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### **Law Q3**

Is Vladimir Putin a war criminal?

#### **Key Issues and Questions to Address**

##### 1. Legal Framework

Which legal standards should apply? (Geneva Conventions, ICC Statute)

Is the Russian-Ukrainian conflict an international armed conflict under law?

What constitutes a war crime versus a crime against humanity?

##### 2. Evidence Assessment

What credible evidence exists of violations?

How reliable are various sources of information?

What patterns of conduct can be established?

##### 3. Command Responsibility

What is Putin's role in the military chain of command?



What knowledge did Putin have of alleged violations?

Did he take measures to prevent or punish violations?

#### 4. Intent and Policy

Were civilian targets deliberately chosen or incidental?

Do documented actions reflect isolated incidents or systematic policy?

Can specific orders from leadership be established?

#### 5. Philosophical Dimensions

How do Locke's concepts of natural rights apply to modern warfare?

What is the relationship between moral and legal culpability?

How does Locke's thinking on tyranny apply to international relations?

#### 6. Procedural Considerations



## John Locke Global Essay Prize 2025 Prompts Breakdown

### Law Category - Key Issues and Questions to Address



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What forums have jurisdiction over potential crimes?

What practical obstacles exist to prosecution?

How should head-of-state immunity be considered?

#### 7. Historical Context

How do Putin's actions compare to historical cases where leaders were deemed war criminals?

What precedents exist in international law?

#### 8. Presumption of Innocence

How should principles of fair trial be balanced with available evidence?

What counter-arguments exist to allegations?