This volume offers a unique perspective on the discussion of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by broadening the terms of the debate to include both secular and religious viewpoints not normally considered. Contributors represent the following diverse ethical traditions: Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, feminism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, liberalism, natural law, pacifism, and realism. The two introductory chapters outline the technical aspects of WMD and international agreements for controlling WMD. A concluding essay compares the different ethical traditions.

All the authors address the same set of moral issues, creating a dialogue both within and across traditions. The debate structure is particularly useful and appealing for pedagogical purposes. The introductory essays on the technical and legal aspects of WMD could easily be used to introduce the subject to students.

By far the most comprehensive survey of moral perspectives on WMD, this volume should be of particular interest to professionals and students in political science, philosophy, religious studies, and international law.

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Religious and Secular Perspectives

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The Ethikon Institute, a nonprofit organization, is concerned with the social implications of ethical pluralism. Its dialogue-publication projects are designed to explore a diversity of moral outlooks, secular and religious, and to clarify areas of consensus and divergence among them. By encouraging a systematic exchange of ideas, the institute aims to advance the prospects for agreement and to facilitate the peaceful accommodation of irreducible differences. The Ethikon Institute takes no position on issues that may divide its participants, serving not as an arbiter but as a neutral forum for the cooperative exploration of diverse and sometimes opposing views.

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Abbreviations

ABM    antiballistic missile
BW     biological warfare
BWC    Biological Weapons Convention
CBW    chemical and biological warfare
CTBT   Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
CW     chemical warfare
CWC    Chemical Weapons Convention
IAEA   International Atomic Energy Agency
JAB    *jus ad bellum*
JIB    *jus in bello*
JWP    just war pacifism
JWT    just war theory
MAD    mutual assured destruction
NBC    nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons
NMD    National Missile Defense
NNWS   nonnuclear weapon state
NPT    Nonproliferation Treaty
NWP    no way nuclear pacifists
NWS    nuclear weapon state
PGM    precision-guided munitions
PTBT   Partial Test Ban Treaty
SALT   Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
START  Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
WMD    weapons of mass destruction