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0521545269 - Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Religious and Secular Perspectives

- Edited by Sohail H. Hashmi and Steven P. Lee

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Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Religious and Secular Perspectives

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.

Sohail H. Hashmi is Alumnae Foundation Associate Professor of International Relations at Mount Holyoke College.

Steven P. Lee is Professor of Philosophy at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2004

Printed in the United States of America

Typeface ITC New Baskerville 10/12 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Ethics and weapons of mass destruction : religious and secular perspectives / edited by
Sohail H. Hashmi and Steven P. Lee.

p. cm. – (The ethikon series in comparative ethics)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-83671-9 – ISBN 0-521-54526-9 (pbk.)

1. Nuclear warfare – Moral and ethical aspects. 2. Weapons of mass destruction – Moral and
ethical aspects. I. Hashmi, Sohail H., 1962– II. Lee, Steven. III. Series.

BL65.A85E84 2004
172'.42 – dc22 2003064631

ISBN 0 521 83671 9 hardback
ISBN 0 521 54526 9 paperback

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Acknowledgments

This book is the result of a dialogue project organized by the Ethikon Institute in collaboration with Mount Holyoke College. The trustees of the Ethikon Institute join with Philip Valera, president, and Carole Pateman, series editor, in thanking all who contributed to the success of this project.

We are especially indebted to Mount Holyoke College, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, Joan Palevsky, the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, and the Ahmanson Foundation for their generous financial support.

Special thanks are due to Donal O'Shea, dean of faculty, and to Eva Paus and Karen Remmler, directors of the Weissman Center for Leadership at Mount Holyoke College, for all their assistance in making the Mount Holyoke conference possible. Without the hard work of Linda Fernandes and the staff of the International Relations Program at Mount Holyoke, the colloquium would not have run as smoothly or proven as beneficial to the participants as it did. Thanks are also due to Michael Klare, director of the Five College Peace and World Security Studies Program, for his early encouragement of this project.

In addition to the authors' contributions, the project and its results were greatly enhanced by the active participation of other dialogue partners: Gavin T. Colvert, Vincent A. Ferraro, Kavita Khory, Kurt Mills, Will Oxtoby, and Jon W. Western. We are particularly indebted to Sohail Hashmi and Steven Lee for taking on the challenging task of editing this book.

We note with sadness that two of the contributors, Julia Ching and Paul Szasz, did not live to see this project to fruition. Their essays here are among the last completed in two long, distinguished, and prolific careers.

Finally, we wish to express our thanks to Terence Moore of Cambridge University Press for his encouragement, valuable guidance, and support.

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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	<i>jus ad bellum</i>
JIB	<i>jus in bello</i>
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
NWNP	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

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