In February 2000, the Vatican-PLO Basic Agreement affirmed the support of both the signatories for such a statute. Though the language on the special statute was part of the preamble to the agreement, and so technically nonbinding, at the time it met with a storm of protest from Israeli authorities. Only months later, of course, during Camp David II and in the late Clinton round of negotiations in November and December, the Barak government indicated that international guarantees were possible for such an agreement and even that the United Nations might serve as its guarantor.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the general favor in which the Catholic Church holds international law is replicated in the approach of the Holy See and episcopal conferences to the Middle East conflict. In general, Catholic authorities are inclined to see international law as the prescribed framework for negotiation and the guarantee of equity in any negotiated settlement among unequal partners. In that sense, the law helps rectify the imbalance of power between the actors. In addition, in Church practice, the laws of war are invoked in protection of the innocent, particularly in defending civilians from direct attack.

The Church generally favors the involvement of the wider international community in facilitating the process, in providing legitimacy for new initiatives, and in securing guarantees for implementation. Finally, the evolution of Catholic social teaching on human rights and religious liberty has led to a universalizing of concerns such as the future of Jerusalem and the pursuit of religious liberty and human rights for all believers. The result is a diplomacy that is less Catholic (upper case), that is, concerned with narrow church interests, and more catholic (lower case), that is, universal in its concern for human welfare and well-being.

## BATTLEFIELD ETHICS IN THE JEWISH TRADITION

# by Michael J. Broyde\*

Rabbi Jesse the Galilean states: "How meritorious is peace? Even in time of war Jewish law requires that one initiate discussions of peace."

Leviticus Rabba §9

## INTRODUCTION

Judaism is a system of law and ethics whose scope of regulation is designed to cover nearly every area of human action. Unlike many other religious legal systems, the mandate of Jewish law is limited only by the scope of human activity; no area of activity is free from direction—ethical, legal, or both. Unlike many secular legal systems, Jewish law and ethics do not, however, set their boundaries at merely determining what is legal or illegal; Jewish law also regulates that which is ethical. Frequently, Jewish law will

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Jewish law, or halakhah, is used herein to denote the entire subject matter of the Jewish legal system, including public, private, and ritual law. A brief historical review will familiarize the new reader of Jewish law with its history and development. The Pentateuch (the five books of Moses, the Torah) is the historical touchstone document of Jewish law and, according to Jewish legal theory, was revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai. The Prophets and Writings, the other two parts of the Hebrew Bible, were written over the next seven hundred years, and the Jewish canon was closed around the year 200 before the common era (B.C.E.). From the close of the canon until 250 of the common era (C.E.) is referred to as the era of the Tannaim, the redactors of Jewish law, whose period closed with the editing of the Mishnah by Rabbi Judah the Patriarch. The next five centuries was the epoch in which the two Talmuds (Babylonian and Jerusalem) were written and edited by scholars called Amoraim ("those who recount" Jewish law) and Savoraim ("those who ponder" Jewish law). The Babylonian Talmud is of greater legal significance than the Jerusalem Talmud and is a more complete work.

conclude that certain activity is completely legal but is not ethically correct. This article reviews Jewish law's attitude to one of the areas of modern social behavior that "law" as an institution has shied away from regulating, and which "ethics" as a discipline has failed to successfully regulate: war. In this area, as in many others, the legal and the ethical are freely combined in the Jewish tradition.

#### Type of Battle

The initial question that needs to be addressed when discussing battlefield ethics is whether the rules for these situations differ from all other applications of Jewish ethics or whether "battlefield ethics" is merely a general application of the rules of Jewish ethics to the battlefield situation. This question is essentially a rephrasing of the question, What is the moral license according to the Jewish tradition that permits war to be waged? As I have explained elsewhere, Jewish tradition categorizes "armed conflict" into three different categories: obligatory war, permissible war, and societal applications of the "pursuer" rationale. "

Each of these situations comes with different licenses. The easiest one to address is the final one: the pursuer rationale. Battlefield ethics based on the pursuer model are simply a generic application of the general field of Jewish ethics relating to stopping one who is an evildoer from killing an innocent person. While it is beyond the scope of this article to explain completely that detailed field of Jewish ethics, the touchstone rules of self-defense according to Jewish law are fourfold. Even when self-defense is mandatory or permissible and one may kill a person or group of people who are seeking to kill one who is innocent, one may not:

