



DISEC Study Guide

Topic A: The Status of Civilians in War

Topic B: The Use of Autonomous Weapons Systems and Artificial Intelligence in Warfare





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairs Letters	3
Introduction to the Committee	4
Topic A: The Status of Civilians in War	6
Background to the Issue	6
Definitions - Who Can Be Called a Civilian? Why Do They Need Protection?	6
History of the Status of Civilians in Wars	7
World War I (1914-1918):	7
The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939):	7
World War II (1939-1945):	8
The Fourth Geneva Convention:	8
Protection of Civilians	8
Occupied Territories	8
Legal and Judicial Protections	8
The International Court of Justice (ICJ):	9
Current Situation:	10
Overview of the Status of Civilians in War.	10
Why Must We Discuss the Status of Civilians in War?	10
The Rome Constitution and Its Consequences	11
Questions to Consider	12
Suggested Reading	13
Bibliography:	14
Topic B: The Use of Autonomous Weapons Systems and Artificial Intelligence in Warfare	17
Background to the Issue	17
History of Autonomous Weapons in Warfare	17
The Use of AI in Warfare	18
Current Situation	19
Current Uses of AI and Autonomous Weapons and Their Criticism	19
Autonomous Drones	19
Civilian Defense Systems	19
The Advantages and Dangers of AI	19
Questions to Consider	21
Suggested Readings	22
Bibliography	23



CHAIRS LETTERS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) at AtidMUN X 2024. It is my honor to serve as your Chair for this conference. My name is Nevo, and I bring over 2 and half years of experience in MUN, having participated in TIMEMUN, AtidMUN, and various other national conferences. I have had the privilege of mentoring and participating in numerous MUN conferences, and I am eager to guide you through this experience. This committee will delve into critical discussions on two pressing topics: The Status of Civilians in Conflict and The Use of Autonomous Weapons Systems and Artificial Intelligence in Warfare. These issues are not only relevant but demand innovative and thoughtful resolutions.

I look forward to witnessing your debates and the creative solutions you will bring. While the study guide may appear extensive, it provides a comprehensive and engaging overview of the topics and conflicts that will shape our discussions. I encourage you to approach this material with an open mind, ready to challenge your preconceptions and deepen your understanding of these complex issues:

055-8859555 - Nevo, In Whatsapp.

Yungernevo2@gmail.com





AtidMUN X 2024



Dear delegates,

I'm your chair of this committee. I'm very excited to be chairing this committee and meeting everyone! I want to tell you a little bit about myself before we meet! My name is Harel. I'm 17, and I'm from Hadassim. It has been my 8th conference and my 3rd time chairing! I've been at MUN for five years, and I love it!!! I joined MUN because my English teacher told me she thinks I would be a perfect fit (I'm pretty sure she said that to everyone, and she was right! One of my favorite parts about chairing is bringing the fun to the committee! I always try to make the committees more fun, less tedious, and less stressful. I also love it when the delegates participate and make the committee fun and exciting!! I'm so excited to meet everyone and see how you are as delegates! I'm sure you are all amazing! I hope everyone is ready and prepared for ATIDMUN, and if anyone is nervous, don't be nervous! Just pretend, it is not reality. I know you guys will do great, and I hope we'll all bond and become friends!

See you soon!!

XOXO Your Chair <3

Harel - +972 54-798-9494



Dear Delegates,



AtidMUN X 2024



My name is Ariel Montvelisky, and I am honored to introduce myself as your chair for this year's ATIDMUN DISEC committee. I'm 17 years old, this will be my third year participating in MUN, and I am truly excited our discussions and debates.

I am passionate about the vital issues we will tackle together, and I am eager to witness the innovative solutions and perspectives each of you will bring to the table.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon and am excited for a productive and inspiring conference. And feel free to ask me any questions -

Ariel7monte@gmail.com

+972 54-351-5202





INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

DISEC aims to turn nations away from the path of arms proliferation to one of peace and security. The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), the First Committee in the United Nations General Assembly, was created along with the UN in 1945. It is tasked with addressing issues related to:

1. Disarmament - DISEC works towards the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and conventional arms. It advocates for treaties and agreements that promote arms control and non-proliferation.
2. Outer Space and Cybersecurity—With the increasing importance of new domains like outer space and cyberspace, DISEC deliberates on ensuring these areas remain peaceful and conflict-free. It aims to prevent the weaponization of outer space and address cybersecurity threats that could undermine international stability.
3. Threats to international peace and security - The committee addresses threats to global peace and security, including regional conflicts, terrorism, and the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

DISEC is critical in promoting global peace and security by addressing disarmament and international security challenges. It helps prevent conflicts, reduce the spread of weapons, and much more. Through its resolutions and initiatives, DISEC contributes to establishing a safer, more secure world.



