

justice what's the right thing to do

justice what's the right thing to do: Exploring the Foundations and Significance of Justice in Society

Justice is a fundamental concept that has shaped societies, laws, and moral philosophies for centuries. Understanding what constitutes justice and how to pursue it is essential for fostering fairness, equality, and social harmony. In this article, we delve into the meaning of justice, its philosophical underpinnings, types, challenges, and the importance of striving for the right thing to do in our communities.

Defining Justice: The Essence of Fairness

Justice can be broadly defined as the moral principle that guides fair and equitable treatment of individuals and groups. It involves ensuring that people receive what they deserve, whether rewards, penalties, rights, or opportunities. At its core, justice seeks to maintain social order and protect individuals from injustice and harm.

Philosophical Perspectives on Justice

Different philosophical traditions have offered diverse interpretations of justice:

- **Platonism:** Justice as harmony within the soul and society, emphasizing the importance of each class or individual performing their designated role.
- **Aristotelian Justice:** Justice as virtue and fairness, advocating for proportionality and the idea of treating equals equally and unequals unequally based on merit.

- **Utilitarianism:** Justice as maximizing overall happiness and minimizing suffering for the greatest number.
- **Rawlsian Justice:** Justice as fairness, emphasizing equal basic rights and the "difference principle" that benefits the least advantaged.

Each perspective offers valuable insights into the nature of justice, influencing legal systems, ethical standards, and social policies worldwide.

The Types of Justice

Understanding justice involves recognizing its various forms, each serving different societal needs:

Distributive Justice

Focuses on the fair allocation of resources, opportunities, and benefits among members of society.

Questions of distributive justice include: How should wealth be distributed? What constitutes a fair share?

Procedural Justice

Concerns the fairness of processes and procedures used to make decisions. It emphasizes transparency, impartiality, and consistency in legal and administrative procedures.

Retributive Justice

Deals with the appropriate punishment for wrongdoing. It aims to ensure that those who commit offenses are held accountable and punished proportionally.

Restorative Justice

Focuses on repairing harm caused by criminal behavior through reconciliation, restitution, and dialogue among victims, offenders, and the community.

Challenges in Achieving Justice

Despite its importance, justice remains an ideal that is often difficult to realize fully. Several challenges hinder the pursuit of justice:

Bias and Discrimination

Prejudice based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other factors can distort justice, leading to unequal treatment and systemic inequality.

Corruption and Abuse of Power

Corrupt practices and misuse of authority undermine trust in legal systems and impede fair justice.

Economic Inequality

Disparities in wealth can influence access to justice, with marginalized groups often facing barriers to legal representation and fair treatment.

Cultural and Social Differences

Variations in cultural norms and values can lead to differing perceptions of what is just, creating conflicts in multicultural societies.

The Role of Law and Ethics in Justice

Law and ethics are fundamental tools for establishing and maintaining justice:

Legal Systems

Legal frameworks set the formal rules and procedures to ensure justice. Effective laws are clear, fair, and applied consistently.

Ethical Principles

Beyond laws, ethical standards guide individuals and institutions in acting morally, especially in situations where legal guidelines may be ambiguous or insufficient.

Justice in Practice: Examples and Applications

Justice manifests in various domains, from criminal justice to social policies:

- **Criminal Justice:** Ensuring fair trials, proportional punishments, and protection of rights.
- **Social Justice:** Addressing disparities related to race, gender, and economic status through policy reforms.
- **Environmental Justice:** Fair treatment of communities affected by environmental hazards.
- **Global Justice:** Promoting equitable relations between nations, including aid and fair trade practices.

Implementing justice in these areas often involves balancing competing interests, ethical considerations, and societal values.

Why Striving for Justice Matters

Promoting justice is vital for several reasons:

1. **Maintains Social Order:** Justice provides predictability and stability, preventing chaos and conflict.
2. **Protects Rights and Liberties:** Ensures individuals are treated with dignity and fairness.
3. **Fosters Trust:** Fair systems build confidence in institutions and authorities.

4. **Encourages Moral Development:** Upholding justice promotes ethical behavior and societal progress.

5. **Reduces Inequality:** Fair distribution and opportunities help bridge social divides.

Ultimately, justice reflects the moral fabric of society and our collective commitment to doing what is right.

