



CYBER POLITICS AND POLICIES

CHAPTER 10: ETHICS

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AT THE END OF THIS CHAPTER, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

I. Describe particular ethics challenges presented by emerging technologies

Define ethics and describe the relationship between ethics, laws and values

I. Apply the technology paradigms of technological determinism, designer's intent and social construction of technology to describing the sources of technology's values and their relation to ethics

PART ONE: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND ETHICAL ISSUES



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- Radically novel and relatively fast-growing
- Potential to exert a considerable impact on a state's socioeconomic domains.
- May include the creation of new actors and institutions, and new patterns of interactions among them
- Quickly exert their influence on society, often in unpredictable or even ambiguous ways



ETHICS, RELIGION AND LAW

- In the absence of a clear set of binding laws for such cases, policymakers and analysts will often speak not of laws and legal or illegal behavior, but instead about norms and ethics.
- That is, an act does not need to be unlawful to be viewed as unethical.

- Ethics is not a set of predetermined moral stances tied to a particular religion, nor it is only a set of legal limits regarding what behavior is acceptable within a society or the international community.
- **Ethics is a branch of philosophy which attempts to answer eternal questions such as 'what is the nature of truth' and 'what should a just society look like?'**

PART TWO: LIMITING THE UNETHICAL EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY



CAN A TECHNOLOGY BE IMMORAL?

- International Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, ratified by the United States in 1975
- Normative principle that certain types of weapons – including biological weapons, chemical weapons, and blinding agents, are unethical and inhumane and should not be allowed in warfare.



LIMITS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES

- Enhancement refers to a situation where individuals might undergo "medical or biological interventions . . . designed to improve performance, appearance or capability besides what is necessary to achieve, sustain or restore health.'



SURVEILLANCE

- “Countries may have capacities, technical capacities to intercept and carry out activities that have been reported and information may have been gathered. But whether you would want to put that into effect and therefore potentially damage the kind of trust and confidence that has been nurtured and developed over many decades and years, is something that we may want to ponder.”

Indonesia’s Prime Minister in reacting to findings that Australia had conducted surveillance against them



ETHICAL PRINCIPLE OF RESTRAINT

- Can be traced back to Aristotle.
- Precedent: Journalism
- “Gentlemen do not read each other’s mail”



EPISTEMIC COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- Epistemic community: the international professional community of those who work in a particular field (laboratory science, computer science, law)
- EC has evolved a set of normative understandings regarding the rights and responsibilities of those who work in the field.

- Ethical Code of the Association for Computing machinery.
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) certification.
- Hippocratic Oath

ETHIC OF STEWARDSHIP

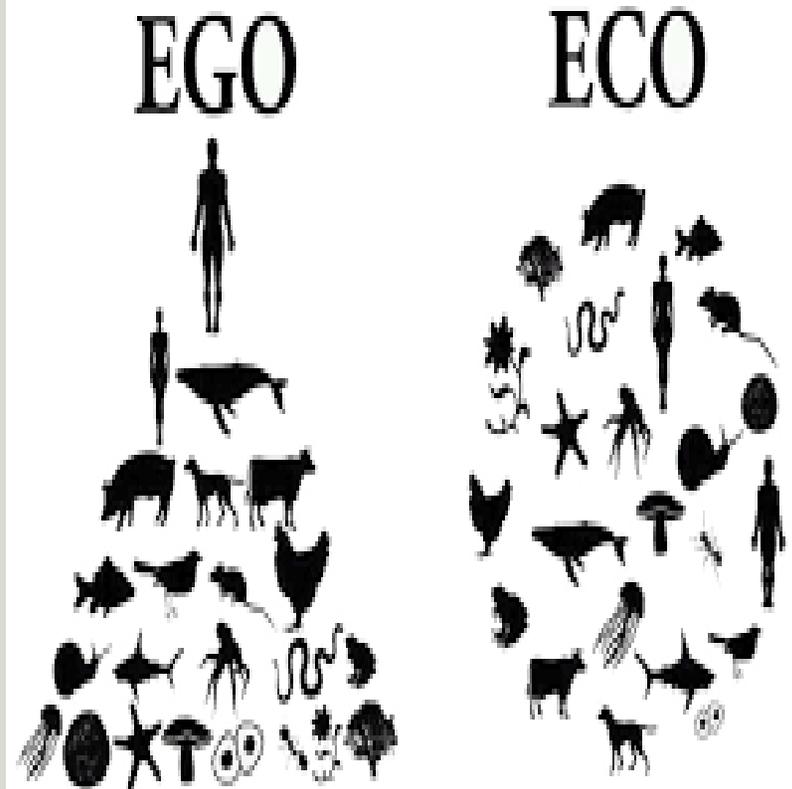
- Deep Ecology
- Infosphere

Information environment is governed by laws, just as laws like gravity govern the physical environment.

Humans should create laws and regulations which would safeguard that environment and conform to the laws of that environment.

Information has a right to move unimpeded throughout the infosphere

Humans must allow the infosphere to flourish without either interfering with or 'polluting' the information environment.



PART THREE: DOES CYBERSPACE ENCOURAGE UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR?



NORM VIOLATORS

- Stop and discuss:
- Who was Edward Snowden?
- Snowden was a Certified Ethical Hacker and CIA contractor who released hundreds of thousands of classified US documents.
- HOW did he violate his profession's code of ethics?
- HOW did he explain his actions?
- How did he relate these actions to the question of ethics?



