



New Leaf

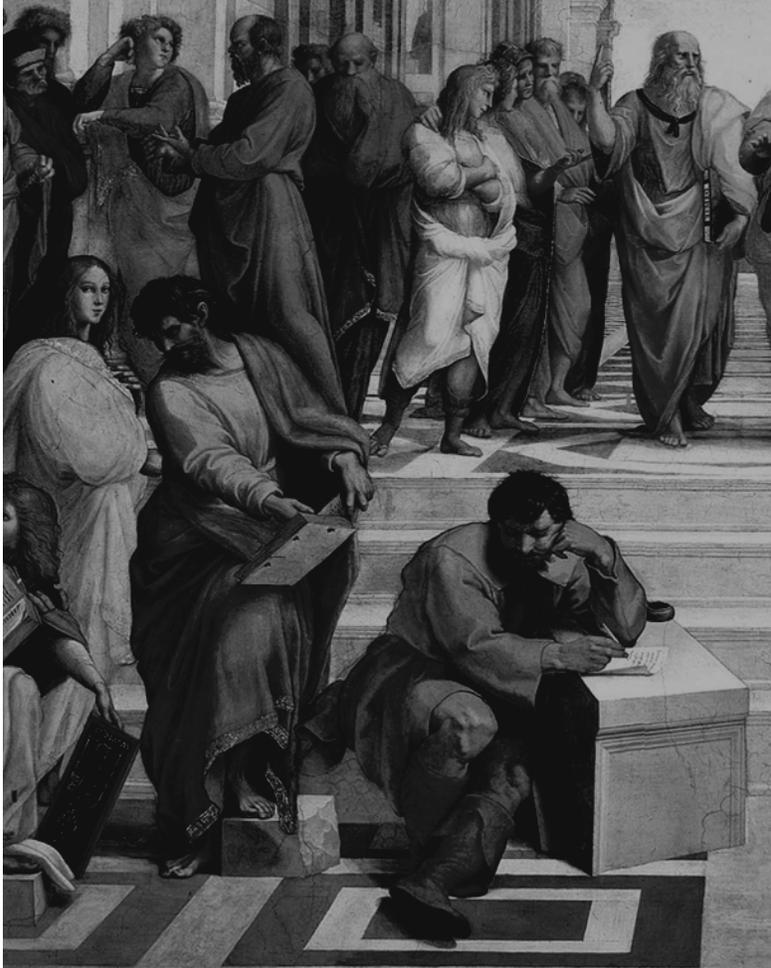


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ISMS

Civic Engagement

- Anarchism □ Ableism □ Communism □ Feminism
- Isolationism □ Nationalism □ Racism □ Relativism
- Scientism □ Utilitarianism



An Introduction to Theories and -isms

Madison Gray

The general definition of a theory is a group of ideas that explains something. A theory is based off of observations. Theories are important to understanding certain aspects of the world. They also help us to understand how the world works. There are lots of different types of theories. This book will feature examples of the different types of theories.

The goal of this history book is to educate you on different theories. These are theories you might come into contact with throughout your education. Some of them are highly debated. Others are more widely accepted. This book will introduce you to social and political theories. It is important for you to be able to understand the facts of each theory. Students can begin to understand the world in a different way with the knowledge gained from this book.

This book was written by college students to inform their junior peers. The theories discussed are ones that these students felt were important for younger students to understand. They were chosen because they are relevant in society now. They will help students understand the world that they are living in currently. They will also allow students to learn about things they may hear their parents or teachers mention.

This issue was written and compiled by college freshman on the topic of “-isms.” We chose this idea because we felt it was important for young students to understand important conversations that happen around them more and more as they get older. Each of the chapters was carefully researched and written in a simplistic but thorough manner. This makes it ideal for middle school students. We hope you enjoy these essays as much as we enjoyed writing them!

The word "Anarchy" is written in a large, black, stylized font. Behind the text is a red, hand-drawn symbol consisting of a circle with a triangle inside it, and a vertical line passing through the center of the circle and triangle, resembling a variation of the anarchist symbol.

Anarchy

Nicole Verdecia

Anarchy is an idea that the government is not needed. It is complete freedom from rules and regulations. There are two ideas that people are familiar with when it comes to anarchism. One idea is that anarchists believe that government is not needed. While the other idea is that anarchism is simply about free will and no structure. A world where people make all of their own decisions, where there is no government and where people actually believe in each other's good will. If you think you should do something, do it, if not don't do it.

Communities started with cave men and women who scavenged for their own food, did their own trading and took care of their own. Once more people started to come together a community formed. Then community responsibilities became a necessity to continue life. If the progression of society stopped there, you would have an anarchist society. A community where people work together to have a good life. Even then people did not want to take care of their responsibilities. So as communities grew people started to pick leaders. Leaders created communities of leaders. Then came the divide between common folk and the "people in charge."

People who support anarchism, did not like this but it is where the community was going. But this did not stop people from rebelling against the people in charge. Naturally, most people

do not like being told what to do. When the people in charge of communities started telling more people what to do it got worse. Power was out of balance.

As much as anarchism is about the power to make decisions as individuals it is also about sharing resources. In the article “10 Instances of Anarchist Societies That Actually Worked” by Eamon Mckeever, he talks about Catalonia and some of their ideas. Like sharing land and



resources. But this fell apart in 1938 due to a big Nationalist offensive.

George Orwell came to cover this fight where common folk or as he says the “working class was in the saddle”

The common folk got rid of money and private land. These people lived in communities that had no police force. They lived without bosses, politicians, religious figures that used to control their every move. Their community was that of a truly anarchist community. Resources were actively passed to everyone. No one paid for water, food, education or even light. This community grew because each town worked for what their needs and cultures were. People did what was needed, nothing more nothing less.

This way of living was not for the faint of heart. When some anarchist didn't see their way of life being accepted there were riots. Take the beginning of the Underground Weathermen as an example.

The Weather Underground started with a group called "Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)." They had their convention around the time that involvement in the Vietnam War. This attracted thousands of people to march along SDS to protest the war for every horrible thing it was. The gruesome images cause U.S anarchist to riot more violently. The more violence broke out because of the Weathermen's need to be heard, the more the police fought back. That did not stop the weathermen. A former Weathermen Brian Flanagan said, "When you feel you have right on your side, you can do some pretty horrific things."