How to Promote Justice in Our Communities

Everyone has a role to play in fostering justice:

Be Informed and Engage

Stay informed about social issues and participate in community discussions and decision-making processes.

Advocate for Fair Policies

Support policies that promote equality, protect rights, and address systemic injustices.

Stand Against Discrimination

Challenge prejudiced behaviors and promote inclusivity in daily interactions.

Support Victims of Injustice

Offer assistance and amplify their voices to seek accountability and redress.

Practice Ethical Conduct

Make personal choices that reflect fairness, integrity, and respect for others.

Conclusion: Striving for the Right Thing to Do

Justice is more than a legal concept; it embodies our collective moral duty to treat each other fairly and equitably. While achieving perfect justice may be challenging, continuous effort, ethical awareness, and societal commitment are essential for creating a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. By understanding the different facets of justice and actively working towards fairness in our personal lives and communities, we contribute to a more just and compassionate society. Remember, justice what's the right thing to do is a timeless pursuit—one that defines our humanity and shapes the future of our shared world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the fundamental principle behind justice in society?

The fundamental principle behind justice is fairness—ensuring that individuals are treated equally and that rights and responsibilities are balanced appropriately.

How can we determine what the 'right thing to do' is in complex justice issues?

Deciding the 'right thing to do' involves ethical reasoning, considering principles like fairness, harm, rights, and the greater good, often guided by laws, moral values, and societal norms.

What role does empathy play in achieving justice?

Empathy helps individuals understand others' perspectives and experiences, fostering compassion and fairness, which are essential for just decision-making and resolving conflicts.

How can restorative justice contribute to a more equitable society?

Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm through dialogue and reconciliation, promoting accountability and healing, which can lead to more equitable and inclusive communities.

What are some challenges in ensuring justice for marginalized groups?

Challenges include systemic biases, unequal access to resources, lack of representation, and societal prejudices, which can hinder fair treatment and equal opportunities for marginalized groups.

How does the concept of justice evolve in different cultural contexts?

Justice varies across cultures based on differing moral values, traditions, and social structures, leading to diverse interpretations of what is considered the right or fair course of action.

What can individuals do to promote justice in their communities?

Individuals can promote justice by advocating for fairness, challenging injustice, supporting marginalized groups, and engaging in civic activities that foster equality and accountability.

Additional Resources

Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?

In the realm of human society, few concepts carry as much weight and complexity as justice. It is both a guiding principle and a moral ideal that shapes laws, influences social norms, and determines the fate of individuals and communities. But what exactly is justice? Is it a fixed, universal standard, or does it vary across cultures and contexts? More importantly, how do we navigate the moral dilemmas that challenge our understanding of what the right thing to do truly is? This investigative exploration seeks to unpack the multifaceted nature of justice, examining its philosophical foundations, practical applications, and the ongoing debates that question its very essence.

Understanding Justice: Definitions and Philosophical Foundations

Justice has been a central concern of philosophy for millennia, with thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, and many others offering diverse perspectives. At its core, justice relates to fairness, equity, and moral righteousness, but its interpretation often depends on the cultural, social, and legal frameworks within which it is considered.

Classical Perspectives on Justice

- Plato's Justice: In *The Republic*, Plato conceptualizes justice as harmony within the state and the soul. Justice exists when each individual performs the role suited to their nature, and no one oversteps their bounds. It emphasizes a structured, hierarchical order, where the virtue of wisdom, courage, and moderation guide societal harmony.
- Aristotle's Justice: Aristotle distinguishes between two types—distributive and corrective justice.

Distributive justice concerns the fair allocation of resources based on merit or need, while corrective justice seeks to restore balance after wrongful acts. Aristotle's approach emphasizes virtue ethics and the importance of moderation.

Modern and Contemporary Theories

- Deontological Justice (Kantian): Immanuel Kant argued that justice is rooted in duty and moral law. Actions are just if they adhere to universal maxims and respect the autonomy and dignity of individuals, emphasizing principles over consequences.
- Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill proposed that justice involves maximizing happiness and minimizing suffering. An action is just if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Rawlsian Justice: John Rawls introduced a fairness-based approach through his Theory of Justice, emphasizing principles like the "veil of ignorance" and equal basic rights to establish just social arrangements.

Applying Justice in Practice: Challenges and Dilemmas

While these theories provide frameworks, real-world application often reveals conflicts and ambiguities. Justice in practice involves navigating complex scenarios where moral principles may clash or where societal interests compete.

