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The cyber conflict between Israel and Iran has included various cyber attacks from both sides. Both countries have targeted government institutions, military installments, and critical infrastructure in the other country. Some examples of these attacks include the Iranian attack on hospital systems in Israel and an Israeli attack that caused disruptions in many gas stations across Iran. Other attacks include attacks on water and sanitation systems, electricity networks and internet servers, and railway systems. In order for this to be considered a just war, there should be a just cause for the war, civilians should not be harmed by the conflict, there should be good intentions for the people of that country if the decision is made by the government to go into a war, whether it is a cyber war or not. In this case analysis, I will argue that the ethics of care ethical tool shows us that the cyber conflict between Israel and Iran is not a just war because a just war would not include the harm of civilians and in this case, there have been cyber attacks that have affected civilians on both sides.

The main principle that Boylan talks about is the just war theory. The just war theory provides the framework for assessing the morality of the decisions to go into war and the decisions during the war and just the war itself. The just war theory would consider both sides in the war, considering if previous actions by either country caused the other to claim and act in self defense and if they are only taking measures against potential threats from the other country. Through the eyes of the just war theory from Boylan, both sides in the cyber conflict between Israel and Iran need to be more transparent, prioritize peaceful alternatives, and evaluate their

approaches and actions more ethically to minimize harm to civilians and promote stability in the region.

To tie in the ethics of care ethical tool into the cyber conflict between Israel and Iran, you look at the emphasis on empathy in the ethical tool because ethics of care prioritizes relationships and empathy for all parties involved in the conflict. Empathy should be shown by both countries for the civilians of the other country because civilians should not be harmed in the conflict between the two governments. If civilians are being harmed by this cyber war and there aren't good intentions for the people of the country by the government, then this can't be considered a just war. When considering the ethics of care ethical tool, it does not seem as if the actions in this cyber conflict made by both countries do not align with the principles of a just war. Some actions may be considered justifiable and self-defense measures, but the approach made by the country did not weigh in the costs of what they were doing and didn't consider minimizing harm and not affecting the civilians and non-combatants of both countries. Because of the reliance of cybersecurity attacks in this conflict, the efforts made by both countries did not end up prioritizing peaceful communication between the two countries, empathy for others, and minimizing collateral damage, the justification for a just war in this conflict can not be made. The ethics of care ethical tool shows that this cyber conflict between Israel and Iran does not meet the ethical criteria for this to be considered a just war.

Examples of this conflict affecting civilians are the attacks on fuel systems that didn't allow people to fill up their gas tanks for some time, attacks on water and sanitation facilities, attacks on railway systems so many trains had to be canceled, attacks on a system in a hospital that could have cost lives at the hospital, and attacks on electricity network and internet servers. These examples prove that the just war theory shown by Boylan can not justify a just war

because of the cyber attacks that affected civilians and non-combatants that didn't do anything to be involved in the conflict. These attacks can end up costing peoples' lives because if there are more attacks similar to the ones on a hospital and water and sanitation facilities, there can be major consequences with those attacks because it can affect tons of civilians in that area. These examples also help the ethics of care tool show that empathy has not been used by either side of this cyber conflict and helps show that it is very hard to call this a just war.

In Taddeo's work, a main concept similar to Boylan, is the ethics surrounding the just war theory. Taddeo uses the just war theory in her work to focus on ethical concerns surrounding cyber conflict. Taddeo emphasizes the importance of considering ethics when doing cyber operations and argues that ethical guidelines should be a part of the planning and execution of cyber attacks done by the state to make sure that they act responsibly and minimize harm to civilians and non-combatants. In this case, if ethical guidelines were forced to be used when Israel and Iran planned and executed cyber attacks on each other, this conflict could potentially be considered a just war, but since they were not used and non-combatants were affected by the attacks, this conflict can not be considered a just war. Taddeo believes that there is potential for conflicts with cyber conflicts to have consequences from military action that can cause physical harm to civilians and critical infrastructure. With cyber attacks, it is not known what the scale of the attack will be and how much damage it will cost on both sides. These cyber attacks can cause more harm than intended and could cause a domino effect on more to happen. For example, if the target of an attack was military operations, then it could end up having unintended harm on civilian infrastructure that harms not only the military. The intentions from both sides of the conflict are not clear because they have both had attacks that could have majorly affected civilians in the other country and attacks that affected critical infrastructure of the other country

which shows that there aren't clear goals by either side which makes it very difficult to justify this conflict as a just war.

Taddeo's work ties in closely with the ethics of care ethical tool because of the relation with the effects on civilians and non-combatants and the ethics of care principles of empathy, relationships, and morals. Ethics of care ties into this cyber conflict between Israel and Iran because the cyber attacks committed by both sides of the conflict have affected the civilians and non-combatants of the other country. The attacks, regardless of the target and intentions of the attack, still ended up harming civilians, disrupting critical infrastructure, and impacting individuals who were not involved in the conflict at all. Some examples of these attacks doing these things include the attack on the fuel systems that didn't allow people to fill up their gas tanks, the attack on hospitals in Israel that could've ended up costing lives, and the attacks on water and sanitation systems that provide drinking water for many people. The ethics of care ethical tool stresses minimizing harm to civilians and focuses on empathy which cares about the well-being of everyone involved and people not involved such as the civilians who have nothing to do with the conflict at all. Both parties in this cyber conflict have not prioritized communication between both parties, understanding between both parties, and minimizing the collateral damage. Because of the inconsistencies of this cyber conflict between Israel and Iran and the ethics of care tool, this conflict can not be considered a just war.

In conclusion, because of the intentions of Israel and Iran in this cyber conflict, this can not be considered a just war. Both countries in this conflict have not prioritized communication, understanding, minimizing collateral damage, and minimizing harm to civilians and non-combatants. The use of the just war theory by both Boylan and Taddeo show that this can not be considered a just war because of the lack of alternatives from both parties, the unpredicted

collateral damage, and the proportionality with military force compared to cyber force. The ethics of care ethical tool also shows that this can not be considered a just war because civilians and non-combatants have been harmed by these attacks and the lack of empathy for people who are involved in the conflict and people who are not involved. Because of the uncertainty with cyber attacks and what could possibly happen because of them, there are many ethical concerns with these conflicts and it is hard to justify them because of what could possibly happen as a result.