

In the video "Collateral Murder," released by Al Jazeera English in 2010, footage captured from a 2007 US helicopter airstrike in Baghdad, Iraq, reveals the deaths of several individuals, including two journalists. The video sparked intense debate about the rules of engagement, civilian casualties, and transparency in military operations. The case presented by the video is relevant to the argument regarding whistleblowing, as it raises questions about the ethical obligations of individuals within organizations, such as the military, when faced with information that conflicts with organizational interests. In this Case Analysis, I will argue that the Confucian tool shows us that the actions of whistleblower Chelsea Manning were driven by a sense of moral duty rather than loyalty to the United States and that her decision to release classified information was a morally justifiable act of whistleblowing.

Vandekerckhove's work delves into the concept of "rational loyalty," which serves as a crucial lens for understanding the ethical dilemmas faced by individuals within organizations. Rational loyalty entails a balance between loyalty to one's organization and loyalty to ethical principles. Vandekerckhove argues that people often find themselves torn between these conflicting loyalties, especially when organizational interests clash with morals. Manning's case shows this tension, as she grappled with whether to prioritize her allegiance to the US military by disclosing information she deemed vital to the public interest.

Applying the notion of rational loyalty to Manning's case, it becomes apparent that her actions were motivated primarily by a commitment to ethical principles rather than blind allegiance to the military establishment. Manning's whistleblowing can be interpreted as a courageous stance in defense of transparency, accountability, and human rights. From a Confucian perspective, which emphasizes the cultivation of moral integrity and the pursuit of the greater good, Manning's decision aligns with virtuous conduct aimed at challenging injustice. Despite facing severe consequences for her actions, including legal prosecution and personal hardship, Manning's whistleblowing can be regarded as a morally good response.

In "Applying Care Ethics to Business" by Julinna Oxley and D.E. Wittkower, the authors explore the application of care ethics within the workplace, emphasizing the importance of fostering caring relationships and moral considerations in business contexts. One central concept discussed is care as a foundational principle for ethical decision-making in organizations. Care ethics emphasizes attentiveness to the needs and well-being of others, prioritizing empathy, compassion, and responsibility in interpersonal relationships. Another key concept is the idea of loyalty as a component of care, where loyalty is understood not as blind allegiance to an organization, but as a commitment to nurturing supportive relationships among others. Analyzing the case of Chelsea Manning through the lens of Confucian ethics, we can follow her actions as motivated by a sense of care for humanity and a commitment to ethical responsibility. Manning's decision to leak classified information can be seen as an act of care for the public, driven by her concern for the lives of innocent civilians affected by military actions. Rather than prioritizing loyalty to the military, Manning's actions reflect a loyalty to ethical values.

Furthermore, Manning's whistleblowing can be interpreted as an expression of care towards her fellow soldiers and the broader society. By exposing potential wrongdoing and abuses of power, Manning sought to protect both the victims of military violence and her colleagues from doing unethical things. This aligns with the emphasis on fostering caring relationships and promoting the well-being of all people, even at personal risk. Assessing

Manning's actions using the Confucian ethical tool, we can recognize her whistleblowing as a morally justifiable response. From a Confucian perspective, Manning's actions demonstrate a commitment to moral integrity and the greater good, as she prioritized the ethical job of exposing wrongdoing over her allegiance to institutional norms. Confucian ethics emphasize the cultivation of virtues such as courage, righteousness, and benevolence, all of which are embodied in Manning's decision to act following her moral conscience.

In conclusion, the case of Chelsea Manning's whistleblowing in the "Collateral Murder" video presents an ethical dilemma that can be analyzed through multiple ethical frameworks. Manning's actions, driven by a sense of moral duty, challenge traditional loyalty and raise profound questions about the balance between organized allegiance and ethical responsibility. Through the lens of Confucian ethics, Manning's decision to disclose classified information emerges as a morally justifiable response. From Vandekerckhove's perspective, Manning's whistleblowing reflects a prioritization of ethical principles over organizational loyalty, highlighting the tensions shown in navigating conflicting loyalties within institutions. Oxley and Wittkower's emphasis on care ethics underscores Manning's act as an expression of compassion and responsibility towards fellow soldiers. Finally, Confucian ethics provide a framework for recognizing Manning's actions as virtuous and morally upright, as she demonstrates courage and righteousness in challenging injustice. Considering these analyses, Manning's whistleblowing can be seen as a morally justified response to the ethical dilemmas she confronted, exemplifying the imperative to prioritize ethical considerations and uphold moral integrity in the face of institutional norms and pressures.