This instilled them to take larger forms of action to grab the country's attention. They realized attacking people who didn't believe in their views was not the way to go. Their idea was to set of bombs in public places while keeping citizens out of harms way. The only problem was that while making these, do it yourself bombs, one was accidentally set off. The bomb killed three Weathermen and got the attention of the FBI. From then on, the Weathermen became the number one target of the FBI. This forced the Weathermen to go underground. And thus, was born Weathermen Underground. The weathermen had to go into hiding.

They took refuge in places outside of the San Francisco Bay, where many other people who were outsiders of the mass community took refuge as well. This did not stop the Weathermen from acting. They proceeded with the bombings. In June 1970, a New York police headquarters got bombed and none other but the Weathermen took credit. They went into hiding but that did not stop them from carrying out the goals.

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Ableism

Alexis Diamond

Look at your reflection in the mirror, what do you see? Your eyes would be something to notice. How about your nose, is it small and frail? Would you believe you were inferior if you were missing an eye? Now, look to the person next to you, and what do you see? Is it their ears that stand out to you? Maybe it's the style of their hair. Or maybe, it's the way they sit. I've seen people growing up who sit bound a wheelchair. These people are often referred to as disabled. Now, a disabled person is someone who has an ailment or illness that disrupts their daily life and causes them to have difficulty in accomplishing tasks and moving on with their day. These people are faced with many troublesome obstacles from their day-to-day life. Many disabled children are unable to participate in the average playground activity. Could you imagine not being able to play on the playground? Would you think differently of them if they couldn't play with you? Of course not, but some people do.

Discrimination, or mistreatment of disabled people is known as ableism. This means that when a person who is considered disabled is not offered care or basic rights, they are being discriminated against. However, many people are protected under the law by what is known as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A law that was passed in 1990 that prohibits all discrimination against disabled people. Since this was put in place, all prejudice made against those who are disabled is punishable by law. This law put in place different accommodating factors to aid those who are disabled. For instance, parking places, ramps, and larger restroom stalls.



Now while this is in place, it doesn't always mean that discrimination won't happen. Many disabilities are overt, although some can be invisible. This doesn't mean anyone should be treated any less seriously. If you are someone with an invisible illness, you are still covered under the ADA and have laws, codes, and statutes to protect you from harm.



If we were to look at influential people with disabilities, we could look at Helen Keller. She was blind and deaf and was still able to learn how to communicate effectively despite her ailments. She was a great inspiration for many due to her determination to push through her problems and make a life for herself where she could communicate with others happily. Another influencer would be Stevie Wonder. He is famous throughout music history for his beautiful, soulful voice and hits such as “Isn’t She Lovely” and “Superstition”. Wonder learned to play piano from a young age, despite not being able to see. He has performed worldwide and persevered through his disability and learned to play piano through sound despite being blind.

If you are disabled, it is important to recognize that your illness is not your fault. You are more than the ailment you have, and you mean a lot to those around you, even if you don’t quite realize it yet. Understand that some people just aren’t open to others, and while they may be in the dark, it doesn’t mean you should step out of the light. Help others and most importantly, help yourself. You are meaningful, and situations like this are no defining factor in a person’s life. Stand strong and remember, you are worth the world.

We all strive for perfection. To have the perfect teeth, smile, legs, eyes, body. We're free to do what we please, but many find that that isn't as simple as it seems. Therefore, we must help those who are not able and give them the opportunity to enjoy the same pleasures as those with no disabilities. For we are all equal and must treat our brothers and sisters with kindness and love.

Feminism

Madison Gray

Clearly, there is a difference between men and women. Some people believe that these differences make men superior to women. However, the differences between men and women don't make one superior to the other. It's easy to take for granted that women can work, that women can be teachers, and that women can vote. But it hasn't always been that way. Women haven't always had the rights that they have now. Previously, women were not allowed to vote, were not allowed to go to school, and were not allowed to work outside the home. It is because of



the feminist movement that women have been granted the rights that they have. Feminism is the belief that women are equal to and deserve the same rights as men. Feminists believe that women should not be seen as inferior to men. They try to make the sexes more equal by gaining rights for women.

Feminism in the United States began in 1848 with the Seneca Falls Convention. This was the first women's rights convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the other four main organizers fought for the right to vote for women. They also fought for the end of slavery and racial inequality. Women's right to vote was the main focus of the feminist movement for a long period of history. That dream became a reality when the 19th amendment was passed in 1920. The 19th amendment granted women the right to vote.

Following World War II, the focus for feminists became equal pay. They worked hard to pass the Equal Pay Act which made gender discrimination in the workplace illegal. The law was passed in 1963. It still did not close the wage gap between men and women. Feminists still fight



to give men and women equal pay. Each year more progress is made but women are still not paid as much as men. As of 2018, women are paid 15 cents less than men. This means that it would take 39 more days of work for women to earn the same amount of money that men make in a year. In 1980, women earned 36 cents less than men. The wage gap has closed by 21 cents. This is progress but it is still not enough.

In 1972, feminists pushed to get an Equal Rights Amendment added to the Constitution. The amendment would provide for equality for the sexes in the eyes of the law and make discrimination based on sex illegal. The amendment was passed in the United States Senate and sent to the states for approval. Not enough of the states approved the change so it was not added to the Constitution. This decision was a setback to the feminist movement. It would have made men and women more equal in the eyes of the law.

Recently, the feminist movement has evolved into something different. Women are

pushing for social equality through the MeToo Movement and the

Time's Up Movement. These movements were started by Hollywood actresses. Social media has helped to expand the impact of these movements. Social media has also grown the feminist movement. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram allow more people to share their opinions. The MeToo movement allows survivors of sexual abuse to share their stories. It also

allows them to receive the support that they deserve. The MeToo Movement grants support and a voice to all survivors. The Time's Up Movement seeks to stop harassment and injustice in the workplace for all businesses and professions. It also continues to push for equal pay in all businesses.

