

Philosophy Society Discussion Group - 09/10/2018

WAR AND REBELLION

1. What is a rebellion and how is it different than a revolution or a civil war? Is rebellion possible without breaking the law (intra-constitutional) or does it necessarily entail rejection of the law to occur (extra-constitutional)?
2. What conditions could warrant a rebellion, if any? Can these conditions justify murder for political ends? Must rebellion always be against an unjust constitution or government? What can it mean for a constitution or government to be just?
3. Can war ever be just? In what ways does inter-state conflict (warfare) differ from intra-state conflict (rebellion, revolution, secession, civil war, etc.)? Can a government ever draft its citizens into warfare and remain just? Therefore, in an 'ideal world' of just states, could wars still occur?
4. On what grounds does a government command authority? Is it a contract with the people, a divine right, or something else? How does the source of government's authority alter the nature of wars and rebellions which involve it?
5. Camus believed that we have an obligation to oppose all forms of injustice because life is of absolute value. Can we be obliged to rebel? Is rebellion possible without murder (and therefore failure to treat the value of life as absolute)?

Bonus Question: Is our current system of government unjust, and do we have an obligation to oppose it?