TOPIC A: THE STATUS OF CIVILIANS IN WAR

BACKGROUND TO THE ISSUE

DEFINITIONS - WHO CAN BE CALLED A CIVILIAN? WHY DO THEY NEED PROTECTION?

In numerous armed conflicts globally, civilians are often exploited to further the objectives of warring parties. This exploitation manifests in various forms, including the abduction of civilians, the use of civilians as human shields, and the recruitment of child soldiers. These actions directly contradict fundamental human rights principles, such as the right to life, security, and protection principles¹ widely upheld by European Union members and most United Nations member states². These rights underscore the belief that everyone is entitled to live safely and should not be harmed or exploited by others. This leads to a critical ethical and legal question - do individuals who commit these violations deserve these rights? The established definition of civilians addresses this question.

The definition of a civilian has remained unchanged since adopting the Fourth Geneva Convention in 1949. According to this convention, "Civilians are not members of the armed forces." This definition extends to individuals who do not participate in or have ceased to participate in the armed forces.

HISTORY OF THE STATUS OF CIVILIANS IN WARS

To address the complex questions surrounding the status of civilians in armed conflicts, it is crucial to understand the pivotal events that led to the adoption of the Geneva Conventions in 1950 and why, decades later, these issues continue to generate debate.

Historically, warfare has been characterized by extreme violence and atrocities committed against non-combatants. From ancient times - where soldiers would often murder, pillage, and commit widespread violence to demoralize the enemy and secure victory - to more modern conflicts, the suffering of civilians has been a constant in the theater of war.

¹

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_to_life#:~:text=The%20right%20to%20life%20is,be%20killed%20by%20another%20entity.

² <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>



World War I (1914-1918)

World War I marked a significant turning point, with over 13 million civilian deaths. The concept of "total war" emerged, blurring the lines between combatants and non-combatants and resulting in extensive civilian casualties and a massive refugee crisis. The use of heavy artillery and chemical weapons further contributed to the unprecedented destruction of civilian areas. The Armenian Genocide, in which over one million Armenians were systematically exterminated, further highlighted the vulnerability of civilians. This led to a global consensus on the need for comprehensive international legal standards to protect civilians, though no significant agreements specifically addressing civilian protection were established at this time.

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

The Spanish Civil War was another conflict marked by extreme violence against civilians, with estimates of the total number of deaths ranging between 400,000 and 450,000. Atrocities committed by both sides included mass executions, bombings of civilian areas, and targeted killings. The existing legal frameworks provided inadequate protection for civilians, and despite humanitarian efforts by organizations like the International Red Cross, the lack of clear legal protections severely limited the effectiveness of these interventions. The brutal impact of the Spanish Civil War on civilians and the heightened international awareness of these atrocities contributed to the growing call for a more robust legal framework to protect civilians.

World War II (1939-1945)

World War II was catastrophic for civilian populations, with an estimated 50 to 55 million civilian deaths. The bombings of cities in Europe and Asia caused massive loss of life and widespread destruction.

The German Blitz on London, the Allied bombing of Dresden, the firebombing of Tokyo, The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the systematic genocide - the Holocaust - showed the global community just how dire civilian protection in wars was.



After WWII, the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials publicly prosecuted those responsible for the Holocaust, shocking the global conscience and leading to the drafting of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which focused on humanitarian protections for civilians in conflict zones.

THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION:

Adopted in August 1949, the Fourth Geneva Convention represented a significant development in international humanitarian law. It provided comprehensive legal protections for civilians in armed conflict, recognizing their vulnerability in modern warfare approved by 196 countries. These are some key aspects of the Fourth Geneva Convention:

Protection of Civilians

The Convention prohibits attacks against civilian populations and requires that parties distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, directing military operations solely at military targets. Civilians should always be treated humanely, without discrimination based on race, nationality, religion, or political opinion.

Occupied Territories

The Convention explicitly forbids the deportation of protected persons from occupied territories, the forcible transfer of populations, and collective punishment. It ensures that civilians in occupied territories retain their right to a fair trial and legal protection, safeguarding them from abuses of power by occupying forces.