The post-Talmudic era is conventionally divided into three periods: (1) the era of the Geonim, scholars who lived in Babylonia until the mid-eleventh century; (2) the era of the Rishonim (the early authorities), who lived in North Africa, Spain, Franco-Germany, and Egypt until the end of the fourteenth century; and (3) the period of the Aharonim (the latter authorities), which encompasses all scholars of Jewish law from the fifteenth century up to this era. From the period of the mid-fourteenth century until the early seventeenth century, Jewish law underwent a period of codification, which led to the acceptance of the law code format of Rabbi Joseph Karo, called the Shulhan Arukh, as the basis for modern Jewish law. The Shulhan Arukh (and the Arba ah Turim of Rabbi Jacob ben Asher, which preceded it) divided Jewish law into four separate areas: Orah Hayyim is devoted to daily, Sabbath, and holiday laws; Even Ha-Ezer addresses family law, including financial aspects; Hoshen Mishpat codifies financial law, and Yoreh Deah contains dietary laws as well as other miscellaneous legal matter. Many significant scholars—themselves as important as Rabbi Karo in status and authority—wrote annotations to his code that made the work and its surrounding comments the modern touchstone of Jewish law. The most recent complete edition of the Shulhan Arukh (Vilna, 1896) contains no less than 113 separate commentaries on the text of Rabbi Karo. In addition, hundreds of other volumes of commentary have been published as self-standing works, a process that continues to this very day. Besides the law codes and commentaries, for the last 1,200 years, Jewish law authorities have addressed specific questions of Jewish law in written responsa (in question and answer form). Collections of such responsa have been published, providing guidance not only to later authorities but to the community at large. Finally, since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the rabbinical courts of Israel have published their written opinions deciding cases on a variety of matters. For a brief review of the methodology, structure, and history of Jewish law, see David Feldman, The Structure of Jewish Law, in CONTEMPORARY JEWISH ETHICS 21 pp. 21-38 (Menachem Marc Kellner ed., 1978).

<sup>2</sup> Michael Broyde, Fighting for Peace: Battlefield Ethics, Peace Talks, Treaties and Pacifism in the Jewish Tradition, in WAR AND ITS DISCONTENTS: PACIFISM AND QUIETISM IN ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS 1 (J. Patout Burns ed., 1996).

<sup>3</sup> And prohibited wars. Perhaps the most pressing ethical dilemma is what to do in a situation where society is waging a prohibited war and severely penalizes (perhaps even executes) citizens who do not cooperate with the war effort. This question is beyond the scope of the paper, as the primary focus of such a paper would be the ethical liberalities one may take to protect ones own life, limb, or property in times of great duress; See LEOPOLD WINKLER, SHE'ELOT U-TESHUVOT LEVUSHE MORDEKHAI 2:174 (1978) (permitting Sabbath violation to avoid fighting in unjust wars). But see R. MEIR EISENSTADT, IMRAI EISHY.D. 52 (1801).

- Kill an innocent<sup>4</sup> third party to save a life
- Compel a person to risk his life to save the life of another
- Kill the pursuer after his evil act is over as a form of punishment
- Use more force than minimally needed<sup>5</sup>

Thus, the rules of this type of "armed conflict" would resemble an activity by a police force rather than an activity by an army. Only the most genteel of modern armies can function in accordance with these rules.

On the other hand, the situations of both obligatory war and authorized war<sup>6</sup> are not merely global extrapolation of the principles of "self-defense" or "pursuer." There are ethical liberalities (and strictures) associated with the battlefield situation that have unique ethical and legal rules unrelated to other fields of Jewish law or ethics. They permit the killing of fellow human beings in situations where that action—but for the permissibility of war—would be murder. In order to understand what precisely is the "license to kill," it is necessary to explain the preliminary steps needed according to Jewish law to actually fight a battle after war has been properly declared. It is through an understanding of these requirements that one grasps the limits on the license to kill one's opponents in military action according to Jewish law. Indeed, nearly all of the preliminary requirements to a permissible war are designed to remove noncombatants, civilians, and others who do not wish to fight from the battlefield.

