

A Gift of Fire

Third edition

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Chapter 1: Unwrapping the Gift

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What We Will Cover

- Issues and Themes
- Ethics

Issues and Themes

Issues:

- Unemployment
- Alienation and customer service
- Crime
- Loss of privacy
- Errors

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- Outsourcing/offshoring

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- Outsourcing/offshoring
- New fortunes and their political impact

Issues and Themes

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Issues and Themes

Issues:

- Unemployment

“On the one hand, 40 million workers in the industrialized world are unemployed... Yet executives and managers tasked with hiring new workers often say they are unable to find the right people with the proper skills to fill their vacancies.”

- Fortune, Sept. 19, 2014, pp 98 ...

Issues and Themes

Issues:

- Unemployment
- Alienation and customer service
- Crime
- Loss of privacy
- Errors
- Outsourcing/offshoring
- New fortunes and their political impact

Issues and Themes

Where is our society headed to?

Some trends may be understood and explained with two concepts:

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Issues and Themes

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- The adaptive
 - behavior that increases actor's chances of having offspring that will survive to their reproductive age

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Issues and Themes

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The key question is:

Who multiplies?

Issues and Themes

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Who multiples?

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example. Suicide is always a maladaptive act.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example. Being free typically is adaptive.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example. Being free typically is adaptive.
This fact explains why there is freedom.

Issues and Themes

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- The maladaptive

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This fact explains why there is freedom.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

The society can and does turn adaptive behavior onto maladaptive, and *vice versa*.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Some examples in the US.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 1: People with college education tend to have less children than people who dropped out from high school.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 1: Thus behavior of those who graduate from college tends to be (relatively) **maladaptive** as compared to those who drop out of high school.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 1: And behavior of those who drop out from high school tends to be (relatively) adaptive as compared to those who graduate from college.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 1: It appears that current governmental policies are largely responsible for that paradox.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 1: It appears that current governmental policies are largely responsible for that paradox.

They can turn adaptive onto maladaptive and *vice versa*.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 2: Social parasitism, in particular, criminal acts against property, tends to be, when not detected, adaptive.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 2: Definition of parasitism

2 (derogatory) Habitual reliance on or exploitation of others.

https://csc.csudh.edu/suchenek/CSC301/Def_parasitism.html

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 2: In particular, deception and ability to deceive others is adaptive.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

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The adaptiveness of social parasitism and deception poses a serious threat that can nullify and reverse positive social evolution.

Issues and Themes

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Some call such a reversal a progress.

Issues and Themes

The adaptiveness of social parasitism and deception poses a serious threat that can nullify and reverse positive social evolution.

Some call such a reversal a progress.

And that is deception.

Issues and Themes

The adaptiveness of social parasitism and deception poses a serious threat that can nullify and reverse positive social evolution.

“Evolution favours the flexible liar.”

Issues and Themes

“Evolution favours the flexible liar.”

https://www.acfe.com/uploadedFiles/ACFE_Website/Content/european/Course_Materials/2013/cpp/7C_IsabelPi cornell.pdf

This explains why **post-modernism** and other **self-contradictory** (and – therefore – **flexibly deceitful**) ideologies are on the rise.

Issues and Themes

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This explains why post-modernism and other **self-contradictory** (and – therefore – **flexibly deceitful**) ideologies are on the rise.

They are promoted by flexible liars.

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This is one reason why it is **imperative** that a well-functioning society **turns** **deception from adaptive onto maladaptive.**

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Which it often does.

Issues and Themes

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This is one reason why it is **imperative** that a well-functioning society **turns** **deception from adaptive onto maladaptive.**

Which it often does. **How?**

Issues and Themes

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Objective truth, rationality, fixed rules of logical reasoning, and knowledge of reality, are time-proven tools that facilitate unmasking of flexible liars.

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Objective truth, rationality, fixed rules of logical reasoning, and knowledge of reality, are time-proven tools that facilitate unmasking of flexible liars.

Sticking to the above helps turning deception into **maladaptive**.

Issues and Themes

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When we stick to:

objective truth, rationality, fixed rules of logical reasoning, and knowledge of reality, then

the flexible liars lose.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 3: Also, rape is, when not prosecuted, an adaptive act.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 4: Policies promoting equity (a.k.a. equality of outcomes) attempt to turn the above-average performance onto a neutral or maladaptive.

Issues and Themes

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- The maladaptive

Example 4: Policies promoting equity (a.k.a. equality of outcomes) attempt to turn the above-average performance onto a neutral or maladaptive.

Universal Basic Income is an example of such policy.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 4: Rewarding the less talented, the less diligent, the less creative, and the less entrepreneurial facilitates growth of those segments of the society.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 4: Rewarding the less talented, the less diligent, the less creative, and the less entrepreneurial **at the expense of over-achievers** obstructs or reverses growth of population of over-achievers.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 4: Rewarding the less talented, the less diligent, the less creative, and the less entrepreneurial **at the expense of over-achievers** is one of the reasons why pursuing college degree became **maladaptive**.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 5: On the other hand, being ethical, when noticed, has been (was?) adaptive.

Issues and Themes

- The adaptive
- The maladaptive

Example 5: On the other hand, being ethical, when noticed, has been (was?) adaptive.

This is the primary reason why the vast majority of Americans are ethical.

Issues and Themes

Remember, it is **not** enough to reward good behavior, but it is also imperative to **not** reward evil (or otherwise harmful) behavior.

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Unfortunately, the idea of Universal Basic Income has the latter effect:

UBI will reward, among others, also those who habitually engage in **evil or otherwise harmful behavior**.

Issues and Themes

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Thus UBI will likely obstruct shrinking of that segment of our society.

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Issues and Themes

Universal Basic Income will make it more difficult for the society to turn social-parasitic behavior (in particular, criminal behavior) onto maladaptive.

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Therefore, **UBI** protects social parasitism.

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

Example: A violent gang uses freedom of association (1st Amendment) and the right to keep and bear arms (2nd Amendment) to engage in gang violence (shooting, killing, intimidation).

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

1. It can take liberty A away from all the people.

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- For instance, prohibit individual gun ownership.

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- That would be a typically universalist-egalitarian solution. Most of Americans oppose it.

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

1. It can take liberty A away from all the people.
2. It can take liberty A away from the group X.

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

1. It can take liberty A away from all the people.
2. It can take liberty A away from the group X.
 - For instance, prohibit gun ownership for all members of violent gangs.

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If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

1. It can take liberty A away from all the people.
2. It can take liberty A away from the group X.
 - Universalists and egalitarians strongly objecting.

