

Repugnant & Other Conclusions

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Four flavors of utility



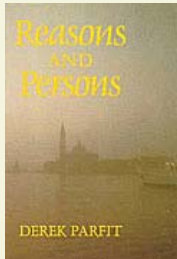
- Hedonistic
- Ideal
- Preference
- Interest (welfare)

Consequentialism: theory to beat?

- Everyone needs a value theory?
- Problems for everyone?...



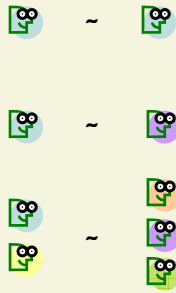
Derek Parfit: 'Reasons and Persons'



- Self-interest, common sense morality, consequentialism
- Personal identity
- Future generations

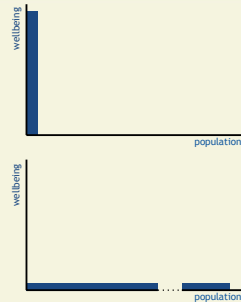
Kinds of choice

- Easy
 - Same person choices
- Tricky(?)
 - Same number choices
- Real problem
 - Different number choices



Totalism; (the repugnant conclusion)

- 10 billion very happy people
 - Good
- Gazillions of people with just about bearable lives
 - Even better



Averageism

- Future 1
 - All doing well
 - France best off
 - Very good

- Future 2
 - Only France survives
 - Not quite as well off
 - Even better

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Philosophy gives the means to speak with apparent authority on all matters, and to make oneself admired by the less learned; while law, medicine and the other sciences bring honor and riches upon their practitioners.

- Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method
