

### Values in a Time of War

“War is hell!” That was the declaration of General William Sherman in early 1865 when he surveyed the devastation brought by his 60,000 Union troops to the people of Georgia during the closing months of the Civil War.

War raises agonizing moral questions. When a democratic society goes to war, the decisions made and actions taken are not just the responsibility of those in authority, but are the collective responsibility of the people. Once war has begun, few Americans would question bringing the conflict to a speedy conclusion is a justifiable goal, or end. The moral difficulty, however, comes in deciding what military actions, or means, should be employed to attain a worthy end.

*Do morals have a place in war?  
When is the use of force justified?  
What principles govern how force may be used?*

**DIRECTIONS:** Below is a list of potential bombing targets for your air force. Your assignment is to consider each of the targets in terms of its military significance and moral implications. Your task is to decide whether the means of aerial bombardment are justified by the ends, or goals. Rate each potential target on a scale of 1 (not justified) to 10 (completely justified.) Be able to explain your reasoning for each rating.

Things to consider:

- How would your decisions be affected by the actions of the enemy?
- How would the duration of the war affect decision-making?
- Would the prospect of extensive collateral damage (unintended civilian casualties) lead to a change in policy?
- Are there any circumstances in which the U.S. would be justified in using nuclear weapons rather than conventional weapons?

<b>POTENTIAL TARGET</b>	<b>RATING</b>
1. Enemy troops in the field	_____
2. Military training camps	_____
3. Factories (in cities) producing military supplies	_____
4. Homes of civilians working in military factories	_____
5. Food supplies for the military	_____
6. Food supplies for civilians	_____
7. Military hospitals	_____
8. Residential neighborhoods inhabited by civilians	_____

9. Trains and ships carrying troops \_\_\_\_\_
10. Trains and ships carrying both civilians and troops \_\_\_\_\_
11. Schools \_\_\_\_\_
12. Universities involved in military-related research \_\_\_\_\_
13. Government offices/military bases of nations who support the enemy nation \_\_\_\_\_
14. Homes/offices of key enemy political or military officials \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Should “rules” of war exist internationally?
2. Should these rules vary or be revised depending on the conflict? Explain.
3. What do you do if one side/both sides are not following the same rules?
4. Is winning the endgame in a conflict or is holding on to a nation’s values more/equally important?  
What if you have to compromise your values in order to win?