Another important development in the feminist movement is women's marches. Women's marches are



protests organized all across the country and the world. These protests allow all feminists to come together. It gives them a way to fight for change on a variety of issues. They supported women's rights, reproductive rights, and civil rights for minorities. The first women's march of the current era was held in 2017. It is considered to be the largest single-day protest in the United States. The march is also considered to be the largest women's rights march in the world. Now, each year there are marches all over the world. The marches also remind us that feminism is not just a movement in the United States. The feminist movement is important in many other countries. Women fight for more rights in countries where they do not have the same rights that American women have. Women were not allowed to drive until 2018 in Saudi Arabia. Women need permission from their husbands to get a divorce in Israel. Women cannot even leave the house without their husband's permission in Yemen. The feminist movement continues to fight for rights for these women.

Feminists do not fight for women's rights and women's rights only though. They fight for general social equality. Equality between men and women and between races, sexual orientations, and class statuses. This idea is known as intersectional feminism or inclusive feminism. Inclusive feminism works to make the women's rights movement more available for people of all races, sexualities, classes, and backgrounds. This aspect of feminism is important because it gives the movement more power. Inclusivity also means that more people benefit from the progress that the feminist movement makes.

As the feminist movement grows, more progress is made. However, not everyone agrees with or believes in feminism. Those that do not agree are often vocal about the fact that they do not label themselves feminists. They will give reasons why they do not agree. "Feminists hate

men, and I do not hate men, so I can't be a feminist!" "Women belong in the kitchen!" "Women do not deserve equal pay to men!" If you are a feminist, these arguments can be very frustrating. Feminists do not



hate men or believe that every man is evil. Feminists do not believe that women are superior to men. They believe that women deserve the same rights as men. Women are not inferior to men simply because physically they are a little different. Women have the same ability to think and act for themselves that men do. Men are not any smarter than women because they are a man.

Feminism is a movement that strives to make a difference in the lives of women. They fight for women's rights. Women would not have as many rights as they do not without the feminist movement. Each year, the feminist movement makes more progress. That progress is important for people all around the world.

Understanding Scientism

Shaun Hansche

Scientism believes in critical thinking and logic to solve problems. Scientism is a general subject that uses all sciences and works to solve problems in the best way. Scientism is by no means the solution for all problems. The public spends more time with social and economic affairs due to the great amount of problems. However, there are problems that are bigger than what society worries about. Problems like Global Warming, Space Exploration, and Modern Medicine.

Global warming continues to be a problem that will not go away. Communities are ever growing and are constantly presenting evidence of tears of ozone damage over years. The IPCC stated that, “reported that to keep the rise in global temperatures below 1.5C this century, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be cut by 45% by 2030.” (IPCC, 2018). The statement is from a year ago and is no longer correct. As of 2019, there is now a 11-month due date for a dramatic drop in CO2 emissions or there will be no chance of saving the world by 2030. This information is urgent but is still not getting the attention it needs. The public don’t like how limited they must become to prevent further harm. The solution is to reduce CO2 emissions and any other kinds of destructive gases.

Funding is also a key issue. Projects exist across the world and rely on funding from others to continue work and meet deadlines. Large groups such as NASA and the CDC require governmental funding due to the cost of projects conducted by these groups. NASA was created in 1958 as a result of the race to space against Russia. NASA was created by a group that was called the NACA, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and received full governmental backing. After the United States won the space race, space exploration wasn’t seen as a need, so

funding stopped. Space exploration was a big deal during the late 50's in American society. Space exploration affected how cars and houses looked to give a futuristic look. Now the public isn't as interested in space as they used to be but times have changed, but for the better or worse.

Science affects nations like Russia, Germany, and United States in ideals and systematic structure. Science puts us years ahead of our limited capabilities. Communication, exploration, and health have improved with inventions like satellites, radio, transportation, antibiotics, and medicinal practices. Science is a tool and works when steps are followed making it semi complex. Scientism shouldn't be seen a way to govern other but rather a way of solving problems.

There are a lot of different ideals that affect and shape society around us. Understanding different views and their affects shape us to be better versions of ourselves. In this book a lot of ideals were presented to you. These ideals are ever present and affect everything around you.

Racism in the West

Nicholas Jeske

Racism is when one group of people is judged on their traits. In the west it is a topic of debate on what counts as racist. Many see racism as a white problem due to the history of the U.S. It's easy to spot because there is no easy way to hide it. As a result of how white our culture is the black people and other non-white people is are left out of many things. Because white people until more recent times have more roles in TV shows and movies and advertisements. White racist tropes that are often used as common roles in shows. These roles show the way that a lot of racist white people think. It is blown out of scale for the sake of show biz. When people see white people doing the same things in real life it's easier to spot because we recall and compare our knowledge of what white people look or act like when being racist. It is more common to call out white people for saying something that is even a bit racist due to social norms. than it would be to do so for a black person or other person. Another reason that racism is more often seen in white people is because there are a lot of white people in power who abuse it. This is over blown by the media. I use the phrase blown up because of my anger with America's current take on what is news and how to cover it. To be clear I do not use the phrase blown up in a way to call out others on their abuses of power with racism. Things like this are so common that there is almost no need to list them, but some things like this are politicians and the police and actors and corporate types. A more explicit example would be Trump who is constantly saying racist things to the point that it almost seems done on purpose. It is an attempt to distract the public and media from his other many and varied bad actions. The president has this ability. But the police can almost legally murder other races and not get in any trouble. The police are not having an easy time judging who they should kill to the point that they don't even

need a real reason to kill anymore. Police killings can nearly be in cold blood at this point. This is due to the way actions are excused, and they are protected. If there is a case that is enough like one where a different cop shot someone and got away with it. If this happens case law is protecting them. This sets a bad standard and leads to worse and worse outcomes over time. It is an abuse of the legal system that may stem from cops using their knowledge of the law to not go to prison. My claim is not that white people are not any more or less racist as compared to other people. My claim instead is that if all groups were the same level of racist then white people would likely still stick out. There is no issue with these people in this case. We should try to include pointing out all forms of racism for all groups. It could have a good impact on society. It can be said that when it is made normal then the calling out any form of racism always makes society better.

