**Photographer: Unknown**
(taken from a video by the Islamic State terror group)

**REFLECTION**

What is the impact of videos like that shown here being broadcast on the internet?

Why do you think warfare has changed so markedly from the time of World War II to now?

Do you think that Western governments should behave differently to avoid the loss of innocent lives like that of David Haines?

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**Photograph: The Beheading of David Haines**
Syria
2014

**Contextual information**

This image is a demonstration of the way in which warfare has, to a large extent, changed over the past 100 years.

Gone are the ‘total war’ days of World War I or the large scale city bombings of World War II. War nowadays is largely fought by insurgencies with much less of a focus on traditional soldiering and the ‘rules of war’. The new warfare is based around the impact actions can have on a global scale, through the power of technology and the internet.

The so-called "Islamic State is a terrorist group which has come to power in parts of Iraq and Syria during 2014 and is the first group, one could say, to use so widely and effectively the power of the internet.

It has broadcast dozens of messages across the web, of hostages and direct requests to Barack Obama and other authority figures in the Western world. The image on the left showcases one of the most brutal aspects of this technology strategy; that of online videos of beheadings of Western hostages.

There have been a number of beheadings, all of completely innocent Westerners, who have paid for the fight between the West and the Islamic State with their lives. They have been journalists and aid workers.

It is likely that this ‘new warfare’ will be around for some years to come.