Legal and Judicial Protections

The Convention guarantees civilians in conflict zones and embeds safeguards against arbitrary detention and punishment. It mandates that any trial be conducted before a regularly constituted court, respecting recognized judicial guarantees.

Limitations in Practice

The Geneva Conventions are crucial in establishing humanitarian standards for warfare but face significant challenges in their effectiveness. These challenges include a lack of direct enforcement mechanisms, reliance on voluntary compliance, and difficulties prosecuting violations. The changing nature of warfare, with the rise of non-state actors and asymmetric conflicts, further complicates their application. Political factors, such as prioritizing national interests over strict



compliance and the potential lack of consequences for powerful nations, also restrain their impact. Practical limitations like the fog of war, insufficient awareness among combatants, and resource constraints during conflicts add to the challenges.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

Established as part of the UN after World War II, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) plays a crucial role in enforcing laws protecting civilians during armed conflicts and holding states accountable for violating these protections. The ICJ judges legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on international law. While not binding, these advisory opinions carry significant weight and can shape international law regarding the status and protection of civilians in war. The ICJ's opinions often address complex legal questions surrounding armed conflicts and civilian protections, providing authoritative guidance on interpreting and applying international humanitarian law. It's important to note that the ICJ should not be confused with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which focuses on prosecuting individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. While the ICJ deals with state-level disputes and legal questions, the ICC handles cases against individual perpetrators of atrocities, including those committed against civilians during wartime.

Protocols I and II

The Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1977, significantly expanded legal protections for civilians in armed conflicts. Protocol I, applicable to international disputes, introduced crucial provisions safeguarding civilians from direct attacks, indiscriminate warfare, and starvation as a method of combat. Protocol II, focusing on non-international armed conflicts, elaborated on the minimum protections outlined in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, extending humanitarian principles to civil wars and internal conflicts. Both protocols aim to minimize civilian suffering and reinforce the distinction between combatants and non-combatants. However, their effectiveness has been somewhat limited due to the non-ratification by several key states, including the United States, Israel, and India. Despite this, these protocols remain fundamental in establishing the legal framework for civilian protection during wartime, emphasizing the obligation of parties to a conflict to spare the civilian population from the effects of hostilities.



CURRENT SITUATION

OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF CIVILIANS IN WAR

In recent years, multiple regions have experienced profound civilian suffering due to ongoing conflicts and widespread violations of international humanitarian law. Notable among these regions are Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Ukraine, where civilians have endured much violence. In 2023 alone, an estimated 14% of the global population lived within five kilometers of active violent conflict. This proximity to conflict has resulted in the deaths of over 526,000 civilians annually, with tens of thousands more subjected to war crimes such as the use of child soldiers, forced displacement, and being used as human shields.

Since the early 2000s, most war crimes have taken place in regions such as the Sahel, Central-Western Asia, and Eastern Europe. These areas have experienced a surge in warfare in which non-state actors have played a significant role, leading to increasingly blurred lines between combatants and civilians.

The last major revision to the legal framework governing the protection of civilians was in 1977. However, the global landscape has changed dramatically since then, and the Geneva Conventions no longer comprehensively address the realities of modern conflict. Emerging challenges, such as asymmetric warfare involving non-state actors, cyber warfare, and the use of autonomous weapons, fall into a "gray area" of international law. These gaps in legal protection contribute to the increasing harm inflicted on civilians in modern conflicts.

WHY MUST WE DISCUSS THE STATUS OF CIVILIANS IN WAR?

Civilians are deeply affected by wars, facing not only physical harm but also severe psychological, socio-economic, and educational disorders. The psychological toll is particularly significant. Studies show that about 23.81% of older war survivors in post-war areas have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) - about 242 million people worldwide. Furthermore, children, due to their vulnerability, often experience ongoing psychological trauma that can hinder their development and emotional well-being.



Along with this, education is often severely disrupted in conflict zones – research by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) indicates that over 240 million children and youth worldwide have had their education interrupted by war and violence. Schools are often damaged or destroyed, and even when they remain operational, attendance plummets as safety concerns take precedence over education.

War also destroys the social and economic fabric of communities. Citizens lose their homes, livelihoods, and access to essential services, leading to widespread poverty and unemployment. Displacement adds long-term challenges for displaced populations and host communities, including resource competition and social tensions.

