



Environmental Security and
Just Causes for War

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ENVIRONMENTAL WARS

- ❖ Would a country that suffers from huge environmental problems *caused by another country* have a just cause for a defensive war?
- ❖ Would victims of externally caused environmental problems have a right to self-defense?

INTUITIONS

- ❖ If a country or a group of countries unjustly attacks a country by means of "environmental weapons", it is likely that most people would say that the county that has been attacked has a just cause for a war.
- ❖ But if a group of countries causes huge environmental problems with hundreds of casualties to a country *unintentionally*, many of us tend to think that the country would *not* have a just cause for a defensive war.

THE AIM

- ❖ Why would not the countries have a just cause for a defensive war if the consequences of other countries' actions were exactly the same as the consequences that would occur if the other countries used "environmental weapons"?
- ❖ Our aim is to analyze this problem and *list the questions* that must be made and settled if defensive war in the case of huge environmental problems is said to have a just cause.

QUESTION 1

❖ The Question of Liability

❖ When a target country is liable to be warred upon?

❖ What should a “country” do in order to make itself liable to military action?

QUESTION 2

- ❖ **The Question of Collective Responsibility**
- ❖ **When people say that a “country” is liable, *whose* liability it is that makes the country liable?**
- ❖ ***Whose* actions count as country’s actions?**

QUESTION 3

- ❖ **The Question of the Scale of Damage**
- ❖ **How extensive and massive environmental damage and how many casualties would justify “defensive attack” against a country or countries who cause the damage and casualties?**

CONCLUSION (1)

- ❖ There are three questions that are most important in this context.
- ❖ They are the question concerning liability, the question of collective responsibility, and the question whether environmental harms may create a “sufficient reason” for raising a war (and exactly when it may if it may).

CONCLUSION (2)

- ❖ Politicians always take into account the threats that environmental problems may create.
- ❖ The probability of occurrence of environmental wars in the sense we have used that concept may be low, but those wars are likely enough to justify a philosophical exploration of the topic.



THANK YOU!



REFERENCES

- ❖ Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, "Global Injustice and Redistributive Wars", *Law, Ethics and Philosophy* 1 (2013), 65-86.
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- ❖ F.M. Kamm, *The Moral Target: Aiming at Right Conduct in War and Other Conflicts* (Oxford University Press, Oxford 2012).