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Augustine and the Limits of Politics. By Jean Bethke Elshtain. University of Notre Dame Press. 118 pp. \$21.95. Reviewed by Mary Ann Glendon. In this engaging series of meditations, Jean Bethke Elshtain makes a convincing case that Augustine of Hippo (354-430 a.d.) is a saint for our times.

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PREEMPTIVE AND PREVENTIVE WAR

...

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Books in Review: Augustine and the Limits of Politics

Finally, Augustine reasonably limits anticipatory self-defense by excluding preventive wars that promise to secure "freedom from fear" by eliminating any or all potential threats to national security. Such an objective is, from Augustine's viewpoint, both impossible and immoral.

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Augustine is usually numbered among the pessimists. I'm sure many readers

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remember being taught Augustine in this way. Political Augustinianism belonged with Machiavellianism and Hobbesianism as a way of looking at the world that stressed evil, cruelty, violence, and a concomitant need for order, coercion, punishment, and the occasional war.