The clear follow up question is how racist are other groups? This is where things get tricky. Due to people being white in my life my context is small. In terms of family and in most of the close friends that I grew up with I know for the most part white people. It is tricky to say how racist other ethnic groups are. Most of my knowledge comes from a secondhand source. I have found that I often feel less resistance when I am staying at a friend's house where their parents are third generation American citizens. I do not know if this is a result of a standard that is not the same as it is for white American families, or if these families not having to put up with the same level of care when talking about race related topics. Race is viewed by people who are not the same in ways that are not the same. It stands to reason.

Racism is a something that has always been around since the dawn of humans. Some like to say that it started with a distinct event. Like when Nixon made public disdain towards groups of people on purpose with the war on drugs. Some blame it on slavery being way too recent in our history. While what they say have a distinct disdain towards other groups is simply a part of

the human psyche. One study that supports this claim had random people put into groups. The different members did not even at all or anywhere close to maybe even getting a chance to meet each other. They had 2 options. They could give more money like 20 dollars to a member of the other group and give a decent sum like 15 dollars to a member of their own group. Or they could give no money to the other group and less to their own member like 5 dollars. They chose the second choice notably more often. The idea that our view of the real world can be changed by the situation we are in has been studied by many famous thinkers. This concept can be backed up by the idea of how natural selection left a mark on the way people think. This is seen if we bring the scope of the debate back to when we hunted in groups to when people began to make their own villages. While many might still trade with each other, the battle for resources was never lost on anyone. This is one way to explain in a mental context the origin of racism. It is an easy leap from arguing with someone over what sport team they like and stating your own beliefs as to who is the best. If you relate this concept of choosing sides to skin color and other traits, then you have racism. There are many issues like this that lead to self-conflict and mental health issues and we all handle them in unique ways. Human beings weren't made to live in places with social rules like the ones we have created. Many of the concepts dating back even to Thomas Hobbes' social contract create rifts between people who believe different things and still cause rifts between certain groups of people today. The hatred and innate division between people and groups is not only used to describe racism. It would very likely still exist even if Pangea never broke off and we all had the same skin. It is a strange idea to think that even without special differences and social norms that racism or concepts that divide people would still be around despite any change in the way the world works.

Racism has not really affected me in any ways other than subtle. Most first-hand experiences are observing friends experiencing it. Luckily for us we live in an urban area and near

multiple college campuses. This is relevant because people tend to be more intelligent in cities versus rural areas, and people tend to be less racist with they are more educated. Not only is the intelligence of the surrounding population relevant among other more relatively liberal areas, tend to jump on people more when they are racist, and it is more frequently called out or recorded and leads to the changing of lives. A first-hand example would be every time I have been surrounded by family or been with other people families in near a large city. When that one racist extended family member makes a racist and wild claim the family has asked him to leave or made an example of by shunning or ignoring by shaming whatever was said. there is a link between schooling and racism. People who are not taught why people are not all the same may have a fear of the difference they do not understand. People fear what they do not know. In this case they get off on the wrong foot. These events can differ from all my times with family in the rural parts of Georgia and Illinois. When racist comments are made in these places the family just ignores it and splits into groups. One group that keeps talking about the issue and allows for more than slightly racist remarks. The other group simply tries to ignore that they split off in the first place. In my personal experience trying to call it out has only led to bad glances from both parties as they must know it's a futile gesture. When thinking about this point it is good to think about how I am one person with a small amount of family members that I interact with and all the things I have seen I've just talked about are with white families. I do think that there are reasons in history and human nature that cause racism. But I also think it is good to think about the personal reasons why each person might feel a certain way about other races. Often times our own thoughts impact our view on others more than what we learn from our homes.

Relativism vs. Absolutism

Ben Maura

What is truth? Can we know anything for certain? Is everything just relative to the culture that I am in? These are the questions surrounding the theory of relativism. Relativism was introduced by a man named Protagoras in the 5th century B.C. (Joshua J. Mark). His most famous quote was, “Man is the measure of all things.” Presenting the idea that mankind defines what is true and moral. There are several errors presented with this perspective. Therefore, we will be using logical arguments to expose this theory and explore what things are absolute in nature.

First, let us examine what relativism really is. One of the most common forms of relativism deals with morals. This theory suggests that people develop their thinking concerning morality over time (Pecorino). It also states that relations with people and society shape the way an individual views right and wrong (Pecorino). This view does not only propose that a person forms his own world view in regards to ethics. It also states that a culture actually determines what is right and wrong. Rather than coming to know morality, humans are able to create it.

The other main area that relativism addresses is truth. Relativists support the idea that humans have the right to decide what is true for them. Whether it refers to what they believe about God, what is true about themselves, how humans got here, or anything. This position does not only suggest that people have the right to believe whatever they want. It also suggests that whatever they believe is actually true for them. Again, mankind gets to decide what is true rather than discover it. Now that you have a good perception of what relativism is, let's test it with logical arguments.

People who believe that truth is relative also believe that there are no absolute truths. A great question to ask this person would be, “Are you absolutely sure that there are no absolute truths?” This is called the roadrunner tactic. It exposes a conflicting statement using that person's words. Even just using the word “is” in a statement that refers to other people cannot fit in this

belief system. A relativist clearly would not abstain from using this word. However, we can take the premise of what a relativist believes and test it to show what they are really implying. Plato challenged this view by stating, "If what each man believes to be true through sensation is true for him - and no man can judge of another's experience better than the man himself, and no man is in a better position to consider whether another's opinion is true or false than the man himself, but...each man is to have his own opinions for himself alone, and all of them are to be right and true - then *how*, my friend, was Protagoras so wise that he should consider himself worthy to teach others and for huge fees? And how are we so ignorant that we should go to school to him, if each of us is the measure of his own wisdom?" (Joshua J. Mark) Plato is simply addressing a contradiction in what Protagoras was saying. He is teaching others that they are the measure of their own wisdom. Do you see it? How can Protagoras explain to someone else what is true for them without contradicting his teaching?

