

The debate over Utilitarianism by James Rachels

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn more about the principle of Utilitarianism. Also I want to know what the subject of the debate over Utilitarianism.

Quote:

“Man does not strive after happiness, only the Englishman does that.”

Book review:

The theory defended by Bentham and Mill was summarized into three propositions. The first being, action based on what we know is right and wrong. Nothing else matters. Right actions are, simply, those that have the best consequences. The second is, the only thing that matters is the amount of happiness or unhappiness that is caused. The third proposition was, in calculating the happiness and unhappiness that we feel after our action. Justice, rights, and promises are being done because they don't want to have scandals and riots. I'm having a difficult time accepting the theory of Utilitarianism full, happiness is indeed desirable but how can happiness be the thing that only matters.

What I have learned:

I learned that Utilitarianism is not all good because it bypasses moral judgement.

Integrative questions:

- 1) What is the subject of the debate?
- 2) How can happiness be achieved?
- 3) Is happiness easily achievable?
- 4) What is act utilitarianism?
- 5) What is rule utilitarianism?