

General Remarks

- The criterion of right and wrong
- All action is for the sake of some end
- **Inductive** and **Intuitive** schools also agree in what moral laws they recognize. → Knowing the morality of an individual action is a matter of the application of a law to an individual case
 - ↳ Differ on:
 - ↳ What makes those moral laws evident
 - ↳ What gives them their authority
- **Inductivists**
 - ↳ Right and wrong are questions of observation and experience
 - ↳ Same with truth and falsehood
 - ↳ Is a science of morals
- Lack of any clear recognition of an ultimate standard
- **Intuitive**
 - ↳ Consecration of the views men actually have
 - ↳ Views greatly influenced by what effects on their happiness they suppose things to have
- Yay, more Kant
- Utilitarian → Happiness Theory

What Utilitarianism Is

- Not something to be contrasted with pleasure but pleasure itself together with freedom from pain
- Doctrine that the basis of morals is utility holds that:
 - ↳ Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness
 - ↳ Wrong in proportion as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness
- Happiness → Pleasure and the absence of pain
- Unhappiness → Pain and the lack of pleasure
- Thesis:
 - ↳ Pleasure and freedom from pain are the only things that are desirable as ends, and that everything that is desirable at all is so either 1) for the pleasure inherent in it or 2) as means to the promotion of pleasure and the prevention of pain

↳ i. Higher and Lower Pleasures

↳ Human beings have:

* Beast is degrading because a beast's pleasures do not satisfy a human's conceptions of happiness

- ↳ Higher faculties than the animal appetites, and once they become conscious of them they don't regard anything as happiness that doesn't include their gratification
- ↳ Difference of quality in pleasures:
 - ↳ Pleasure P_1 is more desirable than pleasure P_2 if:
 - ↳ All or almost all people who had experience of both give a decided preference to P_1 , irrespective of any feeling that they ought to feel
- ↳ Quality outweighs quantity
- ↳ Someone with higher faculties
 - ↳ Requires more to make him happy
 - ↳ Probably capable of more acute suffering
 - ↳ Vulnerable to suffering at more points
- ↳ Men's infirmity of character often leads them to choose the nearer good over the more valuable one

Consequentialism → group of theories. Right and wrong depends on the consequences of those actions

↓
Producing good consequences and avoiding bad ones

* Do the positive outweigh the negative?

Utilitarian
NOT

Utilitarianism



Utility = Happiness = Pleasure + the absence of pain

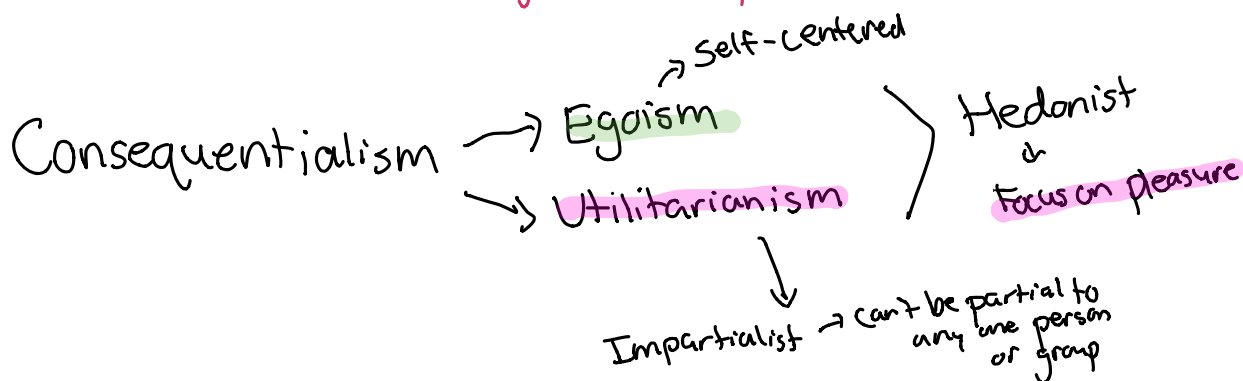
~~Utilitarianist~~

Theories have to have an ultimate foundation



Ultimate Foundation = creating consequences that create pleasure w/ the absence of pain

Principle of Utility: Actions are right so far as they promote happiness (not just one's own but everyone's) and wrong so far as they promote the reverse



Bentham

↳ Quantitative



Doctrine of Swine

↳ Focus on pleasure

↳ Caring only about pleasure

↳ Basically calling humans swine

→ Against Utilitarianism

Mill

↳ Quantitative

AND

↳ Qualitative

Competent Judge

↳ Someone who has experienced both higher and lower pleasures

When deciding what is right, think of the positive and negative consequences. Whatever has the best consequences is the one you should pick

What Sort of Proof Can Be Given For the Principle of Utility?

• What things are desirable?

↳ Utilitarian Doctrine Says:

↳ Intrinsically desirable

↳ Happiness is desirable as an end, and is the only thing that is so

↳ Anything else that is desirable is only desirable as means to that end

• Each person desires his own happiness, so far as he thinks it is attainable

• Each person's happiness is a good to that person, and therefore that general happiness is a good to the aggregate of all persons

• Virtue is to be desired disinterestedly, for itself

• According to Utilitarian doctrine

↳ Virtue is not naturally and originally part of the end (happiness) but is capable of becoming so

↳ In those who unselfishly love it virtue has become so

↳ The end

↳ Ex. money

↳ Value is solely the value of the thing it will buy; the desire for it is the desire for other things it can lead to

Everything ends with happiness



Justice / Human Rights Objection

Mayor of a city.

↳ Avoid riots

↳ Beloved person murdered

↳ People want to riot about this

↳ Riot will cause property damage and loss of human life

↳ No one likes Carl - no alibi

↳ Frames Carl

↳ Quells riot

Sadist Club

↳ 2 am weds night

↳ Kidnap and torture homeless person to death

↳ Get intense pleasure from it

↳ Pleasure outweighs pain of homeless person

Doctor

↳ Allowed to do your own thing

↳ Five good people on his floor

↳ All dying of organ failure

↳ Pizza guy is perfect donor

↳ Doctor cuts open pizza guy to use organs for five people

Scenarios

Injustice
done to
someone but
correct to
the
Utilitarian

Mill's Solution

Act: An action is right if it produces the most expected utility (and wrong if it doesn't)

↗ Runs into the justice objection

↕ Different types of Utilitarianism

Rule: An action is right if it conforms to a rule that when generally followed produces the most utility (and wrong if it doesn't)

↙ when rule is followed generates the most utility

↘ Solution to justice objection



Rule Utilitarianism is Unstable

a. Depart from rule

↳ You're an act utilitarian



b. Don't depart from rule

↳ Departing from utilitarianism
into some sort of rule worship