



Utilitarianism

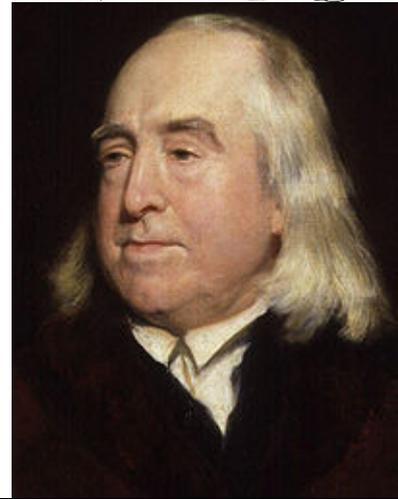
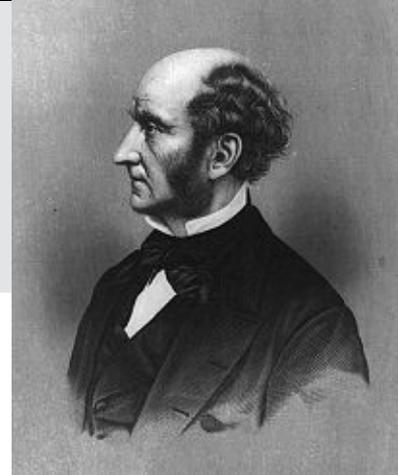
We ought to do whatever will promote the **greatest happiness** for the **greatest number**.

The point of morality is seen as the happiness of beings in this world, and nothing more.

Includes all animals – everyone that can be happy/unhappy, feel pain or pleasure.

Arguments against it:

- Is Happiness the Only Thing That Matters?
- Are Consequences All That Matter?





Kant and the Categorical Imperative

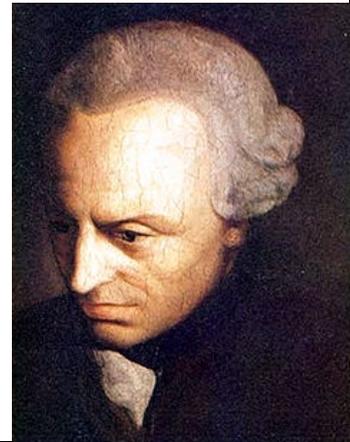
Act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.

Act so that you treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of another, always as an end and never as a means only.

"Human Dignity" - humans are better than all other being. Animals are just means to an end which is man.

Retributivism=a guilty should be punished

- What rule is to be universalized?
- What to do when two rules are in conflict?





The Social Contract Theory

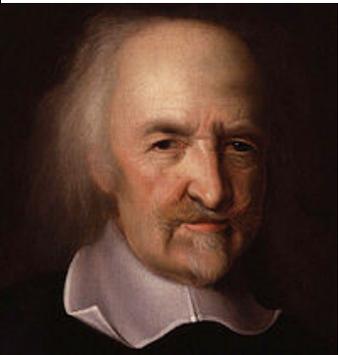


Escape state of nature -> social contract

Morality consists in a set of rules that rational people will agree to accept, for their mutual benefit, on the condition that others follow those rules as well.

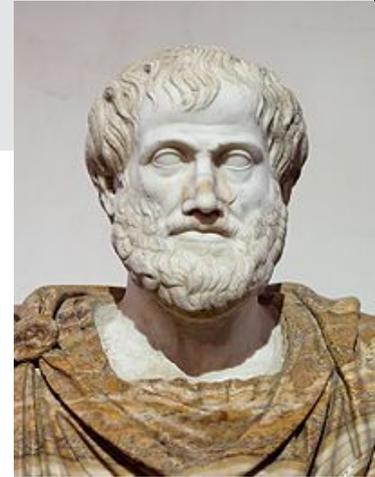
Civil disobedience – justified in this theory. Because you are released from the contract if you do not benefit from it.

- Signing of the contract?
- Nonhuman? Retarded?





Ethics of virtue



Aristotle: What is the good of man?

Modern philosophers: What is the right thing to do?

A virtue - trait of character manifested in habitual action, that it is good for a person to have.

- Moral motivation
- Impartiality
- Virtues both for private life as for public life
- What to do in a conflicting case? Honest or kind?



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A satisfactory moral theory

Morality Without Hubris - MWH

We ought to act so as to promote impartially the interests of everyone alike, except when individuals deserve particular responses as a result of their own past behavior.

moral community - not only across space and time but across the boundaries of species as well.

Acknowledgment of personal merits

