

How Can We Judge The Morality Of The United  
States Action In Vietnam ?

by

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With the developing Vietnam Summer activities in many parts of the country, it behooves a few of us to stand aside from the onrush of activities and examine critically the philosophical questions underlying the problems. The first question is what are the codes of ethics applicable to this situation. Is the Code of Hammurabi (King of Bablyon about 950 BCE) applicable --- i.e. does "an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth" apply here and now?

It appears that the Code of Hammurabi deals only with relations between two individuals who have fac-to-face contact, within a single country. It says nothing about the rules for conflict between countries, unless one can extrapolate "an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth."

If we take a more directive code -- the Ten Commandments -- of Moses (1400 BCE) "Thou shalt not kill" --- we note that historically this commandment applied to internal problems, but did not resolve fights between nations. Although this commandment of "Thou shalt not kill" has been generalized by some pacifists, it cannot be used as a general reference, because of each individual's different interpretation.

Next we consider the "Sermon on the Mount" of Jesus of Nazareth.

How do we apply this to the present situation. It only applies to human face-to-face situations. The conflict between U.S.A. and other large organizations no longer give the opportunity for meeting in common on the face-to-face level.

Do we use Immanuel Kant's "Categorical Imperative"?  
This starts to provide a way to provide ethics for groups and organizations.

Do we refer to Papal Encyclicals?

[note: the I.Q's have been estimatee for the following people

Galileo 185  
Goethe 210  
Newton 190  
Voltaire 190  
da Vincè 180  
Kant 175 m

John Rowan Silson The Mind Life 1964  
Rev. 1967 J

going back to Papal Encyclicals ----  
for some --- but we need ethical principles that non-Catholic  
will use also.

How about U.N. Human Rights statement?

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Try to give breakdown into eras based upon technology..

FORCE fac-to-face Code of Hamarrubi

POWER organization E. Kant

COMMUNICATION general principle  
communicated through  
all fields Thermodynamic Imperative

Note danger in communication era of leaving items for human decision  
to amplification of incomplete solutions which cannot truly  
represent the situation on the level of quantization of truth  
required. --- i.e. bombinh target decisons by computer programs  
for U.S. Air Force in North Viet Nam.

Better find a cybernetics ethical quantity...

How do we test the validity of "communication era" ethical principles?

(1) ist applyempirical tests.

(2) Ask if we know if Information theory is on the right level of observation.

Practical procedure : apply "maximizing negentropy"

to all possible levels of social organization:

- individual
- family
- group
- society
- business
- city
- state
- country
- UN
- world(planet)

Note that for face-to-face organization ===

= discrete channel communication channel model provides  
way to measure program toward maximizing negentropy.,

Note for interaction of large organizations ==

=continuous channel model provides scale to measure the  
maximizing of negentropy---

---balance between divessity and \$tability...

Appendix A: More general levels (including inorganic and organic)

- quanta level
- molecular level
- living cell level
- organism
- living system--individual
- family
- group
- community
- state
- UN
- world