Legal Justice vs. Social Justice

Legal justice pertains to the fair application of laws and procedures, ensuring that individuals receive

due process. Social justice, however, extends beyond legality, aiming to rectify systemic inequalities related to race, gender, class, and other social factors.

- Case Study: Consider a wrongful conviction. Legal justice demands adherence to procedures and evidence, but social justice urges addressing systemic biases that contributed to the injustice.

Common Ethical Dilemmas

- The Trolley Problem: An illustrative thought experiment questioning whether it is justifiable to sacrifice one to save many, challenging utilitarian and deontological principles.

- Whistleblowing: Is it just to expose misconduct at the risk of personal and professional repercussions? Does loyalty to the employer override moral obligation to truth?

- Resource Allocation: During crises like pandemics, decisions about who receives limited medical supplies raise questions of fairness and prioritization.

The Right Thing to Do: Navigating Moral Complexity

Determining what is right involves more than applying rules; it requires moral reasoning, empathy, and context-awareness.

Factors Influencing Moral Decisions

- Cultural Norms: Different societies have varying concepts of justice, influenced by tradition, religion, and history.

- **Personal Values:** Individual beliefs and experiences shape perceptions of what is just.
- **Legal Frameworks:** Laws provide structure but may not always align with moral intuitions or social fairness.

Strategies for Ethical Decision-Making

1. **Identify the Stakeholders:** Who is affected, and how?
2. **Gather Relevant Facts:** Understand the context thoroughly.
3. **Consider Ethical Principles:** Truth, fairness, autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence.
4. **Evaluate Possible Actions:** Using tools like ethical frameworks and moral intuition.
5. **Reflect and Decide:** Weigh the consequences and moral duties.

Case Studies: Justice in Action

Restorative Justice in Criminal Rehabilitation

Restorative justice emphasizes repairing harm through reconciliation between victims and offenders. Programs include mediated dialogues, community service, and restitution, aiming to restore social harmony rather than solely punishing.

- **Impact:** Studies suggest restorative approaches can reduce recidivism and foster empathy, aligning with a more compassionate form of justice.

Economic Justice and Fair Wages

Debates surrounding minimum wage laws, income inequality, and workers' rights reflect ongoing struggles over distributive justice.

- Controversies: Opponents argue that high wages may harm competitiveness, while advocates emphasize dignity, fairness, and social stability.

The Future of Justice: Challenges and Opportunities

As societies evolve, so do the challenges to achieving justice.

Globalization and Justice

Global interconnectedness raises questions about transnational justice, including:

- Fair trade practices
- Climate justice
- Human rights across borders

Technology and Justice

Technological advances pose dilemmas like:

- Privacy rights in the age of data collection
- Algorithmic bias
- Access to digital resources

Moving Toward a More Just Society

Efforts include:

- Promoting inclusive policies
- Addressing systemic inequalities
- Engaging communities in dialogue
- Developing international legal standards

Conclusion: Striving for Moral Clarity in a Complex World

Justice, at its essence, is about striving to do what is right, fair, and morally sound within a complex web of individual and societal interests. It demands ongoing reflection, dialogue, and moral courage. While perfect justice may be elusive, the pursuit itself—grounded in empathy, integrity, and fairness—remains vital for human coexistence. As societies face new challenges, reaffirming our commitment to justice requires not only understanding diverse perspectives but also actively engaging in the difficult work of moral discernment. Ultimately, justice is not merely a philosophical ideal but a practical imperative—what's the right thing to do, today and every day.

[Justice What S The Right Thing To Do](#)

justice what s the right thing to do: *Justice* Michael J. Sandel, 2009-09-15 A renowned Harvard professor's brilliant, sweeping, inspiring account of the role of justice in our society--and of the moral dilemmas we face as citizens What are our obligations to others as people in a free society? Should government tax the rich to help the poor? Is the free market fair? Is it sometimes wrong to tell the truth? Is killing sometimes morally required? Is it possible, or desirable, to legislate morality? Do individual rights and the common good conflict? Michael J. Sandel's Justice course is one of the most popular and influential at Harvard. Up to a thousand students pack the campus theater to hear Sandel relate the big questions of political philosophy to the most vexing issues of the day, and this fall, public television will air a series based on the course. Justice offers readers the same exhilarating journey that captivates Harvard students. This book is a searching, lyrical exploration of the meaning of justice, one that invites readers of all political persuasions to consider familiar controversies in fresh and illuminating ways. Affirmative action, same-sex marriage,

physician-assisted suicide, abortion, national service, patriotism and dissent, the moral limits of markets—Sandel dramatizes the challenge of thinking through these conflicts, and shows how a surer grasp of philosophy can help us make sense of politics, morality, and our own convictions as well. Justice is lively, thought-provoking, and wise—an essential new addition to the small shelf of books that speak convincingly to the hard questions of our civic life.

