PREFACE

We are supposed to wage war against Terrorism – but exactly what we are fighting against in this war, there is nearly no consensus about. And, much worse, nearly nobody cares about this conceptual disaster – the main thing being, whether or not you are taking sides with the good guys.

This volume is an attempt to end this disaster. What is Terrorism? Are terrorist acts to be defined exclusively on the basis of the characteristics of the respective actions? Or should we restrict such actions to acts performed by non-state organisations? And, most important, is terrorism already by its very nature to be morally condemned?

But, having a clear idea of what Terrorism is, would be only the beginning. Rational moral assessment still needs two further components: The relevant facts; and the relevant values and norms.

Now, in a field where systematic disinformation has been even proclaimed to be the official policy, facts are obviously very hard to get at. This volume is mainly interested in Ethics: What’s wrong with Terrorism? And what is morally right or morally wrong, respectively, with all the different means of Counter-Terrorism? What are the moral boundaries for waging war against terrorism? What are the right ways of dealing with terrorists? And what about the alleged anti-terrorism wars on Afghanistan and Iraq?

Even just asking these questions is frowned upon by quite a few people.

Therefore, I guess, asking and discussing these questions is a necessary and worthwhile occupation – the job (and duty) primarily of philosophers, especially analytic philosophers, in cooperation with colleagues from at least some of the other related fields, e.g. from international law, media and public relation departments, social psychology etc.

We, the contributors of this volume, have deliberately and consciously tried to do this job.

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