Issues and Themes

If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

1. It can take liberty A away from all the people.
2. It can take liberty A away from the group X.
3. It can make the said crime a maladaptive behavior.

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If a group X uses liberty A to commit a crime then what can society do?

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Because if we have to chose between our guns or evil people, we should keep the guns and get rid of evil people, and not the other way around.

Issues and Themes

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Making crime maladaptive is the main purpose of the law.

Issues and Themes

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Yet some ideologues insist that the purpose of criminal law is to correct and rehabilitate criminal offenders.

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Turning criminals into honest individuals is **not** the main purpose of the law.

Yet some ideologues **claim** that the purpose of criminal law is to correct and rehabilitate criminal offenders.

But the data do not validate such a claim.

Issues and Themes

Turning criminals into honest individuals
is **not** the main purpose of the law.

US Recidivism Rates Stay Sky High

<https://thecrimereport.org/2021/07/30/us-recidivism-rates-stay-sky-high/>

Seven in 10 incarcerated people released in 34 states in 2012 were rearrested within five years, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report on recidivism rates for prisoners in 34 states between 2012 and 2017.

Issues and Themes

Turning criminals into honest individuals is **not** the main purpose of the law.

Long-Term Recidivism Studies Show High Arrest Rates

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2019/may/3/long-term-recidivism-studies-show-high-arrest-rates/>

Two reports on long-term recidivism among prisoners released from state and federal prisons showed very high arrest rates. The rate for state prisoners was 83% over a nine-year study period, while it was 39.8% for nonviolent and about 64% for violent federal prisoners over an eight-year period.

Issues and Themes

Turning criminals into honest individuals is **not** the main purpose of the law.

Most violent and property crimes in the U.S. go unsolved

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/03/01/most-violent-and-property-crimes-in-the-u-s-go-unsolved/>

Only about half of the violent crimes and a third of the property crimes that occur in the United States each year are reported to police. And most of the crimes that are reported don't result in the arrest, charging and prosecution of a suspect, according to government statistics.

Issues and Themes

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Comment (MS): So, if all violent and property crimes were resolved then the published recidivism rates would be significantly higher than the current estimates.

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Therefore, the actual recidivism rates for violent and property crimes are likely closer to **90% (or more)** than to the officially published rates.

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Therefore, the actual recidivism rates for violent and property crimes are likely closer to **90% (or more)** than to the officially published rates.

So much for “corrections” and “rehabilitation”.

Issues and Themes

Issues:

- Unemployment
- Alienation and customer service
- Crime
- Loss of privacy
- Errors
- Outsourcing/offshoring
- New fortunes and their political impact

Issues and Themes

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Issues and Themes

- New fortunes and their political impact
 - unprecedented concentration of wealth

Issues and Themes

- New fortunes and their political impact
 - unprecedented concentration of wealth
 - growing gap between the will of the new wealthy and the will of the people

Issues and Themes

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 - unprecedented concentration of wealth
 - growing gap between the will of the new wealthy and the will of the people
 - emergence of transnational trends

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 - gradual submission of this nation to transnational political system

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 - gradual submission of this nation to transnational political system
 - by means of power of purse

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 - emergence of transnational trends
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 - and how about our old Constitution and the “outdated” Bill of Rights?
 - As professor Rabkin wrote:
 - “Something's got to give”.

Issues and Themes

- New fortunes and their political impact
 - emergence of transnational trends
 - some call it new world order
 - and how about our old Constitution and the “outdated” Bill of Rights?
 - As professor Rabkin wrote:
 - “Something's got to give”.

Issues and Themes

After a disappointing 2022 that included a collective loss of \$500 billion, the nation's 400 wealthiest people have regained their lost wealth. This year's list is now worth \$4.5 trillion in aggregate, tying a record set in 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/devinseanmartin/2023/10/03/the-2023-forbes-400-the-20-richest-people-in-america/?sh=3e5c5bd6571f>

Issues and Themes

1. Elon Musk

Worth: \$251 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Tesla, SpaceX

2. Jeff Bezos

Worth: \$161 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Amazon

3. Larry Ellison

Worth: \$158 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Oracle

Issues and Themes

4. Warren Buffett

Worth: \$121 Billion | Source Of Wealth:
Berkshire Hathaway

5. Larry Page

Worth: \$114 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Google

6. Bill Gates

Worth: \$111 Billion | Source Of Wealth:
Microsoft

Issues and Themes

7. Sergey Brin

Worth: \$110 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Google

8. Mark Zuckerberg

Worth: \$106 Billion | Source Of Wealth:
Facebook

9. Steve Ballmer

Worth: \$101 Billion | Source Of Wealth:
Microsoft

Issues and Themes

10. Michael Bloomberg

Worth: \$96.3 Billion | Source Of Wealth:
Bloomberg LP

11. Michael Dell

Worth: \$71.5 Billion | Source Of Wealth: Dell
Technologies

Issues and Themes (cont.)

Themes:

- Old problems in a new context: crime, pornography, violent fiction
- Adapting to new technology: thinking in a new way
- Varied sources of solutions to problems: natural part of change and life

Issues and Themes (cont.)

Themes (cont.):

Global reach of net: ease of communication with distant countries;
globalization (recall *universalism* in Lecture Notes)

- Trade-offs and controversy: increasing security means reducing convenience
- Difference between personal choices, business policies, and law

Issues and Themes (cont.)

Themes (cont.):

Global reach of net: ease of communication with distant countries;
globalization (recall *universalism* in Lecture Notes)

- Trade-offs and controversy: increasing security also means reducing liberty
- Difference between personal choices, business policies, and law

Issues and Themes (cont.)

Themes (cont.):

Global reach of net: ease of communication with distant countries; *globalization* (recall *universalism* in Lecture Notes)

- Trade-offs and controversy: increasing security also means reducing liberty
- Difference between personal choices, business policies, and law

Ethics

What is Ethics:

- Study of what it means to “do the right thing”
- Assumes people are rational and make free choices
- Rules to follow in our interactions and our actions that affect others

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Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.

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Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - You cannot be free if your government is not accountable to you.

Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - Democracy alone does not guarantee your individual freedom.

Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - Democracy alone does not guarantee your individual freedom.
 - Like in “two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch”.

Ethics

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 - Democracy alone does not guarantee your individual freedom.
 - Soviet Union was a democracy.

Ethics

Soviet Union was a democracy.