justice what s the right thing to do: Pursuing Justice Ralph A. Weisheit, Frank Morn, 2025-09-15 Pursuing Justice, Fourth Edition, examines the issue of justice by considering the origins of the idea, formal systems of justice, current global issues of justice, and ways in which justice might be achieved by individuals, organizations, and the global community. Part I demonstrates how the idea of justice has emerged over time, starting with religion and philosophy, and then to the concept of social justice. Part II outlines the very different mechanisms used by various nations for achieving state justice, including systems based on common law, civil law, and Islamic law, with a separate discussion of the U.S. justice system. Part III focuses on six contemporary issues of justice: war, immigration, domestic terrorism, genocide, slavery, and the environment. Finally, Part IV shows how individuals and organizations can go about pursuing justice, and describes the rise of global justice. This updated book uses current events and debates to help students understand the complexities and nuances of a society's pursuit of justice. It provides students with the foundations of global justice systems, integrating Greek philosophies and major religious perspectives into a justice perspective, and contributes to undergraduate understanding of international justice bodies, NGOs, and institutions.

justice what s the right thing to do: The Construction of Value Philosophy in Contemporary China Deshun Li, 2025-03-11 This book approaches humanism in the new era in China by discussing the nature of value philosophy and by analyzing in depth the significance of value research for China's modernization and future development. The author expounds his own point of view on the value of human beings as the foundation of value philosophy and subsequently applies it to understanding conflicting values between China and the West, universal values, etc. In addition, he discusses the cultural value concept in China, e.g., the craze for traditional Chinese culture, value choices in socialism with Chinese characteristics, and Deng Xiaoping's great practice. Combining the fields of academic study, political affairs, cultural communication, and social life, the book offers a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, politicians, diplomats, university students, and those who want to study and understand value philosophy, Chinese value research, and Chinese culture. In addition, it seeks to realize the value of human beings in culture. Lastly, its discussions on the value concept can facilitate understanding and respect among people(s) all over the world.

justice what s the right thing to do: Justice Salman Khalid, 2018-06-14 Contrary to political philosophies as varied as utilitarianism, socialism/communism, those advocating the welfare state, and Rawls's, which are all constructed on the hypothesis that an inextricable nexus exists between distributive justice and equality, Justice: A Fresh Impression doubts the presumed nexus and argues that to see justice through the lens of equality is to misunderstand justice. Instead, this book presents an alternative foundation for rights—namely, that everyone is born free—not equal, but with an equal entitlement to all the resources of the planet. Justice illustrates that this revised premise, which blends the best elements of the free market model with those of socialism, extends larger space to human diversity, and also presents a steadier platform to fight poverty (through recognizing everyone's equal right to the planet's resources).

justice what s the right thing to do: AI and IA Ted Peters, 2019-09-01 Will advances in AI (Artificial Intelligence) or IA (Intelligence Amplification) lead to the extinction of the human race as we know it? Or, will superintelligence lead to utopia? In this collection of thoughtful essays, we must first get clear on the question: is artificial intelligence actually intelligent or not? Only with an affirmative answer could our techies proceed toward their goal: the creation of a superintelligence that leads through transhumanism to a posthuman entity that would replace today's human. Should today's moderately intelligent human species voluntarily go extinct to make way for a more intelligent species to succeed us in evolutionary history? These scientific questions are addressed in

this volume in light of their theological, ethical, and social implications.

