

# New Technologies and the Modern Battlefield: Humanitarian Perspectives

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In recent years, a wide array of new technologies have surfaced in the modern field, giving a boost to fresh means and methods of war, such as cyber attacks, armed drones and robots, including autonomous weapons. As new technologies rapidly give rise to unprecedented methods of warfare, scholars are increasingly concerned about the potential human cost of cyber operations. Some argue that modern weapon systems could mitigate human (civilians and combatants) sufferings during conflict and some argue such weapon systems could make the situation worse. The new trend is that wars last much longer than they used to 20 years ago. The overall objective of this paper is to find out the profound implications of modern weapon technologies for human suffering in war and how to mitigate that. Therefore, the researcher studies a few current armed conflicts and some existing weapon systems. Through this effort, the researcher tries to identify whether modern warfare and these weapons mitigate human suffering in war. Accordingly, a questionnaire was given to a mixed sample of 20 military officers and undergraduates. Through this effort the researcher identifies how new technological weapons and technology can be used to mitigate human suffering during an armed conflict. A content analysis was done with the relationship between the variables of the study. In conclusion, it was found that modern weapons and means of warfare can mitigate unnecessary human suffering (civilians), and it is the commander who decides the use of these weapons.

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