Main differences between S.U. and the U.S. were:

- One-party political system
- Mass media were propaganda outlets for the ruling (Communist) party
- Collective rights over individual rights
- Limitations on private property rights

Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - Democracy alone does not guarantee your individual freedom.
 - You also need a Constitutional Republic and people who guard it.

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"Liberty lies in the hearts of men and
women; when it dies there, no
constitution, no law, no court can even
do much to help it."

["The Spirit of Liberty", Judge Learned Hand, 1944.]

Ethics

You also need a Constitutional Republic
and people who guard it.

And the evidence strongly suggests that
not every people are willing and capable
of guarding individual freedom.

Ethics

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and people who guard it.

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中华人民共和国第十二届全国人民代表大会第三次会议







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Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

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 - You cannot be rational if you are emotional

Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - You cannot be rational if you are emotional:
 - angry, sorry, etc.

Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

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Ethics

Ethics assumes people are rational and make free choices.

- Thus your freedom and rationality is necessary for the well-functioning of our society.
 - You cannot be free and rational if you are submitted to ideology.

Ethics (cont.)

Ethical Views:

Ethics (cont.)

Ethical Views:

- Deontological (Theory of Obligation)

Ethics (cont.)

Ethical Views:

- Deontological (Theory of Obligation)
- Teleological (Consequences as a criterion of good and evil)

Ethics (cont.)

Ethical Views:

- Deontological (Theory of Obligation)
- Teleological (Consequences as a criterion of good and evil)
 - Example: Utilitarianism

Ethics (cont.)

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THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS

Edited by Michael Ruse and Robert J. Richards



Ethics (cont.)

Ethical Views:

- Deontological (Theory of Obligation)

 - Kant, deontic logic
- Utilitarianism: (Teleological - consequentialism)
 - Rule utilitarianism
 - Act utilitarianism
 - Judging the action by its net impact
 - (hence, consequentialism)

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Ethics (cont.)

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 - Kant, deontic logic
- Utilitarianism: Maximization of Utility
(collective happiness, as opposed to individual happiness)
 - Rule utilitarianism
 - Act utilitarianism
 - Judging the action by its net impact

Ethics (cont.)

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 - For instance “Rawls gives far more weight (indeed, infinite weight) to the utility of the least-advantaged people than to anyone else.” [page 34 of the textbook]

Ethics (cont.)

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 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
- Main objective: dictatorship of utility
 - Forced vaccinations belong to this category.

Ethics (cont.)

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 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - so, you cannot be truly ethical in utilitarian society. Thus utilitarianism is not ethics (although it pretends to be).

Ethics (cont.)

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 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - so, you cannot be truly ethical in utilitarian society. Utilitarianism is ideology.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - And so does not bare democracy.

Ethics (cont.)

Flashback:

- Democracy alone does not guarantee your individual freedom.
 - Like in “two wolves and a lamb voting on what’s for dinner”.

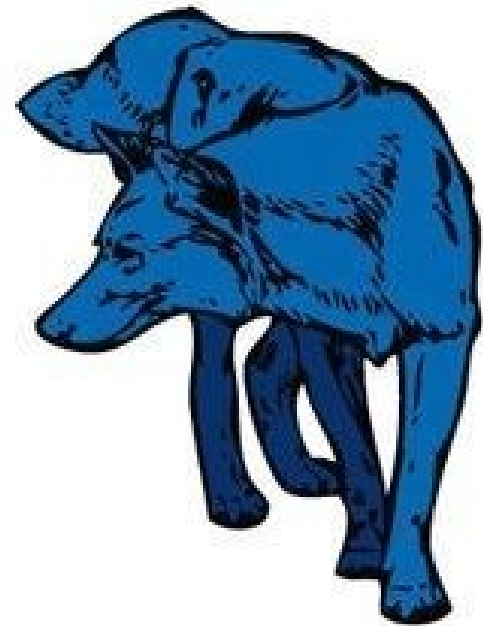
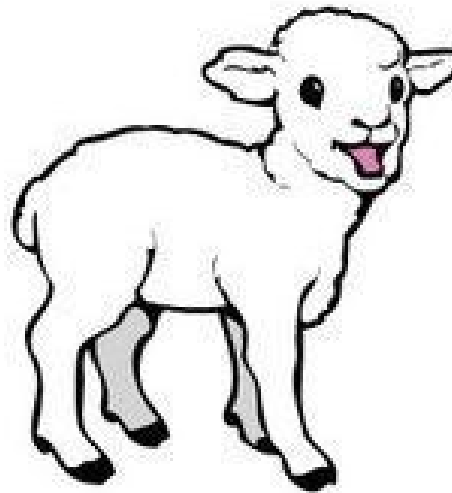
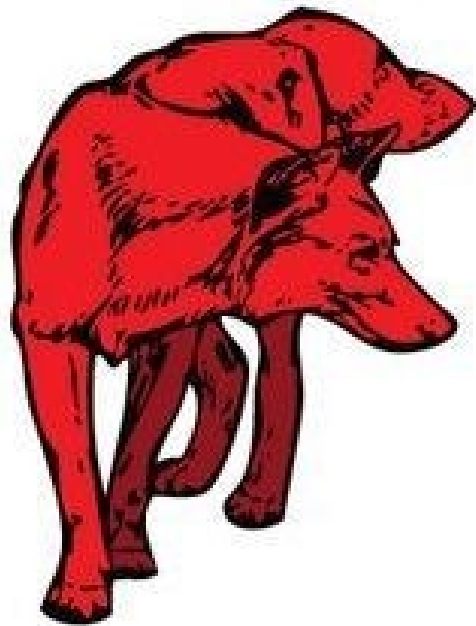
Ethics (cont.)

Here is an illustration how
“plain” (or “bare” or “pure”)
democracy does not respect
individual rights and a
deceptive vocabulary that is
used in order to justify
preemption and redistribution.

Ethics (cont.)

