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ACTIVITY 5

TIME TO THINK

You need to answer this problem using the Natural Law Theory. Limit your answer from 10 to 15 sentences.

Tensions have been rising between the U.S. and Iraq. Now Iraq has succeeded in smuggling an atomic bomb into New York and exploding it. First reports indicate that over a million people are dead and more will die from radiation. You are the president of the U.S., you have enough atomic weapons presently aimed at Iraq to destroy every city in the country. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are awaiting your decision. Can you ethically authorize a retaliatory strike and basically destroy Iraq?

The natural law theory on ethics and philosophy is based on human beings' intrinsic value that has a significant influence on human reasoning and behavior. Despite the natural laws instilling different moral scenarios, might require embracing various alternatives to sort out disputes and developing standards within the society. The just war doctrine outlines scenarios that can protect innocent life if the person or the community gets attacked. It ensures that any aggressors end up being managed by any means. Hence, in this scenario, the US has a right to retaliate against the attack by Iraq.

The assertion of the fundamental, inviolable right of human existence is the starting point for natural law analysis. Natural law tradition, on the other hand, distinguishes between innocent human life and the life of an unjust aggressor in conflict circumstances. When an innocent individual or group is attacked, the person or community has a right to self-defense, according to the just-war doctrine. Unjust aggressors should be resisted by means that include, as a last resort, lethal measures, since innocent life is sacred. However, in a dispute involving modern weapons of mass destruction, not just any lethal measures can be embraced.

All aspects of modern warfare are understandably complicated. In this case, considerations from just-war philosophy, such as when war is justified and what actions are moral in a just-war situation, may be offered by the natural law tradition.

These are:

- 1) Certain responses are justified to protect against other attacks.
- 2) No lethal response can be planned solely for vengeance - you kill our innocents, we will kill yours
- 3) The response must be judged to be the last resort among other options - limited conventional warfare rather than a nuclear response.

4) The response must be judged to be the last resort among other options - limited conventional warfare rather than a nuclear response. The objectives to be met are sufficiently significant to outweigh the risks that can be fairly expected.

5) Consideration of the principle of discrimination, which prohibits the direct killing of innocent non-combatants, such as bombing civilian population centers.

6) Consideration of the principle of proportionality, which prohibits acts of warfare that cause unnecessary or undue damage to civilians and/or military personnel.