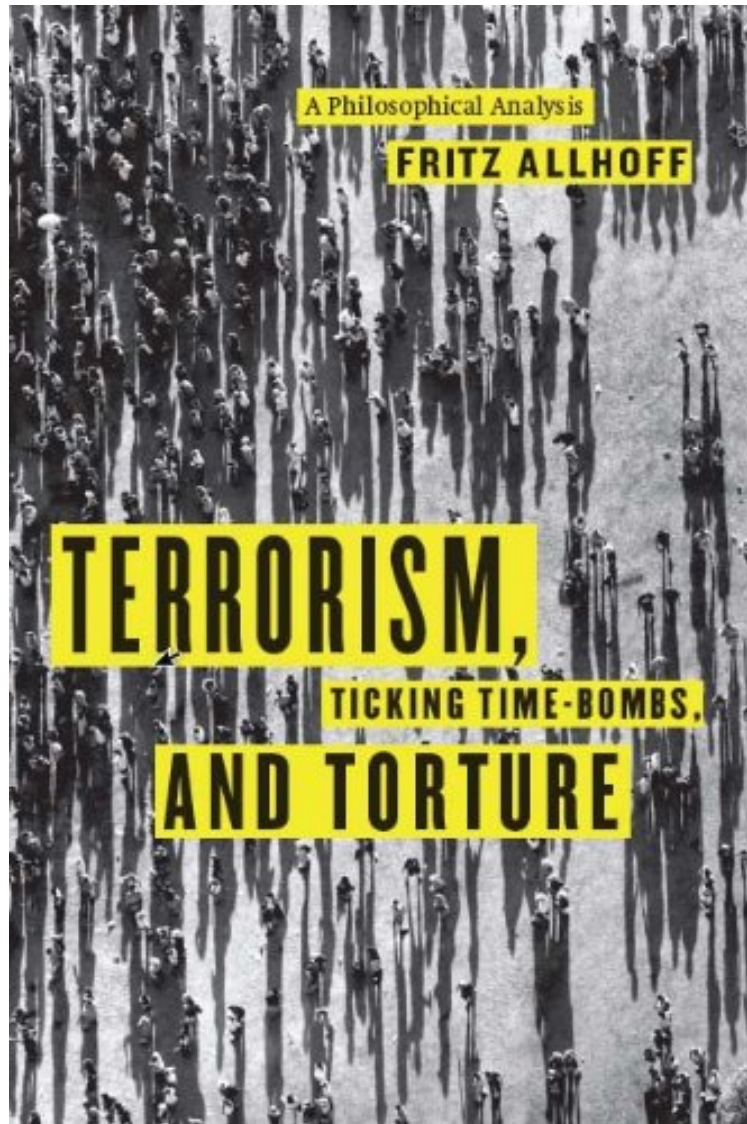


(Ebook pdf) Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis

Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis

Fritz Allhoff

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Fritz Allhoff : Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture: A Philosophical Analysis:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on a timely topicBy Ohio readerAllhoff's Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture stands out among current books on torture in both what it argues and in the sophistication of its argumentative support. Most books on the moral status of torture focus nearly exclusively upon

the individual to be tortured, and so they look at his or her dignity or his or her rights, among other things. However, Allhoff contends that such a myopic focus upon this individual alone ignores the larger context in which torture may be conducted, especially torture conducted within the larger context of terrorist actions. Part I of the book (the first 3 chapters) is devoted to this broader context in which torture must be evaluated. Focusing on the individual's rights or dignity alone also has other problems, which Allhoff discusses. For example, it ignores the numerous individuals who might be saved if accurate information is obtained by means of interrogational torture. Allhoff argues that though torture is a moral wrong, in certain instances it might be the lesser of two wrongs. These and other topics are discussed in Part II, which is devoted to the philosophical issues related to torture. Finally, Allhoff's book is impressive (especially for a philosophical book) insofar as it seeks to respond to some of the empirical concerns about torture (e.g., the objection that regardless of its moral status torture simply doesn't work). Part III is devoted to this and other issues relating to torture's use in the real world. Allhoff's book has much to recommend it to anyone interested in issues relating to terrorism and torture. A must read!

The general consensus among philosophers is that the use of torture is never justified. In *Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture*, Fritz Allhoff demonstrates the weakness of the case against torture; while allowing that torture constitutes a moral wrong, he nevertheless argues that, in exceptional cases, it represents the lesser of two evils.

Professor Allhoff has written a challenging work that is sure to generate controversy among both the supporters and critics of the United States' war on terror. He applies philosophical, legal, and political approaches to deepen our understanding of modern terrorism, the ticking-time-bomb hypothetical and national security. His methodical arguments and brave conclusions will not please everyone, but it will press them all to become more rigorous in their thinking and more careful in their judgments. Anyone interested in the difficult questions posed by the 9/11 attacks and the US's response will want to read this book. — John Yoo, University of California, Berkeley