

Ethical Considerations in the Israel-Iran Cyberwar

The ongoing cyber conflict, between Israel and Iran has seen a rise in tensions with both nations launching cyberattacks against each other's infrastructure and civilian systems. These recent incidents have brought to light the concerns surrounding this conflict. On one side Israel's advanced cyberattacks have caused disruptions at Iran's gas stations resulting in fuel shortages and chaos among its citizens. Conversely Iran has retaliated with its cyberattacks targeting hospitals leading to disruptions in crucial services. While both nations deny responsibility for these attacks, suspicions and attributions have been made by experts and the media. In this Case Analysis I will argue that Contractarianism as an approach sheds light on the nature of the cyberwar between Israel and Iran due to concerns regarding the protection of noncombatants, mutual respect, and peaceful resolutions. Given the escalating cyberattacks and potential harm to civilians and infrastructure on both sides it is necessary to reassess how it can approach this conflict with an emphasis, on considerations.

The article titled "The Escalating Cyberwar, between Israel and Iran" sheds light on the growing conflict in cyberwarfare between these two nations. It discusses how Iran of launching has accused Israel cyberattacks on their infrastructure resulting in disruptions and damage. This situation raises concerns regarding the use of cyberwarfare and its potential impact on civilian infrastructure and people's lives. The consequences of these cyberattacks on civilians and vital services highlight the need to ethically evaluate this situation. By applying Consequentialism to this article, we focus on examining the outcomes of these actions. The disruptions caused by cyberattacks on infrastructure can lead to harm for civilians, economic losses, and potential social unrest. The severity of these consequences raises questions about whether such a cyberwar is morally justifiable. According to Thomas Boylan's theory called Consequentialism the moral

rightness or wrongness of an action is determined by its consequences. On the side Octavia Butlers story "The Evening and the Morning and the Night" delves into Contractarianism, which focuses on agreements and individual consent, in shaping moral rules. To assess the cyberwar between Israel and Iran using these frameworks we need to analyze its consequences and evaluate if it aligns with principles of agreement and consent. Considering Consequentialism, the aftermath of this cyberwar holds significance. Cyberwarfare has the potential to cause disruptions, economic losses, and social upheaval. The articles discussing Iran and Israels cyberwar offer insights into understanding the extent of these consequences. If this cyberwar inflicts harm on civilians, causes destruction of infrastructure or escalates violence it would be deemed unjust from a Consequentialist standpoint. Moreover, Contractarianism stresses the importance of agreement and consent among individuals. In "The Evening and the Morning and the Night " Butler explores a society formed through a contract among individuals, with disorders. When applied to cyberwarfare Contractarianism prompts us to question the legitimacy of war itself and whether affected populations have truly consented to actions. When discussing the cyberwar, between Israel and Iran it is important to consider whether it aligns with the principles of consent according to Contractarianism. If the people affected by the war and its consequences have not given their consent it could be seen as a violation of their autonomy and rights. To determine if cyberwar is justified, we should analyze it through the perspectives of Consequentialism and Contractarianism. Considering the consequences and mutual agreement is crucial for an evaluation. A justified cyberwar should prioritize the wellbeing and consent of those impacted while avoiding harm and escalation.

In another article called "Iran Reports Widespread Cyberattack that Disrupted Gas Stations Nationwide " Iran reveals a cyberattack that affected their gas stations. Such attacks

targeting infrastructure have implications for public safety, economic stability, and the overall wellbeing of citizens. When examining the cyber conflict, between Israel and Iran using Taddeos framework of Information Ethics and the ethical concept of Contractarianism it becomes evident that there are considerations at play. Taddeos' work on "Ethics of Cyberwarfare" introduces an approach that considers the wellbeing and rights of all entities in the Infosphere encompassing both virtual entities. On the hand Contractarianism emphasizes the importance of agreement and consent as the basis for just actions. In Octavia Butlers story "The Evening and the Morning and the Night " I notice how Contractarianism is demonstrated through a contract established among individuals affected by Duryea Gode Disease (DGD). This community forms an agreement to safeguard themselves from causing harm to society at large. However, this raises questions regarding the limitations imposed on their freedom and wellbeing. Applying Contractarianism to the cyber conflict I contemplate whether both Israel and Iran have willingly agreed to partake in these actions. Considering reports of cyberattacks targeting Iran's gas stations and nuclear infrastructure it seems improbable that there is consent between those affected by these attacks and the involved parties, in this cyberwar. Such circumstances give rise to concerns regarding the legitimacy of this war well as its associated actions. Taddeos framework, on Information Ethics offers insights into the evaluation of cyberwarfare. The principle of prioritizing " good over harm" emphasizes the need for actions in a war to decrease the chaos in the world. However, reports of disruptions to infrastructure like gas stations and potential risks to civilians raise doubts about whether this cyberwar meets that standard. Moreover, the principle of "discrimination and protection of noncombatants" underscores the importance of distinguishing between those engaged in combat and innocent civilians. The reported cyberattacks on infrastructures discussed in the article bring up concerns about adhering to this principle. Taking

both frameworks into consideration it becomes clear that the cyberwar between Israel and Iran poses issues. The absence of consent harm to civilians and disruptions to critical infrastructure all raise doubts about whether this war can be justified. To be considered a war both sides should ensure consent, refrain from harming noncombatants, and demonstrate an overall reduction in chaos within the digital realm. Based on evidence it appears that the cyberwar, between Israel and Iran falls short in meeting these ethical criteria. Therefore, I conclude that efforts should be focused on resolving conflicts through means while considering the wellbeing and rights of all parties involved.

In Conclusion, the ongoing cyberwar, between Israel and Iran gives rise to concerns when examined through the perspectives of Taddeos Information Ethics and the Contractarianism ethical framework. Taddeos framework focuses on safeguarding the wellbeing and rights of all entities within the Infosphere while Contractarianism highlights the importance of consent and agreement in actions. From these viewpoints it becomes evident that cyberwar lacks elements to be considered fair. The reported disruptions to infrastructures, harm to noncombatants and absence of mutual consent all raise doubts about the legitimacy of this war. Furthermore, it is uncertain whether this cyberwar will lead to a reduction of entropy in the Infosphere as required by Information Ethics. Of resorting to cyberwarfare, it is crucial for the international community to prioritize methods for resolving conflicts. Dialogue, negotiation, and diplomacy should be pursued as means to address the underlying issues between Israel and Iran. An approach that is just and ethical should give precedence to ensuring wellbeing for all parties while seeking harm to civilians and critical infrastructures. Moreover, these ethical considerations presented in this analysis can lay a foundation for formulating guidelines for conflicts involving cyberwarfare. It is crucial for countries to adopt guidelines that protect the

rights and welfare of all entities in the realm and establish mutual consent before getting involved in any type of warfare. The cyberwar, between Israel and Iran raises an issue that requires careful consideration and a morally upright response. By incorporating principles from Taddeos Information Ethics and Contractarianism we can aim to establish a more harmonious world where conflicts are resolved using methods that prioritize the common good and the welfare of everyone involved.