THE ROME STATUTE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

The Rome Statute³ emerged from the global recognition that existing mechanisms for prosecuting grave crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression were inadequate. The Rome Statute is the foundational treaty establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. This statute empowers the ICC to prosecute individuals for the most severe international crimes. The court is designed to act as a last resort, intervening when national judicial systems are unwilling or unable to prosecute these crimes effectively. The Rome Statute provides a legal framework to protect civilians from atrocities committed during armed conflicts by defining war crimes and crimes against humanity.

One hundred twenty-three countries have ratified the Rome Statute, giving the ICC jurisdiction over crimes committed on their territories or by their nationals. However, some major powers, including the United States, Russia, and China, have not joined, which limits the court's jurisdiction in specific global conflicts. Hence, the statute doesn't fulfill its rule.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome_Statute



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can the international community improve accountability for war crimes against civilians?
2. How has the nature of modern warfare (e.g., the use of cyber warfare or irregular combatants) affected the protection of civilians?
3. How does your country support refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing conflicts?
4. What role does your country play in international efforts to protect civilians in conflict zones?
5. What happens when AI commits war crimes against the Agreements?
6. How can all countries sign a new agreement on this topic for the first time since 1949? Do we even want it to happen?
7. Are there specific challenges or areas where your country seeks international support or cooperation?
8. How has recent or ongoing conflict in your country (if applicable) affected civilian populations?
9. Is a child soldier considered a civilian, and if so, should they receive the same protection as other civilians?
10. What constitutes "taking part" in armed conflict, and how does this impact an individual's civilian status?
11. What will happen if the USA and Syria do the same "crime"? Will they be punished the same?



SUGGESTED READING

Yusuf, M. (n.d.). Violent Extremism in the Sahel | Global Conflict Tracker. Council on Foreign Relations.

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violent-extremism-sahel>

ANU TV. (2015, December 3). Sparing civilians in war. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThbiaXRy6Eg>

Blavatnik School of Government. (2018, October 19). Current challenges in protecting civilians in armed conflict. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKXMuUyKglg>

We Must Go Above, Beyond Compliance, Fully Protect Civilians against 'Harms They Are Suffering on Our Watch,' Senior Humanitarian Official Tells Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (2024, May 21). Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15702.doc.htm>

Darke, D. (n.d.). Battle of Aleppo (2012–2016). Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Aleppo_\(2012%E2%80%932016\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Aleppo_(2012%E2%80%932016))

American military intervention in Somalia (2007–present). (n.d.). Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_military_intervention_in_Somalia_\(2007%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_military_intervention_in_Somalia_(2007%E2%80%93present))

Bibliography

AP I 1977. (N.D.). INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW DATABASES. [HTTPS://IHL-DATABASES.ICRC.ORG/EN/IHL-TREATIES/API-1977](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977)

Customary IHL - Rule 5. Definition of Civilians. (n.d.). International Humanitarian Law Databases. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule5>

Egeland, J. (2023, February 9). *Educating the world's children of conflict* | NRC. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). <https://www.nrc.no/opinions-all/educating-the-worlds-children-of-conflict/>

Estimated 14 percent of the world's population is exposed to conflict, data shows. (2024, February 6).

University of Southampton. [Estimated 14 per cent of world population exposed to conflict, data shows | University of Southampton](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2024/02/14-per-cent-of-world-population-exposed-to-conflict-data-shows)

Fact Sheet No.13, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Introduction. (n.d.). OHCHR. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FactSheet13en.pdf>

Farrar, S., Ingrams, M. F., & Picasso, P. (n.d.). *Spanish Civil War.* Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War

Fourth Geneva Convention. (n.d.). Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Geneva_Convention



Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. (n.d.). OHCHR.
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-protection-civilian-persons-time-war>

Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. (n.d.). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hague_Conventions_of_1899_and_1907#

Heim, E. (n.d.). *Syria, the Battle for Aleppo | How does law protect in war? - Online casebook.* How does law protect in war? <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/syria-battle-aleppo>

How many people died during World War I? (n.d.). Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/question/How-many-people-died-during-World-War-I>

IHL Treaties - Geneva Convention (IV) on Civilians, 1949 - Article 49. (n.d.). International Humanitarian Law Databases. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-49>

International Committee of the Red Cross. (n.d.). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Committee_of_the_Red_Cross

International Court of Justice. (n.d.). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice#

International Humanitarian Law. (n.d.). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_humanitarian_law

IV GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF 12 AUGUST 1949 PART I General Provisions A. (n.d.). The United Nations.
https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

Protocol I. (n.d.). Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protocol_I

Protocol II. (n.d.). Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protocol_II