DOES CYBERSPACE ENCOURAGE UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR?

- ability to act anonymously in cyberspace
- speed at which transactions occur
- ability to transcend geographical boundaries between states

Pessimists:

some types of unethical behaviors will always occur in cyberspace since they are an unavoidable outgrowth of its geography.

Unlikely to achieve strong cyber ethics or cyber norms for the global community.

DOES THE INTERNET MAKE ACCOUNTABILITY MORE OR LESS LIKELY?

Transparency

Covert activity

- Valeriano and Maness:

In the period since 2001, the vast majority of conflicts fought in cyberspace by states are better understood as covert activities than they are as wars.

In the future, states will utilize cyberwarfare to conduct espionage against each other, to carry out low levels of sabotage, and to spy and attempt to undermine rival states, particularly those within the same region. However, most will not rise to the level of an international diplomatic incident

ETHICS OF DECEPTION

- Deception is not always illegal and lying is perhaps not always ethically/morally wrong
- “Ruses of War”/Stratagems
- Deception and Psyops



RUSSIA'S HISTORY OF DISINFORMATION

- **maskirovka** – activities such as the use of dummies, decoys, execution of demonstration maneuvers, camouflage, concealment, denial, deception and disinformation



TRUST AND THE INFOSPHERE

- a willingness to delegate the authority to another to carry out some task
- decision to trust results from a rational calculation of the costs and benefits of doing so



PART THREE: DEVELOPMENT OF NORMS



3 LENSES

- Virtue Ethics: My moral/ethical choices are a reflection of my character (i.e. Not to be a person who lies)
- Utilitarian Ethics: Which choice would produce the greatest good? (i.e. Would you lie to save Anne Frank and her family if they were your neighbors?)
- Deontological Ethics: If I was the subject of the decision and not the decider, what decision would I support?



NORMS

- ‘an expected or established rule of behavior’
- **deviant behavior:** regarded as strange or improper but this does not mean that it is explicitly illegal either nationally or internationally.
- norms often reflect social conventions
- social norms can change or evolve.
- Can be prescriptive (or aspirational), defining expected or ideal behaviors
- can be descriptive, illustrating shared understandings which already exist.



WHERE DO NORMS COME FROM?

VIEW ONE

norms are built deliberately

certain states, acting as norm entrepreneurs, work to consciously export and build consensus around norms within the international community through a three-stage process

(i.e. Using social media to influence another country's voters is wrong)

VIEW TWO

Norms emerge organically

Often reflect a preexisting consensus

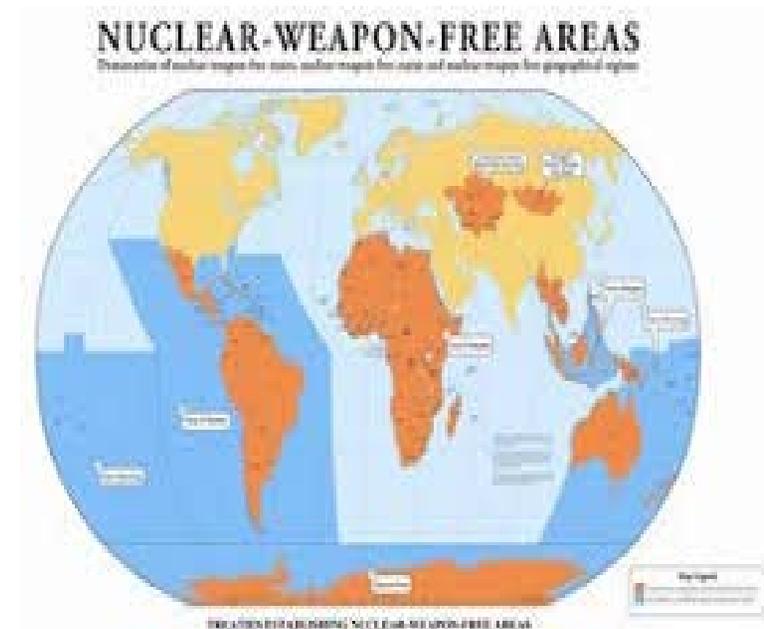
NORMS AND STATE IDENTITY

- Norms are related to state identity
- A state might think of itself as a law-abiding and norm-respecting member of international society, or as a pariah or rogue state who does not conform with international norms.



OBSTACLES TO CREATING UNIVERSAL NORMS

- **NORM CONFLICT:** Lack of consensus about what is 'right' or 'proper'
- Smaller, less powerful nations feel like norms are imposed on them
- States may have ulterior motives in supporting the development of norms (i.e., stop your adversary from developing nuclear weapons because he is better at it)



STOP AND THINK/DISCUSS

- Is there an international consensus regarding whether states should use online surveillance to collect data about their citizens?
- Why or why not?
- How likely it is that a consensus will emerge?
- How might you go about building a consensus and is this even possible?



ONE MORE DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- How should the international community negotiate the role which a technology hosting platform like Google or Twitter should play in enforcing use norms within the global system, and how does the timing of technological closure affect that role?

- Is it possible for the international community to somehow accelerate the process of technological closure so as to arrive at a specific set of meanings regarding acceptable and unacceptable uses of technology?