justice what s the right thing to do: The Routledge Handbook of Technology, Crime and Justice M. R. McGuire, Thomas Holt, 2017-02-24 Technology has become increasingly important to both the function and our understanding of the justice process. Many forms of criminal behaviour are highly dependent upon technology, and crime control has become a predominantly technologically driven process – one where ‘traditional’ technological aids such as fingerprinting or blood sample analysis are supplemented by a dizzying array of tools and techniques including surveillance devices and DNA profiling. This book offers the first comprehensive and holistic overview of global research on technology, crime and justice. It is divided into five parts, each corresponding with the key stages of the offending and justice process: Part I addresses the current conceptual understanding of technology within academia and the criminal justice system; Part II gives a comprehensive overview of the current relations between technology and criminal behaviour; Part III explores the current technologies within crime control and the ways in which technology underpins contemporary formal and informal social control; Part IV sets out some of the fundamental impacts technology is now having upon the judicial process; Part V reveals the emerging technologies for crime, control and justice and considers the extent to which new technology can be effectively regulated. This landmark collection will be essential reading for academics, students and theorists within criminology, sociology, law, engineering and technology, and computer science, as well as practitioners and professionals working within and around the criminal justice system.

justice what s the right thing to do: Distributive Justice Michael Allingham, 2014-03-05 This book presents a critical appraisal of the main theories of distributive justice. It develops the view that all such theories, or at least all liberal theories, may be seen as expressions of laissez-faire with compensations for factors that they consider to be morally arbitrary. More precisely, these theories are interpreted as specifying that the outcome of individuals acting independently, without the intervention of any central authority, is just, provided that those who fare ill for reasons that the theories deem to be arbitrary, for example, because they have fewer talents than others, receive compensation from those who fare well. The principal theories discussed are Rawls’s justice as fairness, Dworkin’s equality of resources, what may loosely be called Steiner-Vallentyne common ownership theories, and Nozick’s entitlements theory. The book considers the extent, if any, to which the theories examined can accommodate both liberty and equality. It concludes that if any such accommodation is possible it will be found in common ownership theories.

justice what s the right thing to do: Global Energy Justice Benjamin K. Sovacool, Michael H. Dworkin, 2014-09-29 We need new ways of thinking about, and approaching, the world’s energy problems. Global energy security and access is one of the central justice issues of our time, with profound implications for happiness, welfare, freedom, equity, and due process. This book combines up-to-date data on global energy security and climate change with fresh perspectives on the meaning of justice in social decision-making. Benjamin K. Sovacool and Michael H. Dworkin address how justice theory can help people to make more meaningful decisions about the production, delivery, use, and effects of energy. Exploring energy dilemmas in real-life situations, they link recent events to eight global energy injustices and employ philosophy and ethics to make sense of justice as a tool in the decision-making process. They go on to provide remedies and policies that planners and individuals can utilize to create a more equitable and just energy future.

justice what s the right thing to do: Civil Justice, Privatization, and Democracy Trevor C.W. Farrow, 2014-01-01 Privatization is occurring throughout the public justice system, including courts, tribunals, and state-sanctioned private dispute resolution regimes. Driven by a widespread ethos of efficiency-based civil justice reform, privatization claims to decrease costs, increase speed, and improve access to the tools of justice. But it may also lead to procedural unfairness, power imbalances, and the breakdown of our systems of democratic governance. *Civil Justice, Privatization, and Democracy* demonstrates the urgent need to publicize, politicize, debate, and ultimately temper these moves towards privatized justice. Written by Trevor C.W. Farrow, a former litigation lawyer