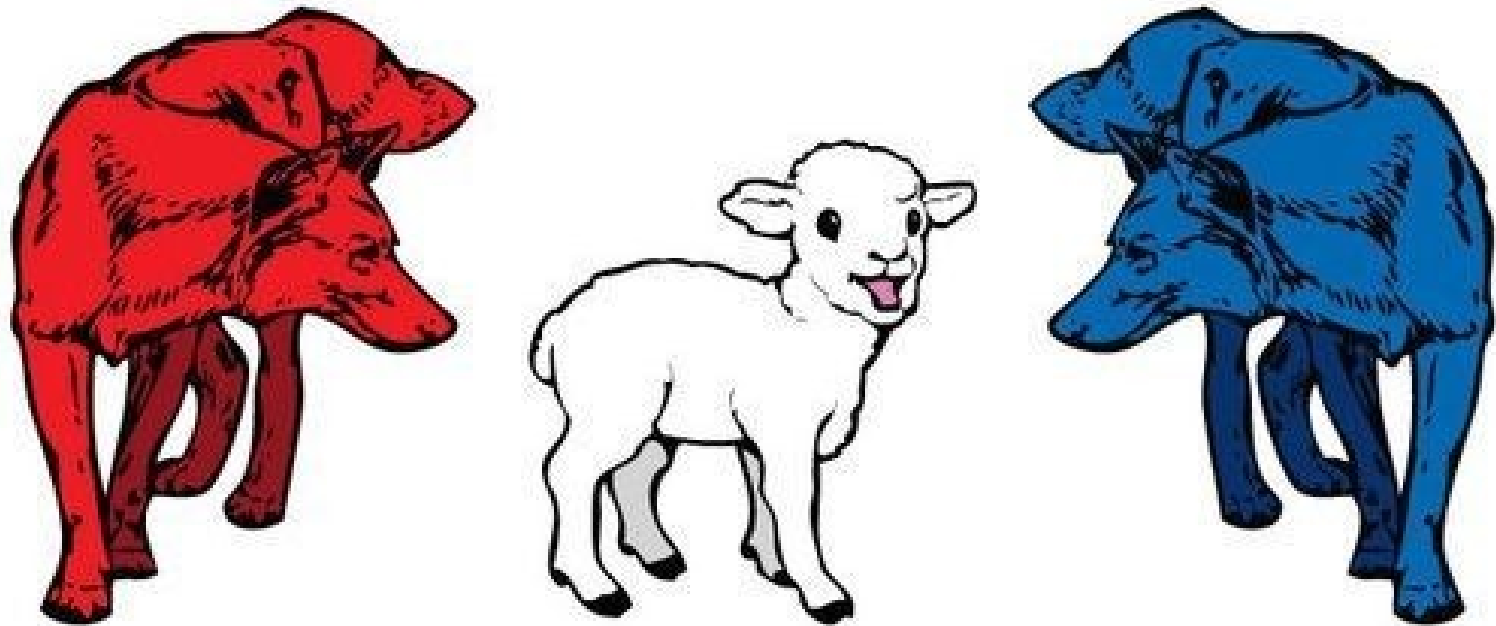
Please, note that the American democracy is NOT like that (at this time).

DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

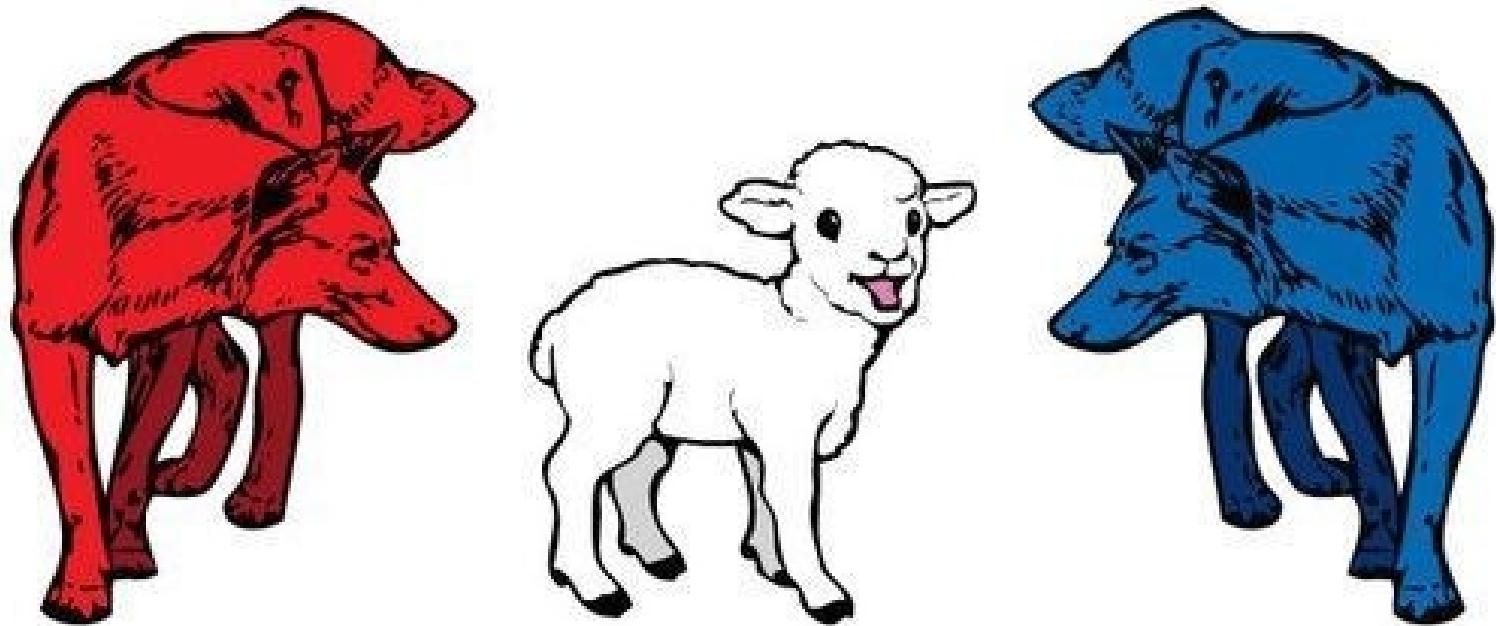
DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

