

PHILOSOPHY & PUBLIC POLICY QUARTERLY

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The Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy
School of Public Affairs • University of Maryland



<i>The Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy Celebrates its 25th Anniversary</i>	2
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The Ethics of Retaliation

President Bush's promise to retaliate against those responsible for the attacks of September 11 has received the overwhelming support of the American public. But the moral dimensions of retaliation have received less scrutiny than they deserve.

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Terrorism, Innocence, and War

Following the events of September 11, some have insisted that no matter what its political aims, terrorism admits of no moral justification because terrorists attack "innocent" victims. Terrorists contend that their human targets are not innocent—they participate in unjust state actions and therefore deserve punishment. But to arrive at this conclusion, terrorists must treat themselves as sovereign states authorized to make such judgments and, in the case of bin Laden and his followers, believe their judgments and actions simply follow God's will.

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The Libertarian Critique of Labor Unions

Americans tend to distrust unions, in part because unions seem to place little value on personal liberty, self-reliance, and efficiency. However, libertarian criticisms against unions are flawed and, consequently, widespread distrust of unions is unwarranted.

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Understanding the Consumer's Right to Know

The Food Quality Protection Act mandates that consumers be informed of the risks and benefits of pesticide chemical residues in food. But since these new consumer "right-to-know" provisions are not clearly articulated, consideration of the carefully scrutinized medical right to know offers insights into the kinds of information about food that may prove useful to consumers as well as to those charged with carrying out the provisions of the Act.

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