There are several logical reasons for why an absolute moral law exists, but we are only going to look at 3 of them. Any person that claims for there to be no such thing as objective morality, gives themselves away by saying, "that's not fair." They are referring to fairness or some kind of binding law that applies to both of them not just himself (C.S. Lewis). If I punched a person in the face, they would accuse me of doing something not right. When in fact this could be right in my eyes and according to my moral law. Using the word "ought" or "should" also refers to an objective moral law. This is a simple concept, if there is no absolute moral law then I "should" or "ought" to do nothing but whatever I want (C.S. Lewis). Lastly, it is very clear to see humans' moral compass through children. Every child knows that murder is bad and that giving is good (C.S. Lewis). Romans 2:14-16 says, "For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their consciences bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will

judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.” The capital “L” law refers to the absolute moral law given by God. We can deny this and make up our own morality, but it does not change reality.

So, what can we know for certain? First, that there are things that are true and applies to everyone. An example of this could be gravity. The sky being blue does not depend on my perception. The sky color is what it is. This causes excitement and hunger to discover what is real. Rather than us being the “measure of all things,” and the god of our lives. Humbling ourselves and coming to the realization that we did not create ourselves is huge. Psalms 100:3 says, “Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” If we did not create ourselves or the laws of physics or the universe, then why are we “the measure of all things.” It is simply pride to believe this. To be frank, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6). Furthermore, we know that there are things that are right and wrong for everyone. John 1 refers to Jesus as the “logos.” Jesus is also “the exact representation of God’s nature.” (Hebrews 1) This is the absolute moral Law, Jesus Christ, the nature of God. Anything that is not of the Giver of life is wrong. Everything that is of Him is right. This applies to all of His creation. Jesus calls Himself in John 14:6 the Way, the Truth, the Life, and the way back to Father God. I am not trying to promote my religion or agenda. We simply must realize that as created beings who have done wrong things, that we are not, “the measure of all things.”

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Capitalism

Allyssa Palacios

Capitalism is an economic system of buying and selling. Capitalism is a way in which people have the liberty to buy or sell. It is done in a market for capital gain. This market is competitive. In our economic system there is a free market. There are buyers and sellers of products and services. They are exchanging those goods and services freely. Those goods and services are privately owned. The owners are free to use it as they want to. The key players are the suppliers and the consumers. They express the freedom to agree about the price and cost, then both come to an agreement to exchange for the goods. The producers or suppliers gain profit. The consumer's gain is product or supply for personal or business use.

Capitalism started with people trading their goods for other goods to make money. It could also be resold again for a profit. It started as trading crops or goods to obtain what the other person is selling. This form of trading meant that they formed a business. Those early business owners gained wealth and soon formed the middle class. They were formerly called entrepreneurs. An entrepreneur is a person who starts a business.

In a capitalist economy the government is not in charge of nor do they have a say as to what and how a product is being sold or priced. The government has no control as to how much money a producer can earn or how a consumer can use it. For example, a person buys a car or a boat, and the government has no say as to how or when that car or boat could be used. Or

land for example, could be bought and rented without the government's involvement. They cannot put a price tag on either of them. The person selling has the right to sell it for the value they deem to be fit.

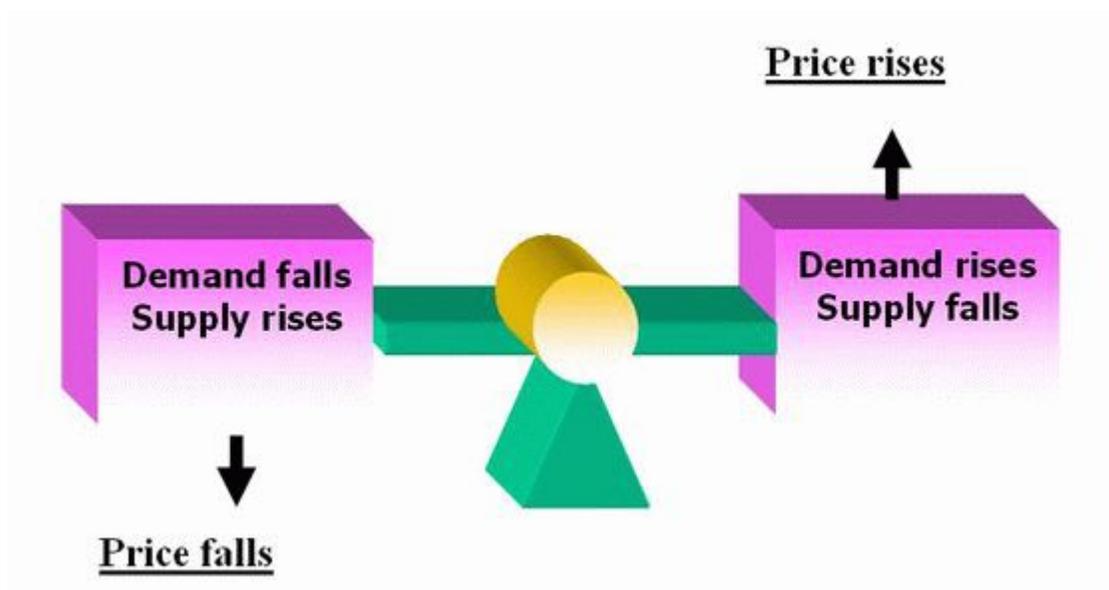


In our economy, we experience supply and demand daily. The demand of a good is the having the desire to buy something and having the ability and being willing to purchase it. However, a client will not always be prepared to buy a product at the set price. Often, the consumer, tries to get the better offer. It means that the demand is how much is the person is saying they are willing to spend. The Law of Demand is how the price and quantity demanded depend on each other. In short, the bigger the demand the cheaper it is being traded for, if the demand is not as great, then the price is going to rise. The consumer's willingness to buy, and the quantities that are going to be bought, are favored and demanded at the lower prices. If the prices are then raised the quantity of the product being sold and bought is lowered.