and current Chair of the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, Civil Justice, Privatization, and Democracy does more than just bear witness to the privatization initiatives that define how we think about and resolve almost all non-criminal disputes. It articulates the costs and benefits of these privatizing initiatives, particularly their potential negative impacts on the way we regulate ourselves in modern democracies, and it makes recommendations for future civil justice practice and reform.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Theological Education and Christian Scholarship for Human Flourishing* Celucien L. Joseph, 2022-09-14 This book explores the interconnection of theological education and Christian scholarship, cultural and theological hermeneutics, pedagogy and community knowledge, democracy and citizenship. Yet, the three major disciplines or discourses covered in this work include multicultural education, theology, and hermeneutics through the lens of human flourishing and the concept of the good life. From this angle, this project is written from three different methods and approaches that intersect with each other: a theology of contextualization, a hermeneutics of interculturality, and a pedagogy of cultural literacy and transformative community knowledge. The book advances the idea that theological education should be the starting point to foster candid conversations about the importance of democracy and human rights, civic engagement and the political life, inclusion and diversity, and pluralism and difference in our multicultural society. The book uses the tools of multicultural education and cultural knowledge to enhance democracy and promote fundamental human virtues that would sustain the good life and human flourishing in the world--in the Aristotelian sense and in the Socratic idea of local and world citizenship. Finally, this text offers an alternative vision to contemporary theological education, to deconstruct the white, male, and Eurocentric narratives of theological education and Christian scholarship.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Mobility Justice* Mimi Sheller, 2018-09-25 Mobility justice is one of the crucial political and ethical issues of our day. We are in the midst of a global climate crisis and extreme challenges of urbanization. At the same time it is difficult to ignore the deaths of thousands of migrants at sea or in deserts, the xenophobic treatment of foreign-born populations, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the persistence of racist violence and ethnic exclusions on our front doorstep. This, in turn, is connected to other kinds of uneven mobility: relations between people, access to transport, urban infrastructures and global resources such as food, water, and energy. In *Mobility Justice*, Mimi Sheller makes a passionate argument for a new understanding of the contemporary crisis of mobility. She shows how power and inequality inform the governance and control of movement, connecting these scales of the body, street, city, nation, and planet into one overarching theory of mobility justice. This can be seen on a local level in the differential circulation of people, resources, and information, as well as on an urban scale, with questions of public transport and 'the right to the city'. On the planetary scale, she demands that we rethink the reality where tourists and other kinetic elites are able to roam freely, the military origins of global infrastructure, and the contested politics of migration and restricted borders. *Mobility Justice* offers a new way to understand the deep flows of inequality and uneven accessibility of a world in which the mobility commons has been enclosed.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Justice in Young Adult Speculative Fiction* Marek C. Oziewicz, 2015-04-17 This book is the first to offer a justice-focused cognitive reading of modern YA speculative fiction in its narrative and filmic forms. It links the expansion of YA speculative fiction in the 20th century with the emergence of human and civil rights movements, with the communitarian revolution in conceptualizations of justice, and with spectacular advances in cognitive sciences as applied to the examination of narrative fiction. Oziewicz argues that complex ideas such as justice are processed by the human mind as cognitive scripts; that scripts, when narrated, take the form of multiply indexable stories; and that YA speculative fiction is currently the largest conceptual testing ground in the forging of justice consciousness for the 21st century world. Drawing on recent research in the cognitive and evolutionary sciences, Oziewicz explains how poetic, retributive, restorative, environmental, social, and global types of justice have been represented in narrative fiction, from 19th century folk and fairy tales through 21st century fantasy, dystopia, and science

fiction. Suggesting that the appeal of these and other nonmimetic genres is largely predicated on the dream of justice, Oziewicz theorizes new justice scripts as conceptual tools essential to help humanity survive the qualitative leap toward an environmentally conscious, culturally diversified global world. This book is an important contribution to studies of children's and YA speculative fiction, adding a new perspective to discussions about the educational as well as social potential of nonmimetic genres. It demonstrates that the justice imperative is very much alive in YA speculative fiction, creating new visions of justice relevant to contemporary challenges.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Justice* Mark LeBar, 2018-08-01 A blindfolded woman holding a balance and a sword personifies one of our most significant virtues. We find Lady Justice in statues and paintings that adorn courts and other institutions of law, symbolizing strength and impartiality. Yet why do we valorize this virtue primarily as a quality of societies, and secondly as one of individual character? We can trace the virtue of justice to ancient Greece, where virtue ethics began its long evolution. There justice was seen as one of the most prominent virtues - and arguably the most important of the social virtues. With time, political philosophy diverted focus to understanding justice as a property of societies, and discussion of justice as a virtue of individuals diminished. But justice as a virtue of individual character has, along with the other virtues, reasserted itself not only in philosophy but in social psychology and other empirical fields of study. This volume aims to demonstrate the breadth of that thinking and research. It comprises new essays solicited from philosophers and political theorists, psychologists, economists, biologists, and legal scholars. Each contribution focuses on some aspect of what makes people just, either by examining the science that explains the development of justice as a virtue, by highlighting virtue cultivation within distinctive traditions of empirical or philosophical thought, or by adopting a distinctive perspective on justice as an individual trait. As the volume shows, justice begins with the individual, and flows outward to make just laws and just societies.