A case of **red**istribution of protein

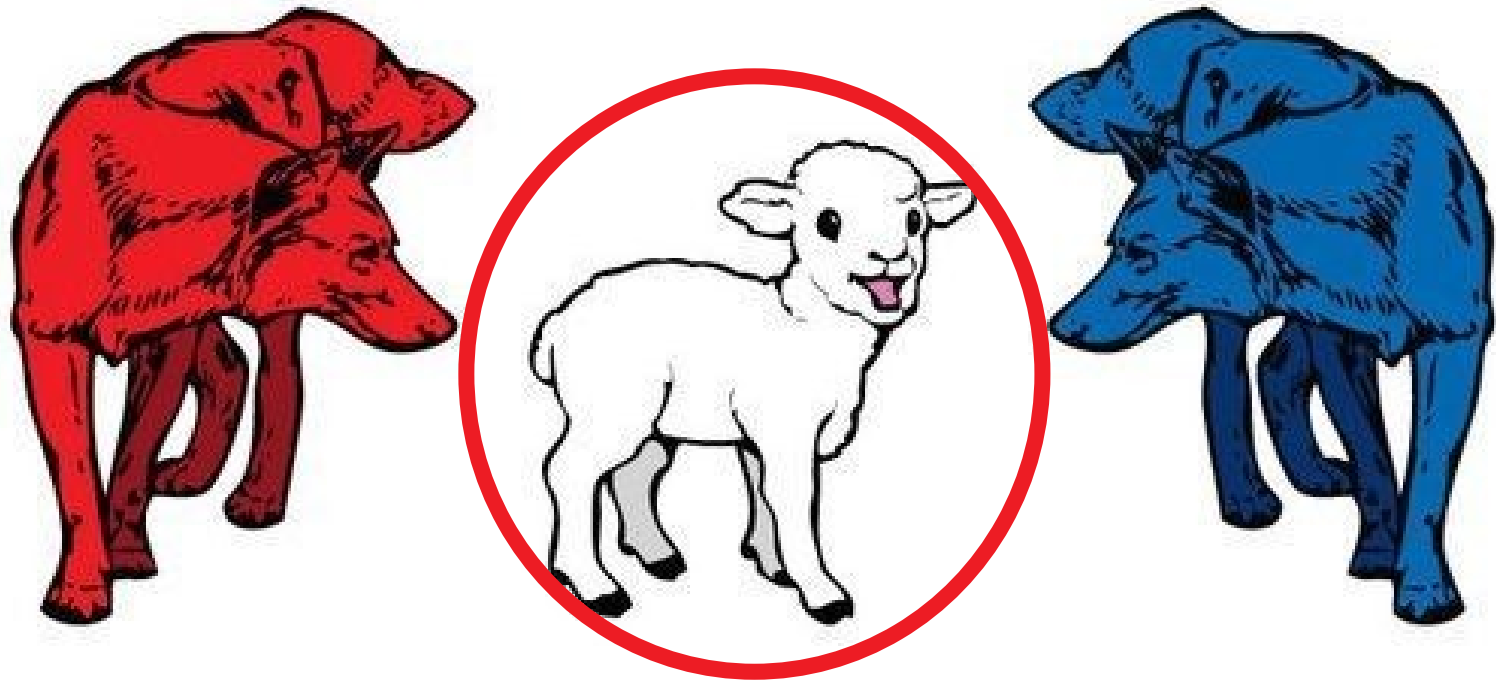
DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

“Selfish” (“greedy”) lamb refuses to give.

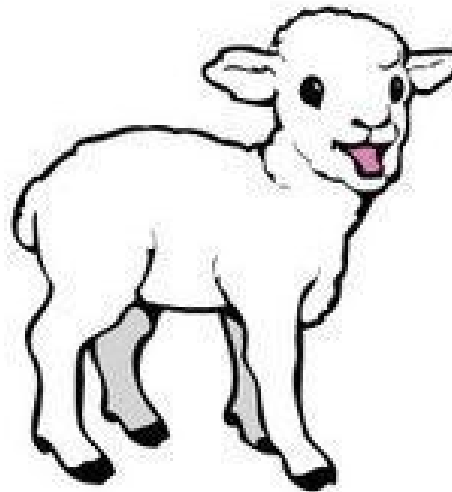
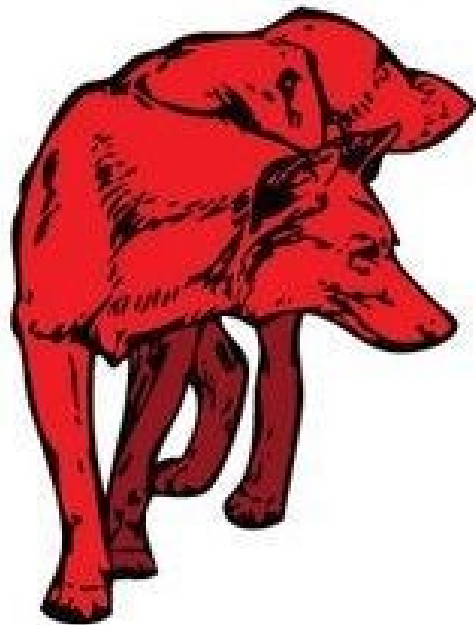
DEMOCRACY



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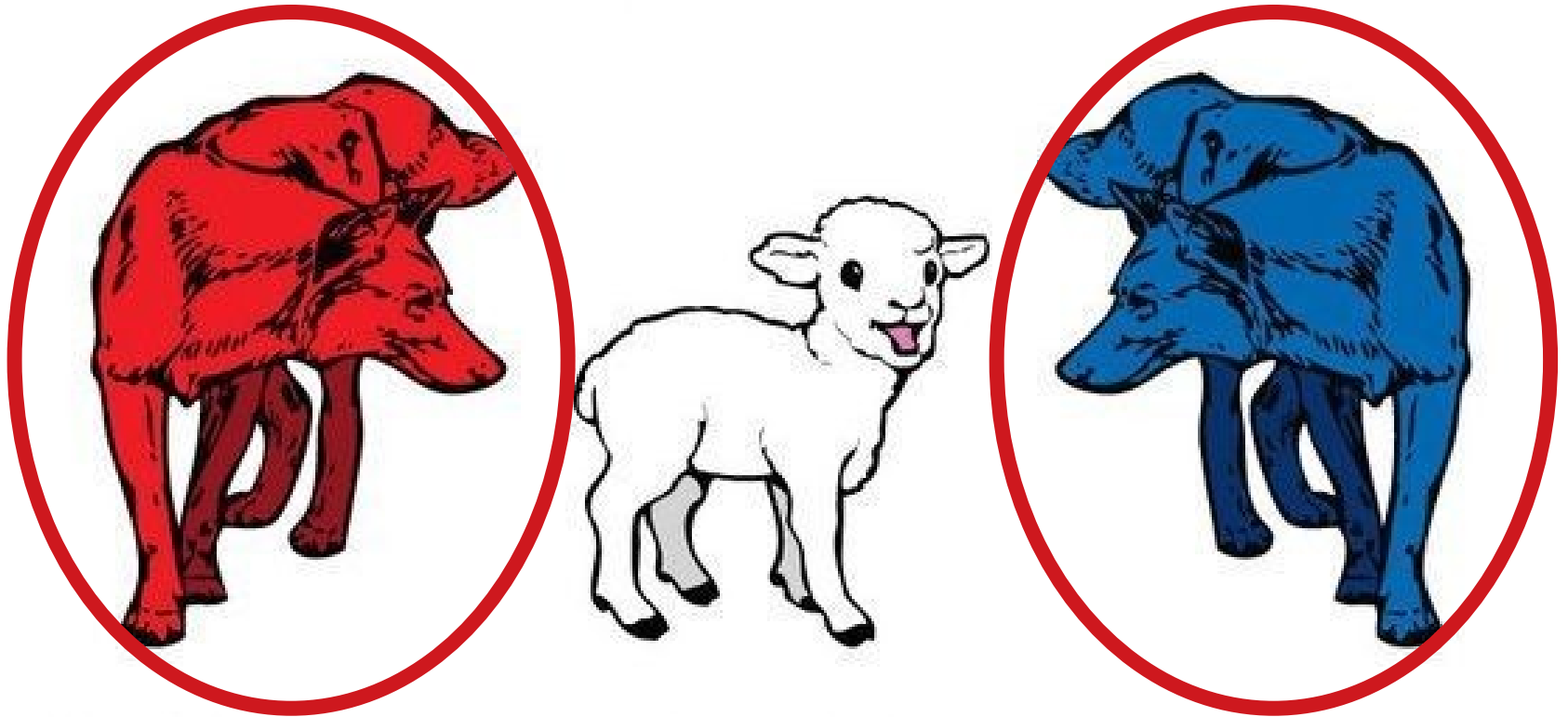
DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

