

Philosophy And World Problems

WHAT IS GOOD? WHAT IS BAD? - THE VALUE OF ALL VALUES THROUGH TIME, PLACE AND THEORIES

John McMurtry

University of Guelph, Guelph N1G 2W1, Canada

Keywords: abortion, abstraction (problem of), action (field of), addiction, aesthetic value, animal rights, anti-foundationalism, antinomies, Aristotle, art, atomic method, axiology, beauty (natural), biodiversity, Brentano, Buddhism, civil commons, civilization, class, collective agency/responsibility, collective goods, collective life unconscious, competition (types), the common life interest, concept thought, consensus (versus life standards), consumer choice theory, crucifixion, death, decision theory, deontology/duty ethics, desires, democracy, determinism, development (types), dualities, ecogenocide, ecology, egocentric predicament, either-or reduction, élan vital, emotions (evaluation of), environment, evil, ethical idealism, evolution (types), evolutionary ethics, excellence, externalist fallacy, felt side of being, fields of life, first people beliefs, fitness to survive, freedom, friendship, game theory, genes, globalization, good (criterion of), God, growth (concepts of), Habermas, happiness, heroic quest, human powers, human value identity, inclusivity principle, inner life value, integrity, internal and external goods, invisible prison, justice, Kant, life sequence of value, life-ground ethics, life support systems, linguistic idealism, Lao Tzu, Logos, love (evaluating), Marcuse, Marx, measures (life value and money value), mechanical reduction, meta-ethics, money sequence of value, MacIntyre, military institution, Moore, moral philosophy, motivation, naturalistic fallacy, needs (criterion and types), Nietzsche, objective values, Olympics, pain (good and bad), Perry, poetry, postmodernism, practices (criterion and evaluation), predatory cycle, poetry model, preference ranking, primary axiom of value, prisoner's dilemma, proceduralism, Rawls, rationality (principles of), relativism, respect for life, rules and principles, ruling value syntax, scientific method, sacrifice paradigm, second-order shift, self-maximization, self-realization, species, spiritual philosophies, sport, stories, system evil, Taoism, technology, theories (evaluation of), thought value, torture, transcendental deduction, truth (criterion of), unconscious, unifying field theory, universal life goods, utilitarianism, validity, validators, value compossibility, value neutrality, value regulators, value subject, value syntax, value-system, virtue ethics, Wang Yang-Ming, war, yoga, zen.

Contents

1. The Global Crisis of Values
2. The Transcultural Idea: Good as Happiness and Bad as Pain
3. Moral Philosophy in Question
4. Natural Good and Evil: Beyond Fitness to Survive
5. Traditions as Moral Anchor in an Age of Criterionless Relativism
6. The Primary Axiom and the Life-Value Compass
7. Good and Evil Within: Opening the Terra Incognita of the Felt Side of Being
8. The Value Field of Action: Reconciling Humanity and the Beast
9. The Lost Social Subject: Evaluating the Rules by Which We Live

10. Deep Principles of Justice Grounding In Life-Value Meaning
11. The Unseen Global War of Rights Systems and Its Principles of Resolution
12. Reclaiming Rationality and Scientific Method: The Life-Coherence Principle as Global System Imperative
13. Human Identity and the Meaning of Life

(Note: This is a comprehensive sequence of essays in which each takes the form of a chapter)

Summary

Values, what is of worth or not, and why, define the human species across differences, domains and ways of life. They construct the meaning of life. The world crisis of life support systems which humanity now faces is explained as a predictable consequence of the long failure of theory and policy to ground in values which enable human life and life conditions - even as the air, soil and water degrade, climates and oceans destabilize, a rising half of the world is destitute, public sectors and services are privatized for profit, and species become extinct at a spasm rate. This analysis step-by-step excavates the core defining principles of the major theories of value across philosophical traditions, and explains why their answers to the questions “what is good, what is bad?” fail to provide any coherently adequate ground of worth. In contrast to known values and value-systems, an underlying “value of all values” is systematically explained and reconnected to lived values and life support systems as the lost life-ground of all human values through place and time.

-
-
-

TO ACCESS ALL THE 2 PAGES OF THIS CHAPTER,
Visit: <http://www.eolss.net/Eolss-sampleAllChapter.aspx>

Biographical Sketch

John McMurtry is a Professor of Philosophy and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He earned his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Toronto, and his PhD at the University of London. His books and articles have been widely published internationally, and are concerned with unexamined and ultimately regulating principles of reality and value.