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Question 21: Critique of the ticking time bomb scenario

One of Philosophy/ethics thought experiments is the ticking bomb scenario relating to whether it is ethical and justifiable to torture an individual with an aim of finding important, life-saving information. On one side, basing on the utilitarian theory which regards the suffering of one is a lesser evil than the suffering of many, torture seems to be the 'right thing' to do. It is unethical to allow one's moral convictions against torture lead to the deaths of many people at stake. On the other, right theory compels one to avoid use of torture since the ssperpetrator has inherent rights that include not to face any bodily harm. In my view, the most rational position on this problem is that while it is understandable, and even forgivable, to torture a terrorist/enemy to get key information that will save many people, the act itself is still unethical. On whichever side one stands, ethically speaking, torture is an unethical decision to make even when its outcomes are beneficial.

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