How about the wolves?

DEMOCRACY



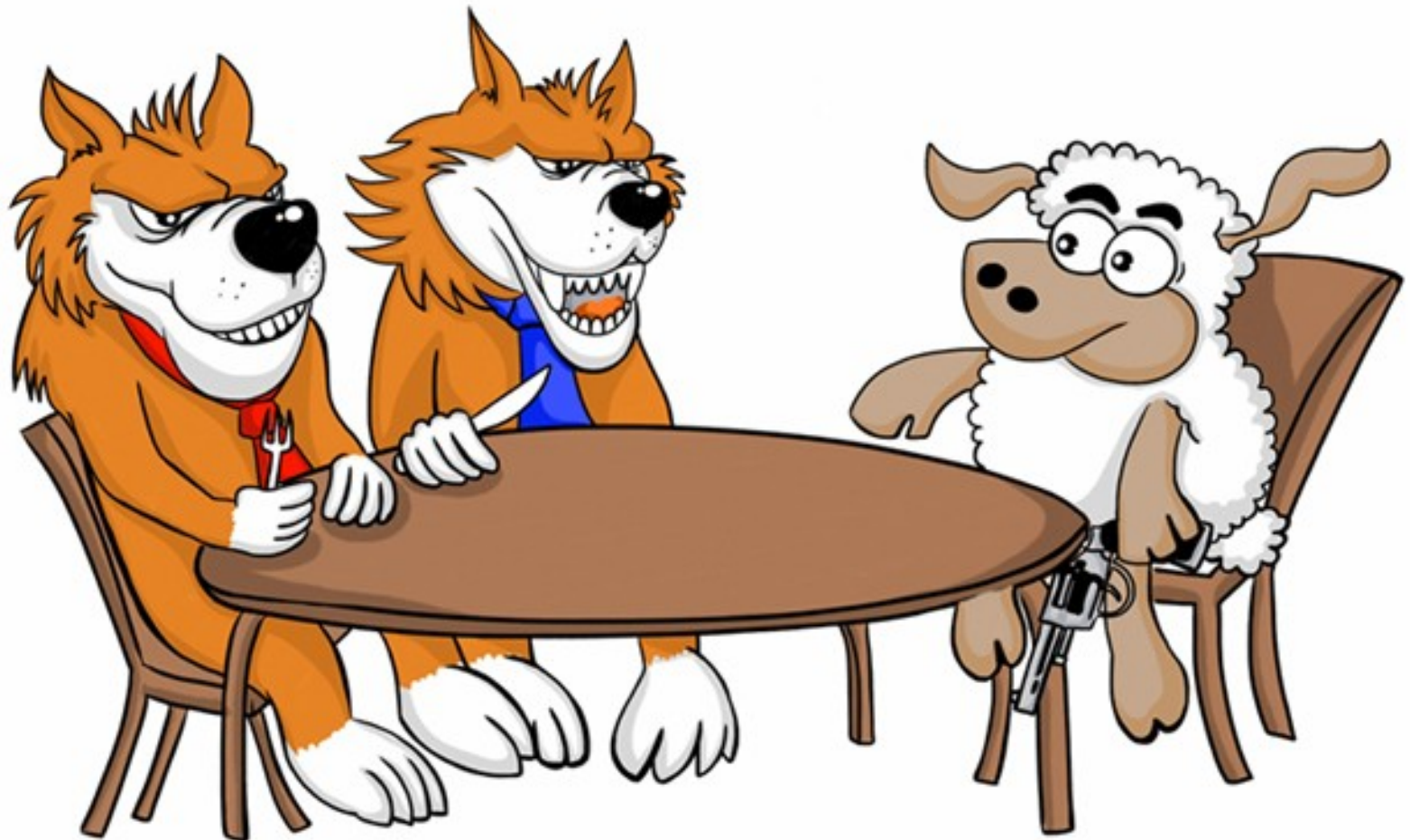
TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

Aren't **they** selfish and greedy?

Ethics (cont.)

