**How objective is the current notion of justice? (14 votes)**

[**BenChida**](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1330541)*a day ago*

Posted by: GaltJohn

Good day Professor Sandel!

My name is Bryan a graduate of Philosophy. Thank you for those wonderful lectures you shared. It gave me a broader view of justice in addition to what we have learned at school.

And with this, I cannot help but think of the current notion of justice in our democratic society. If one view of justice is giving a person what is due him/her, then how can we measure exactly what punishment is due to a person who committed a certain crime? How can we be certain that the punishment given to a person is equal to the crime he/she committed? What could be the standard measurement for this? Because if there would be no standard measurement, it would mean that our current notion of justice is subjective, wouldn't it?

Thank you and more power.

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(this post is about [Live Question and Answer Session with Professor Sandel, Part 2 / Top Vote-Getting Questions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/jump_to/i4x:/HarvardX/ER22x/discussion/6efbd5d53d5241b6bf99409448272104))

1. [1](javascript:void(0))[**milarepa**](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/522254)

*a day ago*

Although Justice and Law should be the same thing, Justice is a concept that the law is built on, and the Law aspires to. It is society that dictates Justice, via our morality. And the law is the dynamic expression of this. Unfortunately the way this dynamic expression (law) is carried out, is largely by the state. Notwithstanding that the courts are meant to be independent of the state.

Justice has to be subjective as society is deciding what is just. Society being a collection of individual opinions. This subjective opinion is a collective one though. Not necessarily a majority one. Though it will gather momentum into that often.

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* + The current notion of crime can never be objective if prosecutors are immune from prosecution even when they with-hold information that they know would exonerate persons being charged.Man made laws will never be just. Policing which is a tool to implement laws were made to protect the rich and their property from the poor. When humans are seen as valuable regardless of the color of their skin,hair,or eyes society would have dictated equal justice. and not JUSTUS INSTEAD OF JUSTICE.

*–posted about 11 hours ago by*[shilah](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1686707)

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1. [0](javascript:void(0))[**GUY8SCHIKANEDER**](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/662139)

*about 19 hours ago*

Dear Prof. Sandel:

Do you really believe that President **Truman**'s **personal** decision of atomic bombing Japan's **civilian** targets (specially, Nagasaki! - the most contaminating [Pu-laden!] explosion of the two effected, and presumably **unnecessary** for forcing Japan's surrender) - in spite of the**opposition** by a sizable number of leading Manhattan Project's scientists (mainly, Leo Szilard's famous petition - among others) - was for the sake of **objective**, universal **Justice** - on account of being himself a **Chief Judge**?; and, it effectively **deterred** (as you claim to be a consequence of lawful, just punishment) **nuclear weaponry proliferation**, and the very **dangerous** current situation of **universal, mass destruction** threat? In this regard, it might be interesting to mention that a **third** Pu-laden bomb was also scheduled for **use** - after August, 18th 1945 or so - if deemed necessary!; as explicitly stated in a**declassified** document, dated August, 10th 1945.

Many thanks for your consideration.

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