**Key Terms**

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Richard Burnor and Yvonne Raley

Chapter 10: Natural Law Theory

**alternate descriptions problem** The DDE problem that the same act can be right or wrong depending on how it’s described.

**dependent effects** Includes two ways by which an act’s good and bad effects can relate to each other for the means–end condition of DDE; while a bad effect may depend on the good, the good may not depend on the bad.

**doctrine of double effect (DDE)** When an act is expected to cause both a good effect and a bad effect, it must fulfill the means-end, moral principle, proportionality, and right intention conditions in order to be morally right.

**evolution problem** The natural law problem that evolutionary theory denies any existence of natural functions.

**foundations problem** The natural law problem over why we morally ought to seek the things the world aims at.

**implausible results problem** The problem that DDE may forbid an act that seems morally necessary.

**independent effects** A way by which the good and bad effects can relate to each other for the means–end condition of DDE. When independent, neither effect depends upon the other, but both depend directly upon the act.

**innocent**  A person or nation that has not attacked or threatened another and so has a moral right not to be threatened by others.

**just war theory** Attempts to determine under what conditions a state may justifiably wage war and how that war should be waged.

**means–end condition** The condition of DDE that requires that the bad effect may not cause of the good effect.

**moral principle condition** The condition of DDE that requires that the act must not violate any moral principle.

**natural value** Some desirable non-moral good; an end or goal toward which nature aims.

**permanent vegetative state (PVS)** A state in which a patient has been largely unresponsive for three months or more; PVS usually involves irreversible damage to at least one of the brain’s cerebral hemispheres.

**principle of forfeiture** A principle that says that by deliberately attacking or threatening an innocent, an individual (or a nation) gives up the moral right to live (or exist).

**proportionality condition** The condition of DDE that requires that the bad effect may not be greater than the good effect.

**right intention condition** The condition of DDE that requires that the actor may intend only the good effect, even if she still anticipates the bad effect.

**vagueness problem** The natural law problem with the concept of “natural” being inherently vague.