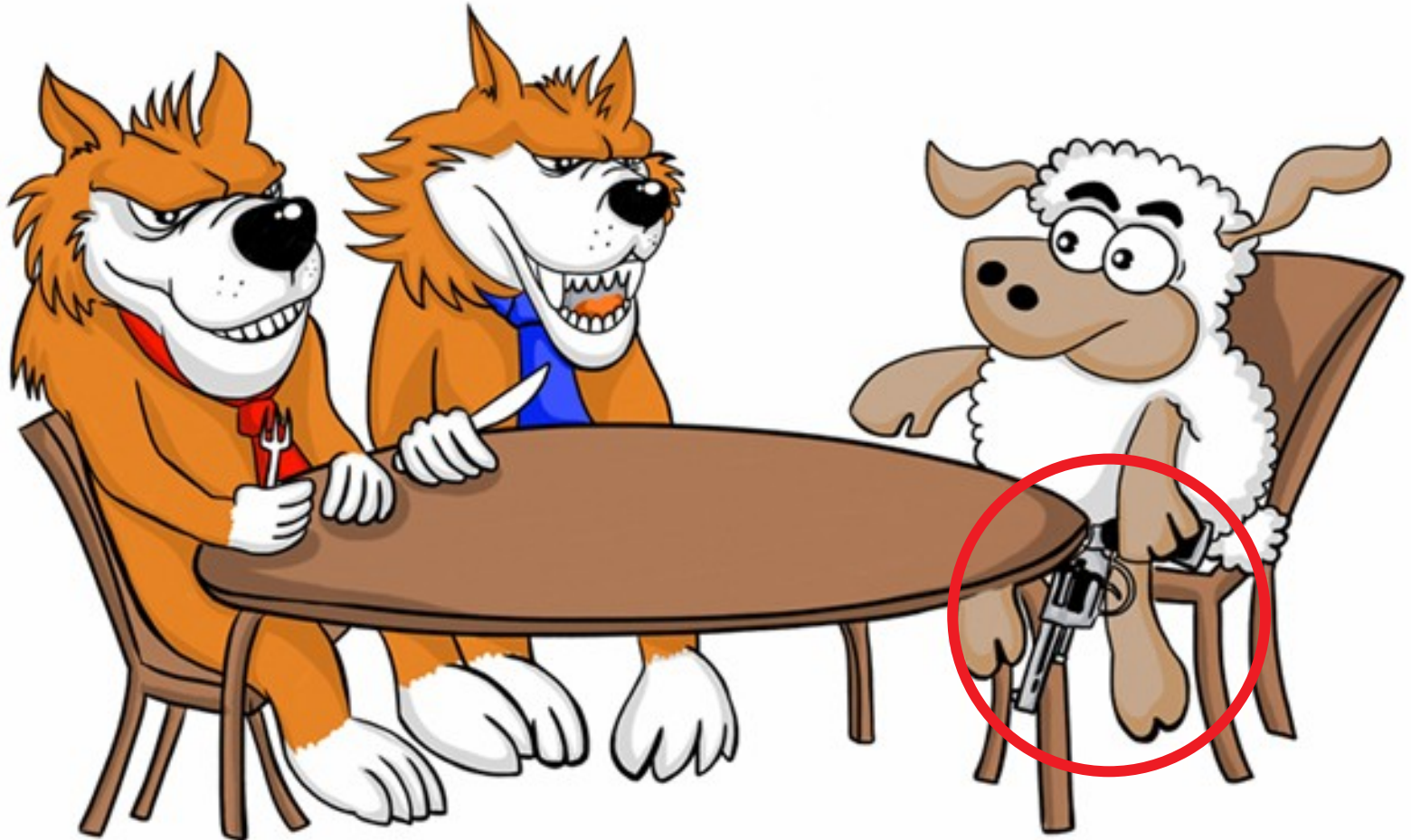
Here is an illustration how **armed citizenry** can secure respect of individual rights that may be disrespected by “plain” (or “bare” or “pure”) **democracy**.

DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER
LIBERTY IS A WELL-ARMED LAMB CONTESTING THE VOTE

DEMOCRACY



TWO WOLVES AND A SHEEP VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER

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 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
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Ethics (cont.)

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 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - And so does not bare democracy.
 - Bare democracy is utilitarianism.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - Overpopulation

Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:
turns the behavior of “delayed gratification” class into the maladaptive

Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:
turns the behavior of “delayed gratification” class into the maladaptive while keeping the behavior of “instant gratification class” into relatively adaptive

Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:

leads to a decline of cognitive elite and highly qualified workforce

Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:

leads to a decline of cognitive elite and highly qualified workforce while the number of those on the “receiving end” is growing

Ethics (cont.)

“On the one hand, 40 million workers in the industrialized world are unemployed... Yet executives and managers tasked with hiring new workers often say they are unable to find the right people with the proper skills to fill their vacancies.”

Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:

leads to a decline of cognitive elite and highly qualified workforce while the number of those on the “receiving end” is growing which, eventually, must have a devastating effect on the economy

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leads to a decline of cognitive elite and highly qualified workforce

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Ethics (cont.)

- Overpopulation:
makes us and our free society drift
away from the ideals of meritocracy

Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
 - Overpopulation
 - Socialism

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Socialism

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Socialism



Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Socialism



CAPITALISM



SOCIALISM



BRANCO

Americans for Limited
Government
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CAPITALISM



Delayed gratification

SOCIALISM



Instant gratification

Ethics (cont.)

- The right-hand part of that cartoon reminds the effects of ineptocracy
- that often accompanies socialism.

Ethics (cont.)

Ineptocracy:

“A system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.”

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.

Ethics (cont.)

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- 1. Overwhelm the existing system with social demands that exceed its economic capacity.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 2. When the existing system is overwhelmed, make repeated and sustained claims that capitalism is “broken” and “doesn't work”.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 3. Demand socialized “corrections” of the “broken” existing system.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 4. After these “corrections” take their detrimental effects on the viability of the system, amplify claims that capitalism is “broken” and “doesn't work”.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 5. (optional) Repeat steps 3 and 4 if necessary, until the system is unable to meet the social demand for the benefits offered by the “corrections”.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 6. Replace whatever was left of capitalism with socialism.

Ethics (cont.)

- Here are typical steps by advocates of socialism to persuade public to abolish existing capitalism.
- 7. When things go really bad after that, refuse to relinquish political power and keep claiming that socialism is the best system and it's the fault of bad or stupid people that it doesn't deliver.

Ethics (cont.)

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- 7. (cont'd) Or claim that it was not real socialism because it did not deliver.

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- 7. (cont'd) Or claim that it was not real socialism because it did not deliver.
- (Quite a deceitful argument. It implies that if socialism does not deliver on its false promises then it is not socialism.)

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Difficulty with predicting consequences
 - Difficulty with measuring “happiness”
 - Egalitarian or weighted?
 - Does not respect individual rights
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 - Socialism
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 - Unsustainability

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - Unsustainability

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

Because utilitarianism makes it imperative to contribute to the happiness of others, the others may have a claim against an individual who refuses to provide.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

This typically eliminates their genuine willingness to provide for themselves or succeed on their own.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

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Such elimination is one of the root causes of economic insolvency of utilitarianism.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

Utilitarianism facilitates social parasitism (makes it adaptive) and leads to creation of a large class of “free riders”.

Ethics (cont.)

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Some utilitarians insist, recently, that with a dramatic increase of productivity (e.g., due to automation and AI), **social parasitism** will become a non-issue that can be tolerated on a large scale.