justice what s the right thing to do: Race, Justice and American Intellectual Traditions Stuart Rosenbaum, 2018-02-17 Some American intellectual traditions, although pristine in appearance, are racist at their core. This book reveals the racism inherent in those Platonist and Enlightenment moral traditions that motivate much contemporary rhetoric. Part One contains five chapters of substantial critique, while Part Two contains four chapters of constructive suggestion explaining how indigenous American traditions of thought about morality avoid the racism of conventional Western moral thought that dominates political rhetoric. This book, because of its focus, thesis, and brevity, will be useful in a number of academic contexts, including political science, American studies, philosophy, sociology, and also to the larger educated public.

justice what s the right thing to do: The Political Theory of Liberal Socialism Matthew McManus, 2024-11-22 McManus presents a comprehensive guide to the liberal socialist tradition, stretching from Mary Wollstonecraft and Thomas Paine through John Stuart Mill to Irving Howe, John Rawls, and Charles Mills. Providing a comprehensive critical genealogy of liberal socialism from a sympathetic but critical standpoint, McManus traces its core to the Revolutionary period that catalyzed major divisions in liberal political theory to the French Revolution that saw the emergence of writers like Mary Wollstonecraft and Thomas Paine who argued that liberal principles could only be inadequately instantiated in a society with high levels of material and social inequality to John Stuart Mill, the first major thinker who declared himself a liberal and a socialist and who made major contributions to both traditions through his efforts to synthesize and conciliate them. McManus argues for liberal socialism as a political theory which could truly secure equality and liberty for all. An essential book on the tradition of liberal socialism for students, researchers, and scholars of political science and humanities.

justice what s the right thing to do: *A Materialist Theory of Justice* Isaak Dore, 2025-02-06 This book presents a comprehensive theory of justice that has a threefold justification. For the first justification, the book presents a rigorously empirical methodology based on the stark realities of the human condition. It has a strong anthropological grounding in that it is adapted from the methodology of cultural materialism which, in turn, is founded on the materialist epistemology of

Karl Marx. The second justification is philosophical. The theory of justice derived from the above methodology is further buttressed by and/or tested against the major trends of Western philosophy as represented by the thought of Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, Georg W. F. Hegel, John Finnis, John Dewey, George Mead, Jürgen Habermas, Michel Foucault, Jean-François Lyotard, Axel Honneth, Michael Sandel, Michael Walzer, Martha Nussbaum, John Maynard Keynes, Amartya Sen and Karl Marx. The third justification is moral. The promotion of human flourishing on the basis of fairness and equality are the minimum goals to be achieved; after which a more ambitious and comprehensive theory of overall goodness —based on individual and governmental action —can be implemented.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Social Justice and Social Work* Michael J. Austin, 2013-03-26 *Social Justice and Social Work: Rediscovering a Core Value of the Profession* introduces and connects social justice to the core values of social work across the curriculum. This unique and timely book, edited by Michael J. Austin, presents the history and philosophy that supports social justice and ties it to ethical concepts that will help readers understand social justice as a core social work value. The book further conveys the importance of amplifying client voice; explores organization-based advocacy; and describes how an understanding of social justice can inform practice and outlines implications for education and practice.

justice what s the right thing to do: *Routledge International Handbook of Social Justice* Michael Reisch, 2014-04-03 In a world where genocide, hunger, poverty, war, and disease persist and where richer nations often fail to act to address these problems or act too late, a prerequisite to achieving even modest social justice goals is to clarify the meaning of competing discourses on the concept. Throughout history, calls for social justice have been used to rationalize the status quo, promote modest reforms, and justify revolutionary, even violent action. Ironically, as the prominence of the concept has risen, the meaning of social justice has become increasingly obscured. This authoritative volume explores different perspectives on social justice and what its attainment would involve. It addresses key issues, such as resolving fundamental questions about human nature and social relationships; the distribution of resources, power, status, rights, access, and opportunities; and the means by which decisions regarding this distribution are made. Illustrating the complexity of the topic, it presents a range of international, historical, and theoretical perspectives, and discusses the dilemmas inherent in implementing social justice concepts in policy and practice. Covering more than abstract definitions of social justice, it also includes multiple examples of how social justice might be achieved at the interpersonal, organizational, community, and societal levels. With contributions from leading scholars around the globe, Reisch has put together a magisterial and multi-faceted overview of social justice. It is an essential reference work for all scholars with an interest in social justice from a wide range of disciplines, including social work, public policy, public health, law, criminology, sociology, and education.

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