

War by Agreement

A Contractarian Ethics of War

War by Agreement presents a new theory on the ethics of war. It shows that wars can be morally justified at both the ad bellum level (the political decision to go to war) and the in bello level (its actual conduct by the military) by accepting a contractarian account of the rules governing war. According to this account, the rules of war are anchored in a mutually beneficial and fair agreement between the relevant players - the purpose of which is to promote peace and to reduce the horrors of war. The book relies on the long social contract tradition and illustrates its fruitfulness in understanding and developing the morality and the law of war.

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99,30 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780199577194

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-19-957719-4

Verlag: OXFORD UNIV PR

Erscheinungstermin: 09.12.2019

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2019

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 514 g

Seiten: 230

Format (B x H): 161 x 240 mm