Supply can be explained as how a product or a service is being offered at different prices in the market to be able to compete with the demand (or the customer's ability and willingness to buy from the producer). Supply is related to the business person. The Law of Supply can be explained as comparing different suppliers selling the same product. They will compete to give the consumer the product at a fair market price. They are competing for customers to make a profit. Lowering the price allows the consumer to save and thus use that savings to purchase in quantities. If the consumer is willing to pay at a higher price, then the producer or the supplier is also willing to produce more and supply their product or service at the price that is more profitable to them.

Supply and demand could be thought of as a balance. Since the trades are strictly voluntary, it is the cause of supply and demand that propels the capitalist system. It motivates the proprietors to compete with other private owners for the business of the consumers. At the same note, those consumers, are also in competition with each other over the goods and services. The activity of both parties becomes the driving factor of the prices and costs.

The price system is what balances supply and demand. When the demand rises, the price and amount of product or services rises as well. An example would be fruit sold during season. Let's take a bag of oranges when they are in season here is Florida. During their peak, oranges could be purchased at minimum \$2.00 per bag. In turn, consumers purchase oranges at a comfortable price. On the contrary, when they are out of season or if the supplies of oranges have been hindered due to a cold frost or a wildfire, oranges could double in price. With the later, consumers are weary and will not be persuaded to purchase as easily.



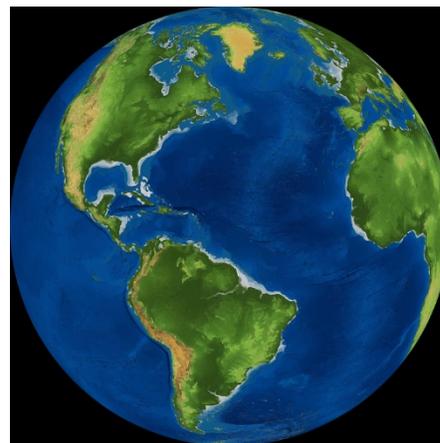
Nationalism

Emmalissa Perkerson

OVERVIEW

Think about the cliques at your school. These groups of friends might help each other with homework. Even though another student might be struggling with the material, that does not matter. Those in the group will all get A's. This is a small-scale example of the topic for this chapter.

Nationalism is a political ideology driven by the idea that the country or group that you belong to is better than others. It's different from patriotism. Some people confuse the two. Nationalists are concerned about their own superiority. This often means that policies will be put in place to hurt others because it helps themselves. This can be dangerous and isolating, especially with modern globalization. **Globalization** happens when different parts of the world interact with each other. This is done through the trade of goods and ideas. Connecting different parts of the globe can be helpful for all involved parties, and it has been in the past. Major economic growth has occurred because different countries and regions realized they could make more money when they work together.



However, being proud of your country is not a bad thing. National pride can lead to improvements in roads, bridges, schools, and other projects. It also means that your country can enter negotiations with more power. This can lead to even bigger improvements for your nation. Some people think it is selfish. Others believe that you always must do what is best for yourself.

THE HISTORY OF NATIONALISM

There are two main categories of nationalism. The first is about national pride and valuing your country over others. This led to **imperialism**. This means gaining new territories through

military force. The colonization of the Americas is one example of this. So is the expansion of France in the 17th century. Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power because of his strong nationalist beliefs. He invaded other countries to spread French ideals that emerged with the rise of the working class after the French Revolution. He also sought to gain more power. He did so by expanding his land.

The second kind is about ethnic or religious groups. It is what fueled Nazi hatred against



Neo-Nazi demonstrators at a protest against refugees wearing “White Lives Matter” signs (2017)

Jewish people and other minority groups during World War II. It continues to be what fuels Neo-Nazi hatred against the same groups today. **White supremacy** is the idea that the white race is superior to others and thus should dominate them. This is driven by the second type of nationalism.

NATIONALISM TODAY

Donald Trump is the President of the United States. He is also a big proponent of nationalism. He spoke at the United Nations General Assembly in September of 2019. He called on other nations to do

as he had. He asked them to reject globalism and embrace nationalism. He urged a room full of world leaders to cast their previous values aside in favor of self-interest.



He is not the only leader today that is a fan of nationalism. Nicolas Maduro is the President of Venezuela. Venezuela used to be rich and full of oil. They lost their wealth in the late 20th century. Now that his people do not have access to medicine, food, or even



A Venezuelan supermarket

toilet paper, he refuses help from other countries. He has too much national pride to accept aid.

This puts his citizens in danger. The United States might become more powerful through Trump's strategy. Venezuela, however, is suffering because of Maduro's nationalist ideas.

CONCLUSION

Nationalism is a hot topic in today's political climate. It is important for you to think about the consequences of actions taken not only for you and your country, but for others as well. There are pros and cons to nationalism, as is with most things. For each instance, you must decide if your success is more important than someone else's wellbeing. This is what it comes down to.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-assembly-trump-globalism/trump-calls-on-nations-to-reject-globalism-embrace-nationalism-idUSKBN1W91XP>

