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Nuclear Deterrence, Morality and Realism

John Finnis, Joseph Boyle & Germain Grisez

Clarendon Press (1988)



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Abstract

Nuclear deterrence requires objective ethical analysis. In providing it, the authors face realities - the Soviet threat, possible nuclear holocaust, strategic imperatives - but they also unmask moral evasions - deterrence cannot be bluff, pure counterforce, the lesser (or greater) evil, or a step towards disarmament. They conclude that the deterrent is unjustifiable and examine the new question of conscience that this raises for everyone.

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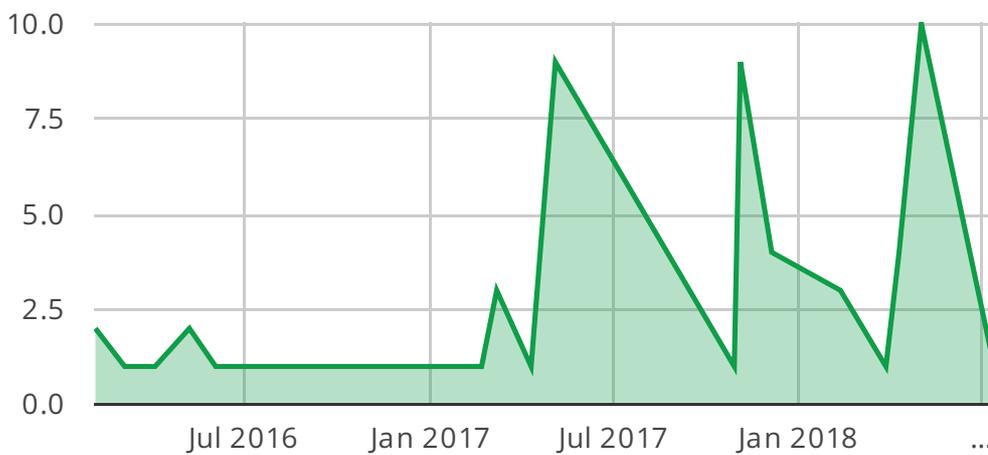
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A rigorous and objective ethical analysis of nuclear deterrence, this book provides a wide-ranging discussion of such important peace issues as possible holocaust, the Soviet menace, and strategic imperatives. The authors also unmask types of deterrence that they perceive as essentially moral evasions. Raising to a new level the moral, political, theological, and strategic debates surrounding deterrence, the volume ultimately concludes that it is an unjustifiable policy. John Finnis, Joseph Boyle, Germain Grisez. Nuclear deterrence requires objective ethical analysis. In providing it, the authors face realities - the Soviet threat, possible nuclear holocaust, strategic imperatives - but they also unmask moral evasions - deterrence cannot be bluff, pure counterforce, the lesser evil, or a step towards disarmament. They conclude that the deterrent is unjustifiable and examine the new question of conscience that this raises for everyone.