

Utilitarian Socialism

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Whom and When

- This theory was devised by **Jeremy Bentham** (1748 to 1832)
- He was a utilitarian philosopher and social reformer
- This was created in 1780

Historical Conditions leading up to the creation of this theory...

- The French revolution and the American Revolution already occurred
- In beginning of the Industrial Revolution

Important Points

- This is the idea that the moral worth of an action is solely determined by its contribution to overall utility in maximizing happiness or pleasure as summed among all people.
- Pain and pleasure motivates people
- Actions are based upon their consequences
- The more happy any law made a overall population determines how good of a law is

Economic Basic

- Opportunity Cost & Trade Offs-
- Theory is based on happiness
- people make decisions based on what will make them the most happy and what they want to give up

Today

- actions are still based or have a lot to do with their consequences
- Pain and pleasure still motivates people
- People do what makes them happy

Flaws

- The overall happiness of a population could allow things to take place such as slavery, war, lose of women rights.
- This is because if more then half the people are happy then it would be considered a good law

- http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_utilitarianism.html
- http://www.philosophybasics.com/philosophers_bentham.html
- <http://www.iep.utm.edu/bentham/>
- <http://www.utilitarianism.com/bentham.htm>