### SEEKING PEACE PRIOR TO STARTING WAR

Two basic texts form Jewish law's understanding of the duties society must undertake before a battle may be fought. The Bible (Deuteronomy 20:10) states:

When you approach a city to do battle with it you should call to it in peace. And if they respond in peace and they open the city to you, and all the people in the city shall pay taxes to you and be subservient. And if they do not make peace with you, you shall wage war with them and you may besiege them.

Thus the Bible clearly sets out the obligation to seek peace as a prelude to any military activity; absent the seeking of peace, the use of force in a war violates Jewish law. Although unstated in the text, it is apparent that while one need not engage in negotiations over the legitimacy of one's goals, one must explain what one is seeking through this military action and what military goals are (and are not) sought. Before this seeking

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The question of who is "innocent" in this context is difficult to quantify precisely. One can be a pursuer in situations where the law does not label one a "murderer" in Jewish law; thus a minor (Sanhedren 74b) and, according to most authorities, an unintentional murderer both may be killed to prevent the loss of life of another. So too it would appear reasonable to derive from Maimonides' rule that one who directs the murder, even though he does not directly participate in it, is a murderer and may be killed. So too it appears that one who assists in the murder, even if he is not actually participating in it directly, is not "innocent"; see comments of Maharal M'Prague, 1857; JUDAH LOEW BEN BEZALAL on Genesis 32. From this Maharal, one could derive that any who encourage this activity fall within the rubric of one who is a combatant. Thus, typically all soldiers would be defined as combatants. It would appear difficult, however, to define "combatant" as opposed to "innocent" in all combat situations with a general rule; each military activity requires its own assessment of what is needed to wage this war and what is not. (For example, sometimes the role of medical personnel is to repair injured troops so that they can return to the front as soon as possible, and sometimes the role of medical personnel is to heal soldiers who are returning home so as to allow these soldiers a normal civilian life.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> These rules are generic rules of Jewish law derived from different Talmudic sources and methodologically unrelated to "war" as an institution. For a discussion of these rules generally, and various applications, see JOSEPH KARO, Choshen Mishpat, SHULCHAN ARUCH §425 (1896).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Two of the primary categories of Jewish war, as explained in Fighting for Peace, Broyde, supra note 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See e.g. Numbers 21:21-24. Where the Jewish people clearly promised to limit their goals in return for a peaceful passage through the lands belonging to Sichon.

of peace, battle is prohibited. Rabbi Jesse Hagalili is quoted as stating, "How meritorious is peace? Even in a time of war one must initiate all activities with a request for peace." This procedural requirement is quite significant: It prevents the escalation of hostilities and allows both sides to plan rationally the cost of war and the virtues of peace.

Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (Rashi), in his commentary on the Bible, indicates that the obligation to seek peace prior to firing the first shot is limited to authorized wars. However, in obligatory or compulsory wars, there is no obligation to seek a peaceful solution. Indeed, such a position can be found in the Sifri, one of oldest of the midrashic source books of Jewish law. Maimonides, in his classic code of Jewish law disagrees. He states:

One does not wage war with anyone in the world until one seeks peace with him. This is true both of authorized and obligatory wars, as it says [in the Bible] "when you approach a city to wage war, you must first call out for peace." If they respond positively and accept the seven Noachide commandments, one may not kill any of them and they shall pay tribute. . . . <sup>10</sup>

Thus, according to Maimonides, the obligation to seek peace applies to all circumstances where war is to be waged. Such an approach is also agreed to in principle by Nachmanides.

It is clear, however, according to both schools of thought, that in authorized wars, one must initially seek a negotiated settlement of the cause of the war (although, it is crucial to add, Jewish law does not require that each side compromise its claim, so as to reach a peaceful solution). Ancillary to this obligation is the need that the goal of the war be communicated to one's opponents. One must detail to one's enemies the basic goals of the war and what one seeks as a victory in this conflict. This allows one's opponents to evaluate the costs of the war and to seek a rational peace. Peace must be genuinely sought before war may begin.