Protocol III. (n.d.). Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protocol_III

Right to life, security and protection from violence - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. (n.d.). The Council of Europe. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sogi/right-to-life>

Rome Statute. (n.d.). Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome_Statute

Siebert, P. M. (n.d.). *ECCC, Detention Sites in Cambodia | How does the law protect in war? - Online casebook.* How does the law protect in war?
<https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/eccc-detention-sites-cambodia>

United Nations General Assembly First Committee. (n.d.). Wikipedia.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_First_Committee



Wylie, N., & Cameron, L. (n.d.). *The Impact of World War I on the Law Governing the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Making of a Humanitarian Subject*. The European Journal of International Law Vol. 29 no. 4.

https://watermark.silverchair.com/chy085.pdf?token=AQECAHi208BE49Oan9khhW_Ercy7Dm3ZL_9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAA00wggNJBgkqhkiG9w0BBwagggM6MIIDNgIBADCCAy8GC SqGSib3DQEHATAeBgIghkgBZQMEAS4wEQQMWBjJo2CRvVycG9tJyAgEQgIIDAPkt7Is7i hSUI4-dHlqV5TPp1gIou6P6gYpyyI9E6PlSiEgo2

Yee, S. (n.d.). *Doctors Without Borders*. Doctors without Borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law. <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/civilians/>

Yemen , Humanitarian Impact of the Conflict | How does law protect in war? - Online casebook. (n.d.). How does law protect in war?

<https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/yemen-humanitarian-impact-conflict>



TOPIC B: THE USE OF AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN WARFARE

BACKGROUND TO THE ISSUE

HISTORY OF AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS IN WARFARE

Many different types of weapons and machinery are used in wars today. Many of these weapons have been used for years and are no strangers to the battlefield. But some of these weapons are newer, and we might not know them well enough. Autonomous weapons are weapons not controlled by a human being. These weapons can function with the help of a computer. But how did these weapons come to life? Where did they start?

Around 1495, a mechanical knight was designed and possibly constructed by the Renaissance man Leonardo De Vinci. De Vinci was known for being an artist and an inventor. He was also known for taking an interest in different fields, such as chemistry, mathematics, physics, etc. One of Leonardo De Vinci's inventions was a mechanical knight. The knight could stand, sit, raise its visor, and independently maneuver its arms. It also had an anatomically correct jaw. The knight was able to make several human-like motions. Several pulleys and cables operated the knight's robotic system, the first-ever design of an autonomous weapon. Throughout the years, there haven't been many inventions related to autonomous weapons. During the mid-20th century, computer scientists and military strategists began envisioning machines capable of independently carrying out tasks on the battlefield. However, technology at the time was very limited, and practical implementation was not feasible. Around 1970-1980, more powerful computers were developed, and sensor technology improved. With these computers and improved technology, autonomous systems were explored more seriously. Around 1980-2000, AI started to get more notice due to its development and was starting to get used in autonomous systems.



THE USE OF AI IN WARFARE

Integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into warfare through autonomous weapons systems (AWS), reshapes military operations and strategies.

AI technology is used to enhance the capabilities of weapon systems, enabling them to detect, select, and engage targets with minimal human intervention. This shift promises increased efficiency and reduced human mistakes in battle, as AI systems can process extensive amounts of data and make rapid decisions based on real-time information. However, deploying AWS - especially using AI - raises significant ethical and legal concerns regarding accountability and the potential for unintended civilian harm. Critics argue that reliance on AI in military decision-making could lead to a lack of human oversight, increasing the risk of conflict escalation and complicating adherence to international humanitarian law.



CURRENT SITUATION

CURRENT USES OF AI AND AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS AND THEIR CRITICISM

Autonomous Drones

One primary use of autonomous weapons is in military drones. Many countries use drones in military and counter-terrorism operations. These drones employ AI software to track and identify targets, but the elimination process might sometimes need human authorization. While they have been helpful in their military and operational aspects, these drones raise concerns about civilian safety. Many worry that the AI's accuracy in identifying and differentiating between targets and bystanders could be flawed and that civilians could unintentionally get hurt.

Civilian Defense Systems

Another significant use of AWSs is in civilian defense systems like the Iron Dome in Israel and Samsung's SGR-A1 gun in South Korea. Both systems are completely automatic defense systems that intercept incoming projectiles, using AI, radars, voice recognition, and more advanced identification methods. These weapons raise concerns due to their full autonomy—the machine is the decision maker and can execute strikes without human intervention or supervision.

