

Utilitarianism

PHIL 102

Ethics, Politics, and Law

Spring Quarter 2007

Lecture Five

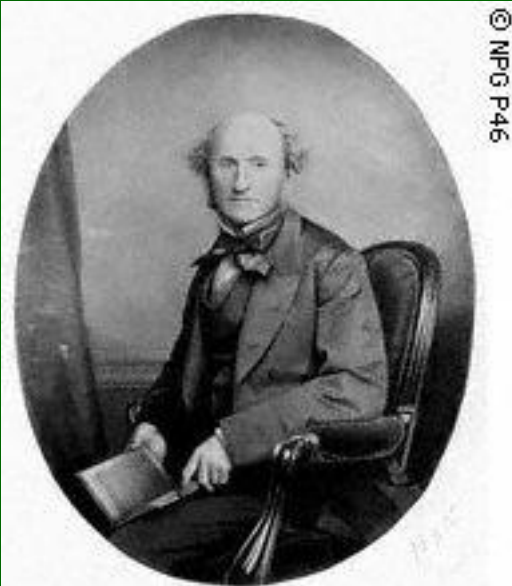
Matthew Donnelly

- ***Matthew***
- ***Harold Donnelly***
 - ***Charged with murder***
 - ***Action was clearly illegal***
 - ***But was it wrong?***
 - ***Might Harold have had a moral obligation to do this?***
- ***A strategy for defending euthanasia***

- *Revolution in ethics*
- *David Hume*
- *Jeremy Bentham*



Utilitarianism



- *John Stewart Mill*
- *Early Twentieth Century*
- *The second revolution in ethics*

Utilitarianism

- *Consequentialism*
 - *"Ends justify the means"*
 - *Maximization*
 - *Greatest good for the greatest number*
- *Priority of the good over the right*
 - *Hedonism*
 - *Mill's "greatest happiness principle"*
 - *Contemporary utilitarianism*
 - *Economics*
 - *Preference satisfaction*

Matthew Donnelly, Again

- ***Mathew's suffering***
- ***Minimizing the bad***
- ***Harold's pain and happiness***
- ***Others who are affected***
- ***Long and short term consequences***
- ***Plausible utilitarian analysis***
- ***Suppose we change this story just a bit***