplinary debates both of which have outlined the need for more interdisciplinary work in International Relations and Peace and Conflict studies Scholars students and policymakers are often disillusioned with universalist and northern dominated approaches and a better understanding of the variations of peace and its building blocks across different regions is required Collectively these chapters promote a more differentiated notion of peace employing comparative analysis to explain how peace is debated and contested *The United Nations* Laurence Peters,2016-04-29 Before the UN could be created the idea of a global body dedicated to the preservation of peace had first to be imagined The book traces the evolution of a complex web of ideas that emerged from the ancient world concerning the need for a governing body to control the actions of sovereign nations *The Oxford Handbook of Peace History* Charles F. Howlett,Christian Philip Peterson,Christian Peterson,Deborah D. Buffton,David L. Hostetter,2023 The Oxford Handbook of Peace History uniquely explores the distinctive dynamics of peacemaking across time and place and analyzing how past and present societies have created diverse cultures of peace and applied strategies for peaceful change The analysis draws upon the expertise of many well respected and distinguished scholars from disciplines such as anthropology economics history international relations journalism peace studies sociology and theology This work is divided into six parts The first three sections address the chronological sweep of peace history from the Ancient Egyptians to the

present while the last three cover biographical profiles of peace advocates key issues in peace history and the future of peace history A central theme throughout is that the quest for peace is far more than the absence of war or the pursuit of social justice ideals Students and scholars alike will appreciate that this work examines the field of peace history from an international perspective and expands analysis beyond traditional Eurocentric frameworks This volume also goes far beyond previously published handbooks and anthologies in answering what are the strengths and limits of peace history as a discipline and what can it offer for the future It also has the unique features of a state of the field introduction with a detailed treatment of peace history historiography and a chapter written by a noted archivist in the field that provides a comprehensive list of peace research resources It is a work ably suited applicable for classrooms and scholarly bookshelves

Rethinking the Qur'ān in Late Antiquity Juan Cole, 2025-02-17 How the Qur n reflects on and responds to the regional cultural religious and political currents swirling in Western Arabia and neighboring areas during the great war 603 630 between the Roman and Sasanian empires The book approaches the Qur n through six case studies The first two consider the era 200 800 CE which classicist Peter Brown dubbed late antiquity The second two contextualize quranic stories and tropes in the era of Herakleios and Khosrow II The final pair consider issues in how the Qur n was constituted both physically and stylistically and also sets these processes in their late antique context The book treats the constitution of the quranic text first physically and then rhetorically The use in the Qur n of the technique of narrative apostrophe is for the first time subjected to a concerted analysis These themes are all united by a concern to understand better issues in why the Qur n makes certain narrative choices how the narrative changes over time and how it articulates with other texts and perspectives

Conflict in Ancient Greece and Rome Sara Elise Phang, Iain Spence Ph.D., Douglas Kelly Ph.D., Peter Londey Ph.D., 2016-06-27 The complex role warfare played in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations is examined through coverage of key wars and battles important leaders armies organizations and weapons and other noteworthy aspects of conflict Conflict in Ancient Greece and Rome The Definitive Political Social and Military Encyclopedia is an outstandingly comprehensive reference work on its subject Covering wars battles places individuals and themes this thoroughly cross referenced three volume set provides essential support to any student or general reader investigating ancient Greek history and conflicts as well as the social and political institutions of the Roman Republic and Empire The set covers ancient Greek history from archaic times to the Roman conquest and ancient Roman history from early Rome to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE It features a general foreword prefaces to both sections on Greek history and Roman history and maps and chronologies of events that precede each entry section Each section contains alphabetically ordered articles including ones addressing topics not traditionally considered part of military history such as noncombatants and war and gender followed by cross references to related articles and suggested further reading Also included are glossaries of Greek and Latin terms topically organized bibliographies and selected primary documents in translation Christian Attitudes to War, Peace, and

Revolution John Howard Yoder, 2009-04-01 John Howard Yoder was one of the most important thinkers on just war and pacifism in the late twentieth century. This newly compiled collection of Yoder's lectures and writings on these issues describes, analyzes, and evaluates various patterns of thought and practice in Western Christian history. The volume, now made widely available for the first time, makes Yoder's stimulating insights more accessible to a broader audience and substantially contributes to ongoing discussions concerning the history, theology, and ethics of war and peace. Theologians and ethicists, students of Yoder's thought, and all readers seeking a better understanding of war and pacifism will value this work.

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