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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

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A result of that disparity was emergence of socialism that has been notorious for not delivering high living standards for all and creating problems rather than solving them.

Ethics (cont.)

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The Information Revolution of late 1900s and early 2000s boosted productivity even more, but – reportedly – the poverty problem today is even more acute than it was before.

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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

Moreover, utilitarian government is destined to become oppressive, which typically accelerates the unsustainability.

Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

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And not surprisingly so as the former is a precondition for the latter.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - We are very lucky that we live in an exceptional society that combines unparalleled individual freedom with unparalleled productivity and wealth.
 - Yet there are some who want to get rid of naturally-emerged, proven, free-market capitalism with “intelligently designed” systems that never worked.

Ethics (cont.)

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- They apparently hope to become the new ruling class after such “intelligently designed” system is imposed on us.
(to the tune of \$20+ trillion a year)

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.
 - They apparently hope to become the new ruling class after such “intelligently designed” system is imposed on us.
 - Should we give up this “most awesome manufacturing machine the world had ever seen” (our country) for someone else's power grab?

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Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

Should we give up this “most awesome manufacturing machine the world had ever seen” (our country) for someone else's power grab?

Ethics (cont.)

Besides, one of the main purposes of our Republic was to assure that We the People remain free and our governments do not become despotic, dictatorial, or oppressive.

Ethics (cont.)

Our Republic has worked in this respect quite fine, until now, and with remarkable ability to self-repair.

Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

Our Republic has worked in this respect quite fine, until now, and with remarkable ability to self-repair. Why would we give it up for a simplistic system that gained notoriety for not delivering on its promises and becoming despotic, dictatorial, or oppressive?

Ethics (cont.)

Why would we give up our Republic and individual liberties that it secures for someone else's **power grab**?

Ethics (cont.)

The "ends justify means" is a corrupt scheme that is extremely vulnerable to political opportunism. So, the ideology-driven social systems imposed under auspices of "good causes" often end up being run by opportunists who, eventually, turn these systems into despotism, dictatorships, and oppression. (Examples: Hitler, Stalin.)

Ethics (cont.)

The "ends justify means" is a corrupt scheme that is extremely vulnerable to political opportunism.

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Ethics (cont.)

If the “do-gooders” can break the rules and laws for a “good cause” then they can also break them for a “bad cause” once they have enough power.

And they do. Just like Hitler, Stalin, and many others did.

Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers

Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers
 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics?

Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers
 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics? (Do they have Constitutional rights?)

Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers
 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics? (Can they vote in elections?)

Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers
 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics? (Can Google, Facebook, and other big tech giants vote in elections?)

Ethics (cont.)

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 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics? (Do they have Constitutional rights? Are they rational and do they make free choices?)

Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

- No simple answers
 - Do organizations (businesses) have ethics? (Do they have Constitutional rights? Are they rational and do they make free choices?)
 - Is lying always unethical (like Kant says)? (Can telling the truth undermine the “group survival” strategy?)
- Natural rights

Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights

Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights to
 - life

Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights to
 - life
 - liberty

Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights to
 - life
 - liberty
 - property

Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights to
 - life
 - liberty
 - property
- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.

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Ethics (cont.)

- Natural rights to
 - life
 - liberty
 - property
- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
 - Recall the evolutionary ethics.

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
- We each have an exclusive right to

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
- We each have an exclusive right to
 - ourselves

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
- We each have an exclusive right to
 - ourselves
 - our labor

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
- We each have an exclusive right to
 - ourselves
 - our labor
 - and what we produce with our labor.

Ethics (cont.)

- Can be derived from the nature of humanity.
- We each have an exclusive right to
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 - saw protection of private property as a moral rule
 - without it, there would be no incentive for work and invention
 - and no increase of overall wealth.

Ethics (cont.)

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Ethics (cont.)

and that mankind would be impelled to remain on a bare subsistence level of hand to mouth survival from fear that the accumulation of anything of value would invite attack.

<https://americanpolicy.org/2018/07/30/why-property-rights-matter-prosperity-stability-freedom/>.

Ethics (cont.)

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Remember Venezuela?

Ethics (cont.)

“Marauding bands” will make
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about as old as human civilization.

Remember Mongol invasion of Europe
in years 1239 – 1242?

Ethics (cont.)

“Marauding bands” will make delayed gratification strategy definitely maladaptive.

The more we move to the Left, away from Locke's natural rights, the more maladaptive a pursuit of college education will become.

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Ethics (cont.)

- Flashback:

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

[Utilitarianism] typically eliminates people's genuine willingness to provide for themselves or succeed on their own.

Ethics (cont.)

- Problems with Utilitarianism.

- Unsustainability

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people's genuine willingness to provide
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And so does Universal Basic Income.

Ethics (cont.)

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 - saw protection of private property as a moral rule
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Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and property implies ethical rules **against**

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to **life**, liberty, and property implies ethical rules **against**

- **killing**

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and property implies ethical rules against

- killing
- coercion

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and property implies ethical rules against

- killing
- coercion
- deception

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and **property** implies ethical rules **against**

- killing
- coercion
- deception
- **stealing**

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and **property** implies ethical rules **against**

- killing
- coercion
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- **confiscation**

Ethics (cont.)

Respect for the rights to life, liberty, and **property** implies ethical rules **against**

- killing
- coercion
- deception
- **stealing**
- **confiscation**
- **pre-emption**

Ethics (cont.)

Thus communism, socialism, collectivism, and other forms of utilitarianism are unethical as they go against human nature.

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(according to John Locke)

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions:

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions:

- Right, wrong and okay

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Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions:

- Right, wrong and okay
- Negative rights (liberties)
 - The right to act without interference
- Positive rights (claim-rights)
 - An obligation of some people to provide certain things for the claimant

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
“I didn't harm anyone” is never a valid excuse to break a rule of ethics.

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
 - “I didn't harm anyone” is **never** a valid excuse to break a rule of ethics.

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
“I didn't harm anyone” is **never** a valid excuse to do wrong.

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
- Personal preference and ethics

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
- Personal preference and ethics
- Law and Ethics

Ethics (cont.)

Important Distinctions (cont.):

- Difference between wrong and harm
- Personal preference and ethics
- Law and Ethics
(will never coincide)

Ethics

Discussion Question

- Can you think of examples of liberties (negative rights) and claim-rights (positive rights) that are at opposition to each other?



Ethics

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- Individual rights vs. collective rights

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<http://freedomkeys.com/collectivism.htm>

Ethics (cont.)

Continued in the Lecture Notes ...