

Candidate 11 evidence

Evaluate non-religious responses to moral issues arising from modern armaments.

A nuclear weapon is a device that releases energy in an explosive manner as a result of nuclear reactions, either fission or a combination of fission and fusion (KU). The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II were examples of fission bombs (KU). One moral issue arising from the use of these weapons is that they can cause massive destruction to infrastructure and significant loss of innocent life due to their immense explosive power and the release of radiation (KU). The consequences of using a nuclear weapon are significant, e.g., the initial explosion generates an intense shockwave, causing widespread destruction to structures and significant casualties as well as the immediate and leftover radiation can cause severe radiation sickness (A), long-term health effects like cancer, and environmental contamination (A). A non-religious viewpoint is Humanism, they believe that every individual has inherent dignity and worth. They promote the idea that all humans should be treated with respect and should have their rights protected (KU). As a result, they would oppose the use of nuclear weapons, as these weapons instantly strip away fundamental human rights, such as the right to life and liberty (A). Additionally, due to their indiscriminate nature, nuclear weapons fail to acknowledge the intrinsic value and worth of innocent human lives (A). I agree with the Humanist viewpoint because human life is invaluable and should not be subject to destruction at the push of a button (E). Even if some lives are spared in the initial blast, the aftermath of a nuclear explosion causes devastating and widespread suffering to countless people in the affected area (E). The immense and unnecessary human suffering that results is unacceptable, and no one should be subjected to such horrors (E).

One example of a modern armament is a drone. A drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle that can be remotely controlled or programmed to operate autonomously (KU). Drones are widely used in modern warfare for surveillance, and targeted strikes (KU). For example, drones have been employed in conflict zones such as Afghanistan to carry out precision airstrikes against identified threats (KU). One moral issue arising from the use of drones is their capacity to cause unintended casualties, often referred to as "collateral damage." (KU) While drones are designed to carry out targeted strikes, mistakes can occur, leading to the deaths of innocent civilians (A). Additionally, the psychological impact on communities living under constant surveillance by drones can be profound, leading to feelings of fear, oppression, and trauma (A). Humanists may argue that the reliance on drones distances operators from the reality of their actions, reducing the accountability for decisions that have life-and-death would highlight the psychological toll on affected communities, emphasising the need for ethical considerations in warfare that prioritise humanity over convenience (A). I agree with the Humanist viewpoint because drones, while intended to reduce casualties through precision strikes, often fail to live up to this ideal in practice as the loss of innocent lives and the psychological trauma inflicted on entire communities cannot be justified (E). The use of drones creates a dangerous precedent for dehumanising warfare, making it easier to inflict harm without fully understanding the consequences (E). Warfare should never lose sight of the value of human life, and it is unacceptable to treat individuals as mere targets on a screen (E). The devastating effects of drone warfare underscore the need for more ethical and humane approaches to conflict resolution.