

Arguments from Beneficence

I. SOME DISTINCTIONS.

- A. PERSONS *vs* ACTIONS OR OMISSIONS.
- B. DUTY *vs* SUPEREROGATION.
- C. WHAT YOUR DUTY IS *vs* WHETHER IT IS MORALLY PERMISSIBLE TO COMPEL YOU TO DO IT.

II. THREE KINDS OF ARGUMENT FOR DUTIES TO THE GLOBAL POOR.

- A. ARGUMENTS FROM BENEFICENCE.
- B. ARGUMENTS FROM DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.
- C. ARGUMENTS FROM HARM.

III. PETER SINGER'S ARGUMENT FROM BENEFICENCE.

- A. IF YOU CAN PREVENT SOMETHING BAD FROM HAPPENING, WITHOUT SACRIFICING ANYTHING NEARLY AS IMPORTANT, IT IS WRONG NOT TO DO SO.

THE DROWNING CHILD CASE ILLUSTRATES THIS PRINCIPLE.

- B. SUFFERING AND DEATH FROM LACK OF FOOD, SHELTER AND MEDICAL CARE ARE BAD.

- C. YOU CAN PREVENT SUCH SUFFERING AND DEATH, WITHOUT SACRIFICING ANYTHING NEARLY AS IMPORTANT, BY DONATING

- 1. TO THE MOST EFFICIENT AID AGENCIES YOU CAN DONATE TO
- 2. THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU CAN DONATE
- 3. WITHOUT FALLING BELOW THE LEVEL OF MARGINAL UTILITY.

THIS IS THE LEVEL AT WHICH, IF YOU DONATED MORE, YOU WOULD CAUSE AS MUCH SUFFERING TO YOURSELF OR YOUR DEPENDENTS AS YOU WOULD PREVENT BY DONATING MORE.

- D. THEREFORE, IT IS WRONG FOR YOU NOT TO DONATE THIS AMOUNT TO THE MOST EFFICIENT AID AGENCIES YOU CAN DONATE TO.

IV. OBJECTIONS TO SINGER'S ARGUMENT.

- A. THE CONCLUSION DOES NOT FOLLOW.
- B. OBJECTIONS TO PREMISE (A).
 - 1. METHODOLOGICAL OBJECTION. (Garrett Cullity)
 - 2. COUNTEREXAMPLE OBJECTION. (Colin McGinn)
 - 3. PARTICULAR-PERSONS OBJECTION. (Michael McKinsey)
 - 4. OVER-DEMANDINGNESS OBJECTION. (various)

Bibliography

Arguments from Beneficence for Highly Demanding Duties

- Singer, Peter. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (1972): 229-243. <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265052>>
- . "Sidgwick and Reflective Equilibrium." *The Monist* 58 (1974): 490-517. <http://www.pdcnet.org:80/collection/show?id=monist_1974_0058_0003_0490_0517&file_type=pdf>
- . "Rich and Poor." In *Practical Ethics*, by Peter Singer, 218-246. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- . Responses to McGinn and Kamm in "A Response." In *Singer and His Critics*, edited by Dale Jamieson, 269-335. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- . *The Life You Can Save: How To Play Your Part in Ending World Poverty*. London: Picador, 2009.
- Unger, Peter. *Living High and Letting Die: Our Illusion of Innocence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. <<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/philosophy/9780195108590/toc.html>>

Objections to Singer's Premise (A)

- Cullity, Garrett. *The Moral Demands of Affluence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. Chapters 1.3 and 2. <<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/philosophy/9780199258116/toc.html>>
- McGinn, Colin. "Our Duties to Animals and the Poor." In *Singer and His Critics*, edited by Dale Jamieson, 150-161. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- McKinsey, Michael. "Obligations to the Starving." *Nous* 15 (1981): 309-323. <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2215435>>
- Kamm, Frances. "Peter Singer's Ethical Theory." In *Intricate Ethics: Rights, Responsibilities, and Permissible Harms*, by Frances Kamm, 401-421. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.