

CONTENTS

Preface.	IX
Bibliography	XI
Introductory Remarks	1
CHAPTER I – By the Command of the God	9
1) The gods have the legitimate authority to declare war	10
2) The gods are the patrons of a treaty between two states	12
3) “Holy war”	13
4) The Assyrian king is the rod of wrath in the hands of the gods	18
5) The king is responsible to the gods rather than to the people	20
6) The proximity of the Assyrian king to the gods	21
7) Assuring the result of the battle in advance	25
Summary	27
CHAPTER II – To Punish Evildoers	29
1) The gods control mankind and determine the fate of men according to the principle of justice	29
2) War as a means of righting injustice	36
3) War as an ordeal by battle	38
4) Defeat and destruction as punishment	41
Summary	43
CHAPTER III – Response to Hostilities	45
1) Encroachment upon the borders of Assyria or territories under Assyrian rule	45
2) The enemy conspired against Assyria	46
3) The enemy precipitated an armed dispute	50
A. Demonstration of fitness for kingship	52
B. The right of reprisal and preemptive war	54
C. By attacking Assyria the enemy sinned against the gods	56
D. Violating the oath of loyalty	57
Summary	57
CHAPTER IV – Protecting a Protégé and Aiding Allies	61
1) The fidelity of the protégé	62

2) The grievance	63
3) The appeal of the distressed vassal for help	64
4) The response of the Assyrian king	65
Summary	67
CHAPTER V – Against Usurpers	69
1) Usurpation and legitimacy	69
2) Divine sanction	75
Summary	81
CHAPTER VI – Violation of an Oath of Loyalty	83
1) Subordination by treaty	83
2) The enemy violated the oath of loyalty/agreement	87
A. The infringement of a formal agreement (verbal or written) is legal guilt and religious sin	89
B. A breach of a sworn treaty leads to punishment and disaster	90
C. Violation of an agreement justifies a “proclamation of war”	92
Summary	93
CHAPTER VII – To Quell Rebellion	95
1) Rebellion and violation of the loyalty oath	95
2) The enemy withheld the tribute	96
3) Rebellion – a moral and religious crime	97
Summary	98
CHAPTER VIII – To Enforce Order and Peace	101
1) The true duty of the king	101
2) The Assyrian king sustains peace and order	102
3) The Assyrian king as saviour and benefactor	104
4) War is for the sake of peace and rehabilitation	107
5) The king as a shepherd	113
Summary	116
CHAPTER IX – To Punish Sinners Against the Gods	121
The religious background of the Assyrian wars	121
1) The war is against the enemy of the gods	124
2) Setback and calamity are the result of the divine wrath, victory is the divine reward for pious deeds	125
3) War is aimed at repairing damages caused to the temples	132
4) Spreading fear of the gods among the nations	135

Summary	135
CHAPTER X – The Right of Reprisal	139
1) Vendetta	139
2) To come to the aid of a loyal vassal: military support	140
3) To inflict punishment for treasonable behaviour, disloyalty and ingratitude	141
4) The Assyrian king – the avenger of his land	142
Summary	143
CHAPTER XI – A Demonstration of Force and Glory	145
1) Authority demands power and glorious achievements	145
2) The competitive aspects of war	146
3) Warfare and hunting	149
4) The religious aspects of the Assyrian king's prowess	151
A. Titles and epithets	153
B. Self-adoration similes, metaphors, hyperboles and comparisons	154
C. Stereotypical heroic and extraordinary feats	155
D. Sculptures, bas-reliefs, monumental buildings and inscriptions	157
Summary	161
CHAPTER XII – Dominion Over the Entire World	163
The Assyrian claim for world dominion	163
1) Hierarchy	166
2) The gods gave the king of Assyria dominion over the world	169
Summary	173
General Summary	177
1) The need to give reasons for going to war	177
2) The Assyrian king – the ideal king	181
3) The justifications for war signify aspects of political ideologies, religious beliefs and moral attitudes	185
4) The historiographic aspect	188
Tables: Reasons for going to war in the ARI	192
General Index	195