These uses, as well as many others, raise many ethical concerns. The moral dilemma concerning these weapon systems is whether machines should be able to take a human life, without human oversight, entirely of their own accord. It is a big problem in introducing and using autonomous weapons into the global sector, as questions of accountability for the AWS's and AI's actions will eventually be asked. Autonomous weapons are machines, and the implications of their actions are unknown.

THE ADVANTAGES AND DANGERS OF AI

AI presents significant advantages and potential dangers, especially in contexts like warfare. On one hand, AI is a brilliant tool capable of solving complex problems and performing tasks that would be too dangerous for humans, such as clearing areas of explosives,, which can significantly enhance the safety of soldiers, allowing them to avoid direct exposure to life-threatening situations. AI's ability to rapidly collect and analyze data from across the globe also offers strategic advantages, providing better insights into targets and improving decision-making processes.



However, despite these benefits, AI also comes with serious risks. While it can mimic human decision-making, it remains inherently unpredictable and can make mistakes with potentially catastrophic consequences. In warfare, adversaries can hack or manipulate AI systems, leading to security threats that could endanger soldiers and civilians. The leakage of sensitive information due to such breaches further exacerbates these risks. Therefore, while AI's capabilities can be highly beneficial, its use, especially in critical areas like military operations, must be approached with caution due to the inherent dangers it poses.

AI VS MANKIND

As mentioned earlier, AI can sometimes feel like a human being, but we can't forget that it is not one at all. When AI in warfare is being discussed, a big question is, whether it is morally correct to use AI in warfare. AI can make quick and intelligent decisions. Based on its knowledge, AI can quickly decide what to do in a difficult situation. But this knowledge is not like the knowledge that human beings have. AI's knowledge is built on information from the internet and could be helpful when needed. AI can help with medical details, target analysis, and more. AI might make decisions based on its knowledge of the Internet, which means the decision could harm innocent civilians and cause a lot of damage. The decision might not be the most moral option, but according to AI's knowledge, it is the best.

We might think that AI has and knows everything, but there are a few things that human beings have that AI lacks. Some of those things are empathy, emotions, and experience in life. When humans make decisions that could affect others, they are usually empathetic and try not to cause harm. It is much more noticeable when a decision is made with empathy and consideration for others. These decisions might not always be the safest option, but the soldiers choose them to protect innocent civilians. The difference between decisions made by AI and decisions made by human beings can be a big difference and could either save many people or put them in harm.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Does your country use and develop autonomous weapons?
2. Has your country faced any damage caused by AI in warfare?
3. Has your country been vocal about using AI and autonomous weapons in warfare?



AtidMUN X 2024



4. How can we ensure that AI systems uphold human rights and dignity?
5. What measures can prevent the misuse of AI in autonomous weapon systems?
6. How can global governance keep pace with rapidly advancing AWS technologies?
7. What can we do to prevent AWS from falling into the wrong hands and being used by non-state actors?



SUGGESTED READING

1. Marwala, T. (2023, July 24). *Militarization of AI Has Severe Implications for Global Security and Warfare*. United Nations University. <https://unu.edu/article/militarization-ai-has-severe-implications-global-security-and-warfare>
2. Petti, M., Sullum, J., Binion, B., Camp, E., Soave, R., & Ciaramella, C. (2024, May 26). *Why AI Warfare Is Both Mundane and Dangerous*. Reason Magazine. <https://reason.com/2024/05/26/ai-warfare-is-boring-but-deadly/>
3. *The 13 Most Advanced Countries in Artificial Intelligence*. (n.d.). Rejolut. <https://rejolut.com/blog/13-top-ai-countries/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Artificial intelligence arms race. (n.d.). Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence_arms_race

Davey, T. (2016, November 21). *Who is Responsible for Autonomous Weapons?* Future of Life Institute. <https://futureoflife.org/ai/peter-asaro-autonomous-weapons/>

Lethal autonomous weapon. (n.d.). Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lethal_autonomous_weapon

The Pros and Cons of Using AI in Military Divisions Worldwide. (n.d.). PEI-Connects.

<https://blog.peigenesis.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-using-ai-in-the-military>

Technology during World War II. (n.d.). Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_during_World_War_II

Weapons of the Vietnam War. (n.d.). Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weapons_of_the_Vietnam_War

What you need to know about autonomous weapons. (2022, July 26). ICRC.

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/what-you-need-know-about-autonomous-weapons>