

MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA

Pluralism and Disagreement

Liberty, Liberalism, and Perfectionism

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What is Liberty?



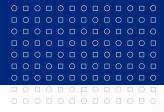


What is Liberty?



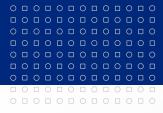
Liberty

- Introduction
- Negative Liberty
- Positive Liberty
- Freedom as Civic Standing



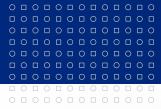
Liberty: Introduction

- Liberty Tradition
- Fundamental Liberal Principle: Freedom is Normatively Basic
- Metaphysical Conception: Freedom of Will
- Determinism and Responsibility
- Political Conception: Slavery as Paradigmatic
 Case of Unfreedom



Negative Liberty

- Paradigmatic Case of Its Lack: Prisoner
- Absence of Constraints Imposed by Others
- Advantages/Disadvantages
- Two Interpretations:
- Non-obstruction (Ability to Act as One Chooses)
- Opportunity (A Range of Opportunities for Action)



Positive Liberty

- Paradigmatic Case of Its Lack: Addict
- Self-Control, Self-Directedness, Self-Mastery
- Two Selves Metaphor
- Liberty and Submission



Freedom as Civic Standing

- Paradigmatic Case of Its Lack: Slave, Traditional Wife
- Lack of Social Status
- Two Interpretations:
- Communitarian
- Neo-Roman
- Middle Way Strategy/Objections: Old News, Who Cares?





What is Liberty?





What is Liberty?





Contemporary Liberalism

- Liberal Moral Neutrality
- Liberal Political Neutrality
- Political Implications of Liberalism





Liberal Moral Neutrality

- What are Free and Equal Moral Persons?
- makes, and can act upon moral demands...
- freedom from moral authority
- moral claims validated by their addressees
- What is **Morality**? Giving other reasons to comply when addressing moral claims to them...
- The **Idea of Public Justification**: a moral principle validated from the perspective of each moral person.



Liberal Political Neutrality

- The Non-coercion Principle:
- Unjustified Coercion is Wrong.
- **Consensus Justification** (same evaluative standards)
- Convergence Justification (different evaluative standards but everyone has grounds to endorse the same moral principle)
- The Challenge of Political Realism
- The Coercive Nature of the State:





Political Implications of LPN

 Disagreements not about Values, but about the Relative Importance of our Evaluative Standards

Often, No Public Justification Can be Advanced...

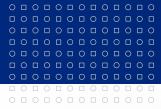
 Liberal Political Neutrality Drastically Limits the Scope of Government...



Contemporary Perfectionism

- What is Perfectionism?
- Justificatory Liberalism v. Perfectionism
- Justification according to Perfectionism





Perfectionism

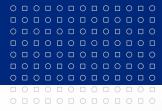
- Objective Good Component (v. Subjectivism):
- Human Nature Perfectionism
- Objective List Perfectionism
- The Rejection of State Neutrality





...and Justificatory Liberalism

- JL overstates the values served by public justification (i.e. stability and reciprocity) v.
 more comprehensive account of political morality
- JL grounds the condition of PJ on an implausible account of **moral reasons**; internalism v. externalism (deficiencies can prevent people from recognizing the reasons that apply to them)



... and Justification

- relational justification (must proceed from what all parties hold in common)
- justification simpliciter (one must present valid reasons overriding competing reasons)
- holistic nature of justification (against the bracketing strategy)



Further Reading

- Berlin, Two Concepts of Liberty
- Gaus, Justificatory Liberalism
- Gaus, The Order of Public Reason
- George, Making Men Moral
- Larmore, The Autonomy of Morality
- Pettit, Republicanism
- Quong, Liberalism Without Perfection
- Rawls, Political Liberalism
- Raz, The Morality of Freedom
- Wall, Liberalism, Perfectionism, and the Restraint
- Wolterstorff, Understanding Liberal Democracy