CALL FOR UNDERGRADUATE PAPERS

West Point’s 2021 Ethics of War and Peace Conference:
“The War on Terror Then and Now: Twenty Years After 9/11”

The United States announced a Global War on Terror in the wake of the attacks on 11 September 2001, which has taken various shapes over the last twenty years. This conference will reflect on the ethical dimensions of the history of this war, its current state, and its possible futures. Ethically (and pragmatically) there seem to be limits to what military power can do regarding terrorism. What is its appropriate role? And what is not? What is the proper end state and what is military power’s relation to it? Does terrorism generate special moral permissions for those combating it? Who might share responsibility for terrorist acts beyond terrorists themselves? Does international law effectively address terrorism? These are among the possible questions to be taken up at our conference on 13-15 October 2021 at West Point.

The Department of English and Philosophy at the United States Military Academy is seeking undergraduate student papers of the highest quality to be presented at this conference. While submissions on the above theme are encouraged, papers on any topic relevant to the ethics of war and peace are welcome. The conference is a unique event that combines presentations by undergraduates with talks by senior scholars and military professionals. Students whose papers are selected will present them to an audience of interested peers, military officers, and academic specialists. Additionally, the West Point Journal of Politics and Security will publish the strongest undergraduate papers in a special issue devoted to the conference.

Keynote Speakers:

Secretary Robert M. Gates, 22nd U.S. Secretary of Defense
General (Retired) Martin Dempsey, 18th U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Plenary Speakers:

Saba Bazargan-Forward, University of California, San Diego
Yitzhak Benbaji, Tel Aviv University
Susanne Burri, London School of Economics and Political Science
Claire Finkelstein, University of Pennsylvania Law School
Helen Frowe, Stockholm University
David Luban, Georgetown Law Center; Stockdale Center, U.S. Naval Academy
Mary Ellen O’Connell, University of Notre Dame Law School
David Rodin, Principia Advisory; Oxford Institute of Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict
Victor Tadros, University of Warwick School of Law
Suzanne Uniacke, Charles Sturt University
Jeremy Waldron, New York University School of Law
Stephen Woodside, U.S. Military Academy

Please submit complete papers of 2000-3500 words in PDF format by 15 June 2021 to Captain Derrick Jerke at derrick.jerke@westpoint.edu. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in early August. Registration fees for undergraduate speakers will be waived, but they will be responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.