

(Ebook free) Drones and the Future of Armed Conflict: Ethical, Legal, and Strategic Implications

# Drones and the Future of Armed Conflict: Ethical, Legal, and Strategic Implications

*From University Of Chicago Press*  
*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



 Download

 Read Online

#2110156 in Books 2015-06-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022625805X288 pages | File size: 19.Mb

**From University Of Chicago Press : Drones and the Future of Armed Conflict: Ethical, Legal, and Strategic Implications** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Drones and the Future of Armed Conflict: Ethical, Legal, and Strategic Implications:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The contributors to this collection are each singularly qualified to ...By Random ReaderThe contributors to this collection are each singularly qualified to speak to the issues raised by

the military use of drones, especially targeted killings (as often as not) outside any declared war zone. Some focus on legal, others on ethical aspects of the new war with no rules except what the drone users themselves are willing to put in place. A must read for anyone whom this state of affairs unnerves.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars  
By zaid  
A bit dry at times but informative.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Academic-Legal Perspective on the US Drone Assassination Program  
By Robert David STEELE Vivas  
This is one of three books on drone assassination that I am reviewing, the other two are *Sudden Justice: America's Secret Drone Wars (Terrorism and Global Justice)* and *We Kill Because We Can: From Soldiering to Assassination in the Drone Age*. I was limited in my choices to the books offered by a professional journal for whom I am writing an integrated review, if I had had unlimited choice I would have included *Kill Chain: The Rise of the High-Tech Assassins* and *The Assassination Complex: Inside the Government's Secret Drone Warfare Program*. All three books -- and I suspect the others focused on this topic as well -- agree on three things:

- 01 Drone assassination is against both international law and the US Constitution;
- 02 We are murdering thousands of innocents and creating more enemies than we kill;
- 03 Drones are expensive, technically deficient tools (they cannot distinguish between a rifle and a shovel), that cannot be supported by our existing intelligence capabilities -- nor can we process the terabytes of data they create.

This particular book, an edited work focused primarily on ethical, legal, and strategic implications, is the most academic and the most focused on international law as well as domestic law and constitutional processes. From the perspective of both domestic law (including constitutional law) as well as international law, the US drone assassination program is unethical, illegal in every possible respect, and a massive persistent broad violation of international law and the rights of citizens as well as the sovereign jurisdictions of every country in which drone assassination are being carried out -- including those where we ostensibly have permission. I single out the opening chapter, "Assessing the Debate on Drone Warfare" by David Cortright and Rachel Fairhurst, as the best possible summary of the book as a whole and ethical-legal discussion overall. This is the chapter professors should use to provoke student reflection on the matter. Across the book it is clear that the drone assassination program is completely unjustified (apart from being illegal). There is no clear and present danger to the USA or even to US persons from all of these people we are killing (98% of whom, according to multiple other sources, are complete innocents or "collateral damage"), and we are completely lacking in any due process -- any oversight from Congress or the courts -- with respect to how we go about killing people who more often than not are killed because they are a military-aged male living in a target area. I credit the authors in the aggregate for demonstrating that the US drone assassination program lacks unity of command, coherence, strategy, or any semblance of justification. This is wanton killing "because we can."

Rafia Zakaria's chapter, "The Myth of Precision: Human Rights, Drones, and the Case of Pakistan," is another chapter I recommend for use with students. Drones are over-sold. Like the F-35 and other US Air Force platforms that claim they can win wars without armor or infantry, drones are largely worthless when it comes to real precision -- not only can the CIA not provide accurate intelligence that is actionable in time and place, but the drones are a very expensive (\$70K per missile, probably \$500,000 to \$1 million per operation) way of killing single individuals. The most useful insight I gained from this book was the "right to home" perspective, not only for the foreign publics upon whom we are raining down indiscriminate illegal wanton utterly despicable death and destruction, but on US publics. It is quite certain, reading across these varied contributing authors, that the militarization of the US police will be followed by the use of drones to kill specific individuals in and out of vehicles, in and out of their homes, under the pretense of avoiding risk to law enforcement personnel but in fact reflecting the impunity that characterizes a government too long divorced from ethics and the public interest. The book loses one star for over-selling drones across most chapters -- people who are good at legal ideas are generally poor at technical evaluations -- and for failing to have at least one chapter on the actual financial cost of an individual assassination by drone -- as the third book in this group notes, each drone launch involves over 200 people. None of the three books adequately examine how drones are merely the latest tool in an ever growing array of very expensive very toxic military-industrial complex offerings that further Empire for the 1% at the expense of both the tax-paying US public and the victimized foreign publics. For such insights I would point readers to, among many other books, these four:

- The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic (The American Empire Project)*
- Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II - Updated Edition*
- The Eagle's Shadow: Why America Fascinates And Infuriates The World*
- Why the Rest Hates the West: Understanding the Roots of Global Rage*

Donald Trump, our "accidental president," has recently announced that he is taking General Jim Mattis, USMC (Ret) at his word, and forbidding the use of waterboarding and other forms of torture as counterproductive. I was one of the first CIA officers assigned terrorism as a full-time target in the 1980's, and have published strong opinions on the criminal insanity of water-boarding. Assassination by drone is a form of rendition and torture that in my view should make every person from the President on down subject to trial for crimes against humanity. I dare to hope that Donald Trump will listen to those of use who are -- for moral, legal, practical, and professional reasons -- totally opposed to this program.

Robert David Steele  
Donald Trump, *The Accidental President -- Under Siege!: A Soft Coup Rages within a Closed Rugged System.... (Trump Revolution Book 5)*

During the past decade, armed drones have entered the American military arsenal as a core tactic for countering

terrorism. When coupled with access to reliable information, they make it possible to deploy lethal force accurately across borders while keeping ones own soldiers out of harms way. The potential to direct force with great precision also offers the possibility of reducing harm to civilians. At the same time, because drones eliminate some of the traditional constraints on the use of force like the need to gain political support for full mobilization they lower the threshold for launching military strikes. The development of drone use capacity across dozens of countries increases the need for global standards on the use of these weapons to assure that their deployment is strategically wise and ethically and legally sound. Presenting a robust conversation among leading scholars in the areas of international legal standards, counterterrorism strategy, humanitarian law, and the ethics of force, *Drones and the Future of Armed Conflict* takes account of current American drone campaigns and the developing legal, ethical, and strategic implications of this new way of warfare. Among the contributions to this volume are a thorough examination of the American governments legal justifications for the targeting of enemies using drones, an analysis of American drone campaigns notable successes and failures, and a discussion of the linked issues of human rights, freedom of information, and government accountability.

While the peak of drone usage may have passed, we will be evaluating and reevaluating the legality, justice, and utility of the drone war for decades. Cortright, Fairhurst, and Wall provide an important contribution to the broader discussion on drone warfare. Readers with an interest in political affairs and the use of force will find this book fascinating, and those studying international relations and international law will also find much to like."