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# Routledge Handbook of Ethics and War: Just War Theory in the Twenty-First Century

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that in these three cases, at the very least, the upgraded award was justified.

Being identified as “the lost battalion” rankled survivors of the 141st, who claimed they were neither lost nor rescued. The first claim is true: the battalion’s location was known from beginning to end. The second claim is harder to adjudicate. As the five days wore on, food, ammunition, medical supplies, and other necessities dwindled to dangerous levels, and the battalion was judged unable to effect its own extraction. McGaugh makes a compelling case that this was indeed a rescue.

At the end of the day, despite minor flaws, *Honor before Glory* is a book worth reading. The story of the nation’s nisei families and their soldier sons’ battle experiences remains well worth telling as an example of extraordinary patriotism and courage in the face of reprehensible actions taken out of pain, prejudice, and fear.

RICHARD J. NORTON



*Routledge Handbook of Ethics and War: Just War Theory in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Fritz Allhoff, Nicholas G. Evans, and Adam Henschke. New York: Routledge, 2015. 418 pages. \$245.

In an anthology of provocative and insightful essays both comprehensive and diverse in nature, the editors of this work on just war theory make a significant contribution to the genre of applied ethics. Allhoff, Evans, and Henschke enlist professors, retired military officers, journalists, theologians, and computer scientists as essayists to examine the efficacy and applicability of the just war tradition vis-à-vis the latest developments in technology, culture,

and politics. Although the writing style is accessible to the novice who wants to understand better the essentials of just war theory, this collection of essays provides the scholar-warrior and professor with substantive research and the latest modifications to a theory that has been tried and trusted for millennia. The editors incorporate a wide range of theorists, including both those who reject the just war tradition as obsolete, given the evolution of warfare, and those who support just war criteria as reliable principles for the conduct of warfare in the twenty-first century.

In this exciting forum of ideas, opponents and proponents of just war theory introduce concepts worthy of serious consideration. While the book resembles a recent installment of the *Star Wars* movies in its probing of the morals of unmanned drones, lethal autonomous robots, cyberspace nonkinetics, and more, the writers call on the great philosophers of the past to help address the latest trends and projections of national security measures. Under the category “Theories of War,” contributors critique and defend the criteria to justify the commencement of war (*jus ad bellum*), the criteria by which war is conducted (*jus in bello*), and the criteria by which war is concluded with postconflict stabilization, reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance (*jus post bellum*). The editors do not stack the deck to bias the reader toward or against just war theory, and this illustrates the distinct virtue of this scholarly undertaking: its diversity of themes and perspectives.

Whether it is Jeff McMahan’s argument that the soldier has an epistemic responsibility to ascertain whether the war in which he or she fights is just, or Richard Werner’s psychological thesis that most

wars are justified as in-group exceptionalism and collective self-deception, or Jeff Whitman's insistence that just war theory in its criteria toward war and in war minimizes the suffering of combat, the editors expose the reader to age-old debates and new-age innovations. For instance, what are the moral implications of the child-soldier who constitutes a lethal force but in some ways is still not accountable as an adult warrior? How does just war theory interface with the increasing use of private military contractors within the world's armed services, as combatants or civilians? Are robotic warriors morally culpable, or are their software programmers? Can scientists produce research papers on the positives of the latest medical breakthrough without also considering the multiuse of viruses for human harm? Can nonkinetic information attacks on, say, banks constitute acts of aggression that warrant a kinetic response of self-defense? Are torture and indefinite imprisonment acceptable as an ethics of exceptionalism for terrorists? All these questions and more acquaint scholar and student alike with the burgeoning moral dilemmas of war in the last decade.

Poised between the idealism of pacifism on the one hand and the cynicism of realism on the other, theorists on all sides of the debate directly state or indirectly insinuate the value of just war theory. Critics suggest just war theory's value by making improvements that presuppose its core principles as foundational standards from which

to upgrade. Just war advocates and revisionists apply the necessary criteria to the changing landscape of war, maintaining that the principles are flexible enough to embrace the latest invention, yet firm enough to respect the collective wisdom of bygone centuries.

The just war tradition is not a static canon of dogmatic tenets, but rather a dynamic canon of robust precepts that are adaptable but faithful to the central concepts of justice. After all, policy makers and warfighters, in contemplating the tremendous costs of war and peace, cannot easily turn a deaf ear to great thinkers such as Aristotle, Cicero, and Aquinas, to name only a few. Indeed, to deny the validity of the just war tradition would be to countermand the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law, and the UN Charter, all of which are predicated in some way on the insights of those ancient and ageless core premises known as just war theory. As long as philosophers and ethicists deliberate the values of justice and peace pertaining to statecraft, just war ideas will be relevant, and so will any compendium of essays that explore the topics of *jus pax* (the law of peace). Illuminating and profound in scope, the *Routledge Handbook of Ethics and War* is one of the best additions to the just war dialogue in many years and promises to inform the scholar-warrior on the most challenging issues of our day.

EDWARD ERWIN

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#### OUR REVIEWERS

*Scott Bergeron* is the chief executive officer of the Liberian registry, the U.S.-based manager of the world's second-largest ship registry, and is responsible for ensuring the regulatory compliance of