There is a fundamental secondary dispute present in this obligation. Maimonides requires that the peaceful surrender terms offered must include an acknowledgement of and agreement to follow the seven laws of Noah, which (Jewish law asserts) govern all members of the world and form the basic groundwork for moral behavior; <sup>13</sup> part and parcel of the peace must be the imposition of ethical values on the defeated society. Nachmanides does not list that requirement as being necessary for the "peaceful" cessation of hostilities. <sup>14</sup> He indicates that it is the military goals alone that determine whether peace terms are acceptable. According to Nachmanides, Jewish law would compel the "victor" to accept peace terms that include all the victors' demands except the imposition of ethical values in the defeated society. Maimonides would reject that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Leviticus Rabba, Tzav §9 MIDRASH RABBAH (1980).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Commenting on Levitucus Rabba Tzav §9. One could distinguish in this context between obligatory wars and commanded wars in this regard, and limit the license only to wars that are obligatory rather than merely commanded. It would appear that such a position is also accepted by Ravad; see RAVAD (Abrahan ben David), Commentary on Laws of Kings 6:1, in COMMENTARY ON MISHNEH TORAH (1809); RABBENU MEIR LEIBUSH BEN YECHIEL MICHEL MALBIM, Commentary on the Torah (1892).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> MAIMONIDES, Laws of Kings 6:1, in MISHNEH TORAH: THE LAWS OF KINGS AND THEIR WARS (1809) [here-inafter Laws of Kings].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> I would, however, note that such is clearly permissible as a function of prudent planing. Thus, the Jewish nation offered to avoid an authorized war with Emor if that nation would agree to a lesser violation of its sovereignty; *Numbers* 21:21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Of course, there is no obligation to do so with specificity as to detailed battle plans; however, a clear assertion of the goals of the war are needed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Laws of Kings 6:1. These seven commandments instruct people to acknowledge God; prohibit idol worship; prohibit murder; prohibit theft; prohibit incest and adultery; prohibit eating the flesh of still living animals; and command the enforcement of these (and perhaps others) laws. For a discussion of these laws in context, see YECHIEL MICHEL EPSTEIN, ARUCH HASHULCHAN HAATID, Laws of Kings 78–80 (Jerusalem, 1970).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> (RAMBAN) NACHMANIDES, COMMENTARY ON THE TORAH (1976), Deuteronomy 20:1. Of course, if after the surrender, a Jewish government were to rule that society, such a government would enforce these seven laws; however, it is not a condition of surrender according to Nachmanides.

rule and permit war in those circumstances purely to impose ethical value in a non-ethical society. 15

Most likely, this disagreement is just one facet in the debate between Maimonides and most other authorities as to whether Jewish law requires the imposition of an ethical code on secular society. Elsewhere in Maimonides "Law of Kings," Maimonides explains that, in his opinion, there is a general obligation on all (Jews and Gentiles) to compel enforcement of these basic ethical rules even through force in all circumstances. Nachmanides disagrees with this conception of the obligation and seems to understand that the obligation to enforce the seven laws is limited to the secular rulers of the nation, and is of a totally different scope. 18

# THE CIVILIAN, THE SIEGE, 19 AND STANDARD OF CONDUCT

The obligation to seek peace as explained above applies to battle between armies where no civilian population is involved. Jewish law requires an additional series of overtures for peace and surrender in situations where the military activity involves attacking cities populated by civilians. Maimonides states:

Joshua, before he entered the land of Israel sent three letters to its inhabitants. The first one said that those that wish to flee [the oncoming army] should flee. The second one said that those that wish to make peace should make peace. The third letter said that those that want to fight a war should prepare to fight a war.<sup>20</sup>

Nor was the general obligation to warn the civilian population enough to fulfill the obligation: Maimonides codifies a number of specific rules of military ethics, all based on Talmudic sources. "When one surrounds a city to lay siege to it, it is prohibited to surround it from four sides; only three sides are permissible. One must leave a place for inhabitants to flee for all those who wish to abscond to save their lives." Nachmanides elaborates on this obligation in a way that clearly explains the moral obligation by stating:

God commanded us that when we lay siege to a city that we leave one of the sides without a siege so as to give them a place to flee to. It is from this commandment that we learn to deal with compassion even with our enemies even at time of war, in addition by giving our enemies a place to flee to, they will not charge at us with as much force.<sup>22</sup>

