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