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Isolationism

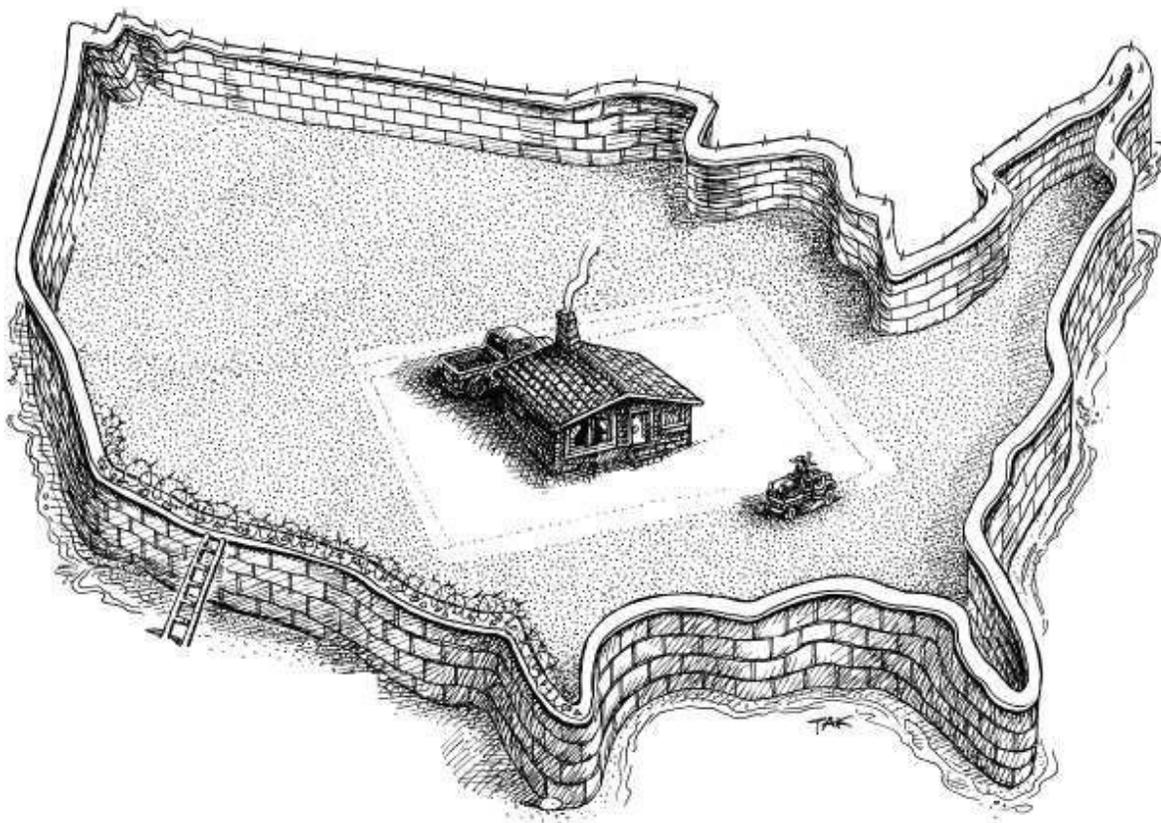
Alexander Sharpe

Isolationism means avoiding treaties with other countries. There are many examples of this in history. America was once a loner country too. This chapter will explain the pros and cons of this idea. It will also provide examples of loner countries.

This loner behavior dates back as far as the 14th century. It is still practiced by some countries to this day. Early Asian foreign policy is very independent. During the Ming Dynasty in early China all naval shipping was banned. For 200 years Japan banned most contact with other countries. Korea had similar laws. In the modern day North Korea is the best modern example of isolationism. They admit almost no one in or out of their country. They do not trade with any other countries or aid any other countries in wars.



The Asian countries are not the only loners. Before the second world war, America was a loner country too. America's founders intended her to be a loner country. George Washington said this in his farewell address. "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible." The US kept this idea up to the First World War. After the Second World War America never went back to being a loner. After helping to rebuild Europe the US left bases all over the world.



So why would anyone want to be alone? Why would countries choose to isolate instead of being friendly? When you begin trading with a country you exchange more than just their goods or services. Opening the door to trade also opens the door to that country's culture which may be very different from your own. Many countries simply wish to keep their culture preserved from outside influence. Another reason some countries choose to isolate themselves is if their neighbors are violent. For example, China has always been a great producer and exporter of silk and spices. When the western world got a taste for them they began to exert their influence on China forcing them to trade. Once broken isolationism can be nearly impossible to return to. The biggest reason to avoid others is to avoid wars.



Just because your neighbor is willing to risk lives for something doesn't mean you are too. Treaties often require members to defend each other. This can lead to wars that you did not start. Even if won the war may not benefit you but will still cost lives. An example of this happening is World War One. It began between Serbia and Austria who then grew and grew

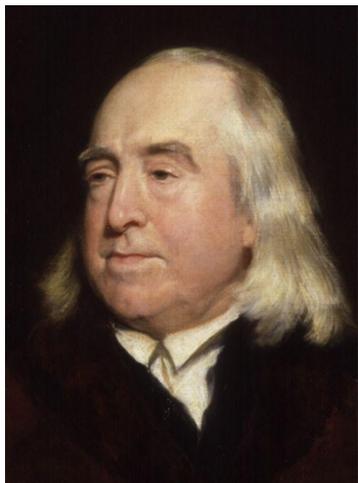
through treaties. Soon, the whole world was involved because of alliances. While alliances can be beneficial they can also pull countries into avoidable wars.

Isolationism is not always a good thing. Trade with other countries can improve the quality of life for all. Trade between countries can also share ideas. It's because of free trade that materials from America can create inventions in Japan that can be sold to Europe and so on. Military treaties can deter wars too. Starting a war with one country can mean a war with its allies. Often times one country will have something another needs. Treaties can be very beneficial but should be made carefully.

Isolationism has a place in the histories of many countries and is still debated about to this day. There are benefits to prioritizing the wellbeing of your country and not getting involved in the affairs of others. There are also benefits to helping other countries as well. A threat to one country is often a threat to its neighbors. Whether or not its benefits outweigh its risks is up for debate, and there are no right or wrong answers. There are points where it is best to prioritize your own country and times where it is best to stand together and solve problems. No matter your choice, just ensure that the choice made is your own.

Utilitarianism: The Greatest Good for the Highest Number

Chris Walker

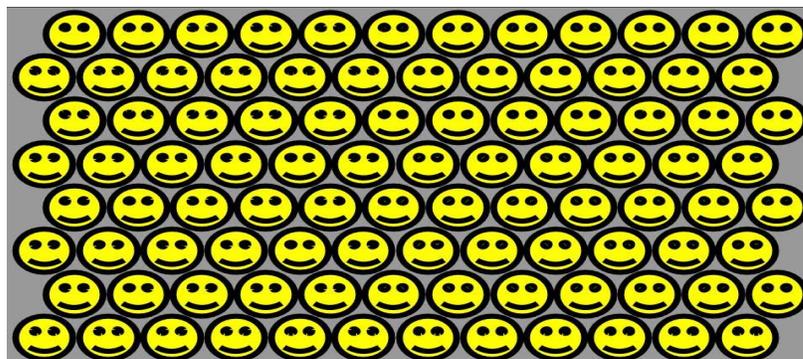


Utilitarianism is an idea focusing on the good of the group. It discourages personal wants and “selfish” actions. Makes sense, right? Let’s say a utilitarian were standing by a lake. To the right of them are three people and to the left is their mother. They are all drowning. Who should they save? A utilitarian would save the group of three because the majority is more

Page 11 1/26/20 important than our own wants.