Nachmanides believes that this obligation is so basic as to require that it be one of the 613 basic biblical commandments in Jewish law. However, Nachmanides clearly limits this ethical obligation to authorized and not obligatory wars, and this is agreed to by most other authorities.<sup>23</sup>

- 15 Laws of Kings 6:4.
- 16 Laws of Kings 8:1-5.
- <sup>17</sup>See also Laws of Kings 14:14 for a similar sentiment by Maimonides.
- <sup>18</sup> For a general discussion of this, *see* YEHUDAH GERSHUNI (GRODNER), MISHPAT HA-MELUCHA 165–67 (1983). It is worth noting that a strong claim can be made that Tosaphot agrees with Nachmanides in this area; *see* "velo moredim" in TOSAPHOT, *Avoda Zara* 26b.
  - 19 Or naval blockade.
- <sup>20</sup> Laws of Kings 6:5. Maimonides understands the Jerusalem Talmud's discussion of this topic to require three different letters. If one examines Shevit 6:1 closely one could conclude that one can send only one letter with all three texts; see Aruch HaShulchan Laws of Kings 75:6–7.
  - <sup>21</sup> Maimonides, Laws of Kings 6:7.
  - <sup>22</sup> Supplement to MAIMONIDES, BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS, Positive Commandment 4.
- <sup>23</sup> Id. See also R. JOSEPH BABAD, MINCHAT HINUCH 527 (1987). Rabbi Gershuni indicates that the commandment is limited to compulsory wars rather than obligatory wars. His insight would seem correct; Mishpatai Melucha commenting on id. It is only in a situation where total victory is the aim that such conduct is not obligatory.

Essentially Jewish law completely rejects the notion of a "siege" as that term is understood by military tacticians and modern articulators of international law. Modern international law generally assumes that a situation in which "the commander of a besieged place expel[s] the noncombatants, in order to lessen the number of those who consume his stock of provisions, it is lawful, though an extreme measure to drive them back so as to hasten the surrender." Secular law and morals allow using civilians as pawns in the siege. The Jewish tradition prohibited that and mandated that noncombatants who wished to flee must be allowed to flee the scene of the battle. I would add, however, that I do not understand Maimonides' words literally. It is not surrounding the city on all four sides that is prohibited—rather, it is the preventing of the outflow of civilians or soldiers who are seeking to flee. Of course, Jewish law would allow one to stop the inflow of supplies to a besieged city through this fourth side. 25

This approach solves another difficult problem according to Jewish law: the role of the "innocent" civilian in combat. Since the Jewish tradition accepts that civilians (and soldiers who are surrendering) are always entitled to flee from the scene of the battle, it would logically follow that all who remain voluntarily are classified as combatants, since the opportunity to leave is continuously present. Particularly in combination with Joshua's practice of sending letters of warning in advance of combat, this legal approach limits greatly the role of the doctrine of "innocent civilian" in the Jewish tradition. Essentially, the Jewish tradition feels that innocent civilians should do their very best to remove themselves from the battlefield and those who remain are not so innocent. If one voluntarily stays in a city that is under siege, one has the status of a combatant.<sup>26</sup>

The unintentional and undesirable killing of involuntarily remaining innocent civilians seems to this author to be the one "killing" activity that is permissible in Jewish law in war situations that would not be permissible in the pursuer/self-defense situations. Just as Jewish law permits one to send one's own soldiers out to combat (without their consent) to be perhaps killed, Jewish law would allow the unintentional killing of innocent civilians as a necessary (but undesired by-product) of the moral license of war.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> CHARLES C. HYDE, INTERNATIONAL LAW CHIEFLY AS INTERPRETED AND APPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES §656 (1922). For an additional article of this topic from the Jewish perspective, see Bradley Artson, The Siege and the Civilian, in 36 JUDAISM 54–65 (1987). A number of the points made by Rabbi Artson are incorporated into this article, although the theme of the purpose of the Jewish tradition in the two articles differ somewhat.

<sup>25</sup> See R. Yecheil Epstein, Aruch HaShulchan HeAtid, Laws of Kings 76:12.

<sup>26</sup> Although I have seen no modern Jewish law authorities who state this, I would apply this rule in modern combat situations to all civilians who remain voluntarily in the locale of the war in a way that facilitates combat. This author doubts if (for example) anyone who voluntarily remained in Berlin in World War II would be classified as an innocent civilian according to Jewish law.

