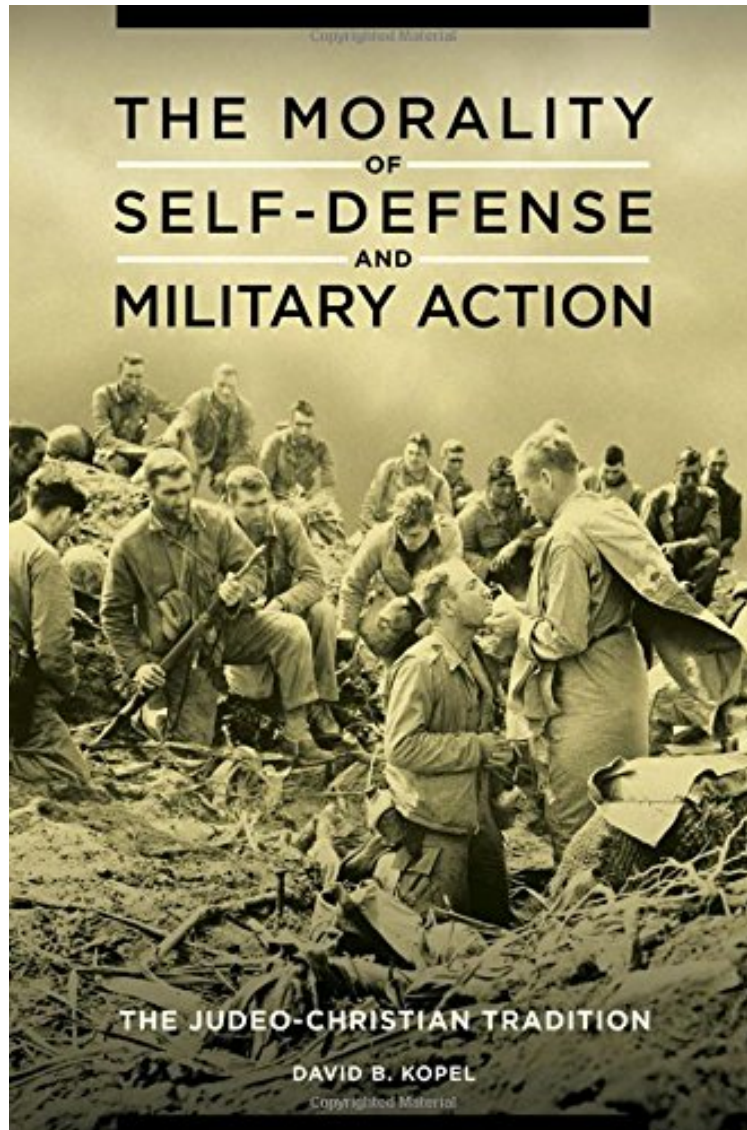


The Morality of Self-Defense and Military Action: The Judeo-Christian Tradition

David B Kopel

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David B Kopel : The Morality of Self-Defense and Military Action: The Judeo-Christian Tradition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Morality of Self-Defense and Military Action: The Judeo-Christian Tradition:

Are self-defense, national warfare, and revolts against tyranny holy duties--or violations of God's will? Pacifists insist these actions are the latter, forbidden by Judeo-Christian morality. This book maintains that the pacifists are wrong. To make his case, the author analyzes the full sweep of Judeo-Christian history from earliest times to the present, combining history, scriptural analysis, and philosophy to describe the changes and continuity of Jewish and Christian doctrine about the use of lethal force. He reveals the shifting patterns of thought in both religions and presents the strongest arguments on both sides of the issue. The book begins with the ancient Hebrews and Genesis and covers Jewish history through the Holocaust and beyond. The analysis then shifts to the story of Christianity from its origins, through the Middle Ages and the Reformation, up the present day. Based on this scrutiny, the author concludes that--contrary to popular belief--the legitimacy of self-defense is strongly supported by Judeo-Christian scripture and commentary, by philosophical analysis, and by the respect for human dignity and human rights on which both Judaism and Christianity are based.

"Engaging and certainly controversial, this book lays out a tendentious argument and reading of history in its promotion of a gun culture. . . . Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty." - Choice
About the Author David B. Kopel, JD, is adjunct professor of advanced constitutional law at Denver University, Sturm College of Law.