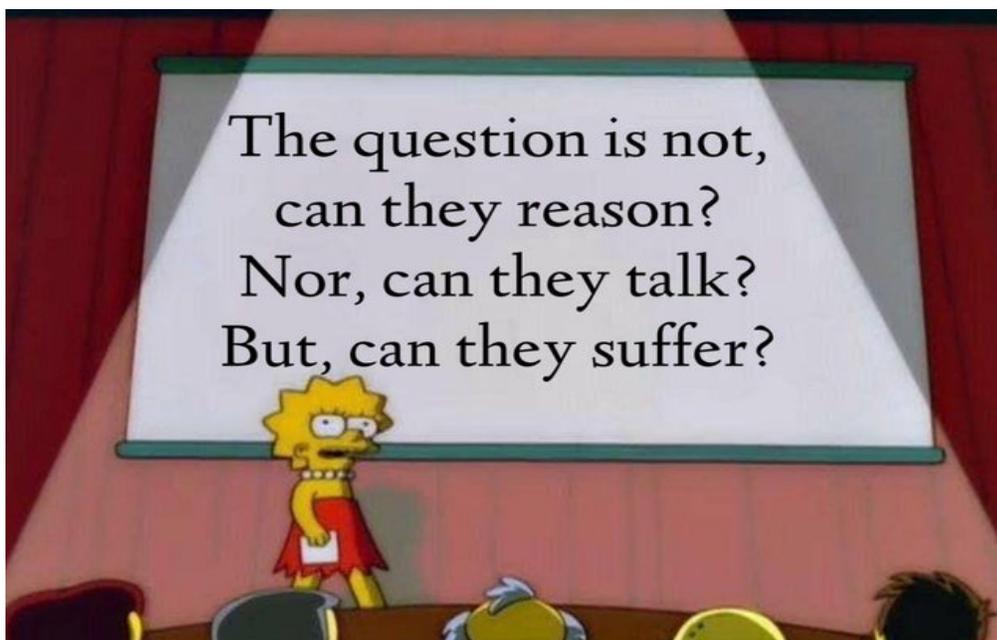
Utilitarianism gained popularity in the late 18th to 19th century. Jeremy Bentham was the main advocate of it. He said, “it is the greatest good to the greatest number of people which is the measure of right and wrong”. He believed this would make a society happy. Utilitarianism can be good and bad as you will see in this chapter.

For one, utilitarianism can be simple. An action is always morally right if it is helpful for the group. Utilitarianism does not limit the good we can do. What’s more, utilitarianism is factual and impartial. Humanity as a whole is the focus. In fact, the units of pleasure and pain can be calculated. Hurting others for our benefit is bad. This is something we are taught from birth. Everyone having equal happiness and opportunities is impossible. So, the purpose of utilitarianism is to seek the highest good. Also, utilitarianism can be applied to all situations in life. Happiness is the real source of value. Other materials can be valuable only if they lead to happiness. It reminds society to be happy. After all, happiness is what we should seek.



On the other hand, one flaw of utilitarianism is it considers happiness to be the absence of suffering. That is not the case though. Bentham believed humans experience either pleasure or pain, nothing in between. He said these two feelings determine all actions in life. Happiness is more than not being in pain. Is utilitarianism meant to maximize complete happiness or just more pleasure than pain? Happiness means different things to different people. What makes one person happy can make another person bored. Also, doing the right thing is not always relatable to numbers. Utilitarianism only counts measurable gain, which can be difficult when comparing happiness and sadness. In other words, it is not easy to assess a person's emotions. Preventing a large number of minor injuries is better than taking care of one serious injury. Leaving one person to suffer is right keeping in mind the short discomfort of a group. Utilitarianism is not constant across different people. All people are different. Giving \$100 to an average person is the same as giving \$100 to Bill Gates. Each person's happiness counts as much as anybody else's. That is good, but utilitarianism does not recognize personal circumstances. It is not worth it to spend large amounts of resources to help old or disabled people. The wasted money would not justify helping them. Other people could benefit from that money. Utilitarianism focuses only on consequences. It does not take into account motives or thoughts about actions. You can do the right thing with the wrong motivations. So long as the ends justify the means.

Moving on, utilitarianism can have social effects. A society is happiest when all people are happy. The course of history shows a group in charge often leads to disaster. When in a group, people lose their sense of morality. Individual rights and beliefs have no power. People tend to go along with the group without speaking up. A utilitarian would break a law if it offers group happiness. Whatever generates the most happiness is right. Yet, future consequences are not taken into account. Only present pleasure is relevant. With regard to war, it is bad but some wars are necessary. Using more dangerous weapons is fine if it shortens the war. You should do the right thing based on the interest of both sides. Right actions are those that produce the best consequences.



Some apply utilitarianism to animals as well. Bentham said, "the question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?". This makes ethics even more confusing. Is it ethical to harm animals for the pleasure of billions of people? Is one animal life equal to one human life? Is it right to kill a puppy if it saves a person's life? How can we know if an animal is

truly happy? To put it another way, what do animals feel? Animals cannot communicate pain or pleasure. How do we provide happiness for animals and humans?

Utilitarianism promotes the happiness of the group. The interest of everyone counts equally. The more happiness and less suffering that results from an action the better it is. All suffering should be limited. There are pluses and minuses. The concept is simple: make the most amount of people happy. Utilitarianism does its best to maintain overall wellbeing. Perhaps group happiness is the best we can do. If the group is happy, more people are happy than not. We cannot make everybody happy. At the same time, utilitarianism can make ethics unclear and maybe can be too basic. Evaluating pleasure or happiness is impossible. But damage can often be measured. So, it is kind of unfair to compare the two. Happiness is not universal to all people. Of course we want the most amount of people to be happy. But, where do you draw the line between self-interest and group pleasure?