<sup>27</sup> See Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli, Amud Hayemini 16:5 (1998), and R. Joseph Babad, supra note 24, Minchat Hinuch Commandment 425 who discusses "death" in war in a way that perhaps indicates that this approach is correct. See also J. David Bleich, Preemptive War in Jewish Law, Contemporary Halakhic Problems 277 (1977) (Ktav, 1988) 3:251 at p. 277 who states, "To this writer's knowledge, there exists no discussion in classical rabbinical sources that takes cognizance of the likelihood of causing civilian casualties in the course of hostilities...."

In many ways, this provides guidance into the ethical issues associated with a modern airplane (and long-range artillery) based war. Air warfare greatly expands the "kill zone" of combat and (at least in our current state of technology) tends to inevitably result in the death of civilians. The tactical aims of air warfare appear to be fourfold: to destroy specific enemy military targets; to destroy the economic base of the enemy's warmaking capacity; to randomly terrorize civilian populations; and to retaliate for other atrocities by the enemy to one's own home base and thus deter such conduct in the future by the enemy.

The first of these goals is within the ambit of that which is permissible since civilian deaths are unintentional. The same would appear to be true about the second, providing that the targets are genuine economic targets related to the economic base needed to wage the war and the death of civilians are not directly desired. It would appear that the third goal is not legitimate absent the designation of "compulsory" or "obligatory" war. The final goal raises a whole series of issues beyond the scope of this article and could perhaps provide some sort of justification for certain types of conduct in combat that would otherwise be prohibited, although its detailed analysis in Jewish law is beyond the scope of this paper and relates to circumstances where retaliation or specific deterrence might permit that which is normally permitted; Rama, Yoreh Deah 334:6 in GLOSSES ON SHULCHANARUCH (1896) and Taz (ad locum) and Minchat Chinuch, Commandment 338.

The Jewish tradition mandated a number of other rules so as to prevent certain types of tactics that violated the norms of ethical behavior even in war. Maimonides recounts that it is prohibited to remove fruit trees so as to induce suffering, famine, and unnecessary waste in the camp of the enemy, and this is accepted as normative in Jewish law. Maimonides, in his book of commandments, explicitly links this to the deliberate intention to expose the enemy to undue suffering. Nachmanides adds that the removal of all trees is permissible if needed for the building of fortification: It is only when done to deliberately induce suffering that it is prohibited. Nachmanides too, however, understands the Jewish tradition as requiring one to have mercy on one's enemy as one would have mercy on one's own and not to engage in unduly cruel activity. Even the greatest of scourges—rape of the female civilian population of the enemy—was regulated under Jewish law.

#### SUMMARY

In sum, there clearly is a license to wage certain kinds of war and kill certain people in the Jewish tradition. However, in order to exercise this license, one must first seek peace. This peace must be sought prior to declaring war, prior to waging a battle, and prior to laying a siege. While war permits killing, it only permits the intentional killings of combatants. Innocent people must be given every opportunity to remove themselves from the field of combat.

A number of liberalities in ritual law were also allowed, reflecting the unique aspects of war. Why these particular laws did not apply in wartime, but others did, is a topic beyond the scope of this paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Laws of Kings 6:8. See R. Yehuda Shaviv, Betzer Eviezer, (Ztomet, 1990) at 120-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Negative Commandment 57.

<sup>30</sup> In his supplement to Maimonides, Book of Commandments (Positive Commandment 6).

The rules related to sexuality in combat are unique in Jewish law because the Talmud (*Kidushin* 21b) explicitly states that even that which is permissible was only allowed because of the moral weakness of men in combat. While the details of these regulations are beyond the scope of this paper (see Shlomo Yosef Zevin, Leor Hahalacha, pp. 52–54 (2d ed. 1956) for a detailed description of these various laws), it is clear that the Bible chose to permit (but discourage) in very narrow situations rape in wartime so as to inject some realistic notion of morality into what could otherwise be a completely immoral situation. The rules explicitly prohibited multiple rapes, encouraged marrying such women, and limited the time period where such rape was permitted to the immediate battlefield.