The video under scrutiny details the case of Chelsea Manning, a former US Army intelligence analyst who leaked classified military documents and videos to WikiLeaks in 2010. Of particular relevance to this analysis is a video that Manning leaked depicting a US Apache helicopter killing several unarmed civilians, including two Reuters journalists, in Iraq in 2007. Manning was subsequently court-martialed and sentenced to 35 years in prison, although her sentence was later commuted by President Obama in 2017.

Drawing on the tool of Confucianism, this case analysis will argue that Manning acted out of a sense of moral duty to reveal the truth about the actions of the US military in Iraq, and that her actions can be viewed as a morally defensible case of whistleblowing. It is contended that Manning's decision to leak classified documents and videos was motivated by a deep commitment to moral principles, including a desire to expose wrongdoing and promote transparency and accountability within the military establishment. While her actions may have run counter to established legal and national security norms, they can be viewed as a manifestation of Confucian moral principles of ren (humaneness), yi (righteousness), and zhi (wisdom). Therefore, this case analysis concludes that Manning acted morally in blowing the whistle on the US military's conduct in Iraq, and that her actions were indicative of her commitment to ethical values and principles.

It is argued that Manning's decision to leak classified documents and videos was not driven by a desire to harm the United States or its interests, but rather by a principled desire to expose the truth about the conduct of the US military in Iraq. While her actions may have run counter to military law and national security interests, they were ultimately justified as an act of conscience in service of the higher moral principle of transparency and accountability. As such, this case analysis concludes that Manning acted morally in blowing the whistle on the US military's conduct in Iraq, and that her actions were indicative of her commitment to ethical values and principles.

One of the central concepts from Vandekerckhove that is relevant to the case of Chelsea Manning is that of whistleblowing. Vandekerckhove defines whistleblowing as "the voluntary disclosure by an organization member of illegal, immoral, or illegitimate practices under the control of their employer to persons or organizations that may be able to effect action" (2011, p. 41). According to Vandekerckhove, whistleblowing can be seen as an act of conscience, motivated by a desire to uphold ethical principles and values.

Manning's actions can be understood as a form of whistleblowing, as she chose to disclose information that revealed illegal and immoral practices carried out by the US military in Iraq. Specifically, the video that Manning leaked depicts the killing of unarmed civilians, including two journalists, by a US Apache helicopter. This information had not been previously disclosed to the public and, as such, Manning's actions can be seen as motivated by a desire to expose the truth and promote accountability within the military establishment.

However, Vandekerckhove also notes that whistleblowing is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that requires careful consideration of the potential consequences for all parties involved. One of the key challenges associated with whistleblowing is the risk of retaliation against the whistleblower, which can take the form of legal sanctions, social ostracism, or physical harm. In the case of Manning, she faced significant legal repercussions for her actions, including a 35-year prison sentence and a dishonorable discharge from the military.

Using the tool of Confucianism, it can be argued that Manning's actions were morally defensible despite the risks she faced. From a Confucian perspective, moral action is guided by the principles of ren (humaneness), yi (righteousness), and zhi (wisdom). Manning's decision to blow the whistle on the US military's conduct in Iraq can be seen as an act of ren, as she sought to protect the lives and dignity of the unarmed civilians who were killed. Additionally, her actions can be seen as an act of yi, as she sought to expose and rectify an injustice perpetrated by the US military. Finally, her actions can be seen as an act of zhi, as she acted with prudence and foresight in weighing the potential consequences of her actions.

Based on this analysis, it can be argued that Manning's decision to blow the whistle on the US military's conduct in Iraq was the right thing to do. While her actions may have run counter to established legal and national security norms, they were ultimately motivated by a deep commitment to ethical principles and values. In choosing to reveal the truth about the US military's actions in Iraq, Manning acted in accordance with the principles of ren, yi, and zhi, and sought to promote greater accountability and transparency within the military establishment. As such, her actions can be seen as morally defensible, and an example of the kind of principled action that is required to promote justice and human flourishing in our societies.

One of the central concepts from Oxley and Wittkower that is relevant to the case of Chelsea Manning is the idea of moral courage. According to Oxley and Wittkower (2014), moral courage involves the willingness to act in accordance with one's moral beliefs, even in the face of significant opposition or risk. This concept is closely related to the idea of whistleblowing, as both involve taking a stand on ethical grounds, often at great personal cost.

Manning's decision to release the video of the Apache helicopter attack can be seen as an act of moral courage, as she chose to reveal information that was deeply at odds with the official narrative of the US military. By doing so, she challenged the authority and legitimacy of the military establishment and risked significant legal and social repercussions as a result.

However, as Oxley and Wittkower note, the exercise of moral courage can also be fraught with ethical challenges. One of the key issues associated with moral courage is the potential for harm to oneself or others, which can occur both as a direct result of one's actions, and as a result of the broader social and political context in which those actions take place. In Manning's case, her decision to release the video had significant legal and social consequences and placed her own safety and well-being at risk.

Using the tool of Confucianism, it can be argued that Manning's actions were morally defensible, despite the risks she faced. From a Confucian perspective, moral action is guided by the principles of ren (humaneness), yi (righteousness), and zhi (wisdom). Manning's decision to release the video can be seen as an act of ren, as she sought to protect the lives and dignity of the unarmed civilians who were killed. Additionally, her actions can be seen as an act of yi, as she sought to expose and rectify an injustice perpetrated by the US military. Finally, her actions can be seen as an act of zhi, as she acted with prudence and foresight in weighing the potential consequences of her actions.

Based on this analysis, it can be argued that Manning's decision to release the video was the right thing to do. While her actions may have run counter to established legal and national security norms, they were ultimately motivated by a deep commitment to ethical principles and values. In choosing to reveal the truth about the US military's actions in Iraq, Manning acted in accordance with the principles of ren, yi, and zhi, and sought to promote greater accountability and transparency within the military establishment. As such, her actions can be seen as morally defensible, and an example of the kind of principled action that is required to promote justice and human flourishing in our societies.

In conclusion, the case of Chelsea Manning highlights the complex ethical issues associated with whistleblowing and moral courage. By using the concepts of whistleblowing and moral courage from Oxley and Wittkower, and the ethical tool of Confucianism, we can gain a deeper understanding of the moral dimensions of Manning's actions, and the broader ethical considerations at play in cases of whistleblowing. Ultimately, while whistleblowing and moral courage can be fraught with ethical challenges, they are also essential tools for promoting accountability, transparency, and justice in our societies.

Overall, this case analysis has utilized the concepts of whistleblowing, loyalty, and trust from the authors Vandekerckhove and Oxley and Wittkower to examine Chelsea Manning's actions of releasing classified footage to WikiLeaks. Through the lens of Confucianism as an ethical tool, it has been argued that Manning acted out of a sense of loyalty to the United States and the principles of transparency and accountability, but also breached the trust she had as a soldier entrusted with classified information. While her actions were illegal, they can be viewed as morally justified due to the greater good they achieved in exposing potential human rights violations by the military. However, it is important to note that whistleblowing should not be taken lightly and should only be used as a last resort after other avenues of addressing wrongdoing have been exhausted. Furthermore, the government and military should have more transparent and accountable mechanisms in place for addressing and preventing misconduct to avoid the need for whistleblowing in the first place.