NEW MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES
and the Resort to War

“It is well that war is so terrible; otherwise, we should grow too fond of it,” said General Robert E. Lee. But, as many ethicists worry, the use of novel military technologies—such as robots and cyberweapons—could be making war easier to engage in, rather than saving it as a last resort when diplomacy and all other measures have failed. But what exactly is this “principle of last resort”—what kind of principle is it? Prof. Lucas will explain how different interpretations of this principle seem to lower or raise the threshold at which we are morally permitted to wage war.

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