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PHIL 314

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Quiz #3

1. How does Mill think we can balance the rights of individuals and the exercise of the power of authority?

- Mill thinks we can balance the rights of individuals and the exercise of the power of authority by having ways for the individual to verify and protect themselves from rulers who do not have their best interests at heart. This comes in the form of being able to stand up to authority and take over control/autonomy over themselves. Additionally, there must be checks and balances on the authority to limit the power of authority.

2. How do you think this is reflected in Gawande's own solution for the balance between patient autonomy and medical care of professionals?

- Gawande's own solution for the balance between patient autonomy and medical care of professionals is reflected in the ideas presented in Mills' reading because they are both concerned with the autonomy of the individual when it comes to the individual being under the care of the authority. For Mills the authority is the government and for Gawande the authority is the medical profession and for both what is key is the protection of the autonomy of the individual when it comes to the power of authority, because if the individual's liberty is taken away the individual ceases to have agency over their lives, and this is wrong as the

authority should act only if the individuals best interests are aligned and the authority should not have the final say in the individuals choices in life.

3. Do you think Nozick has a point:

a. Should we see medical professionals as both persons and professionals?

- I think that we should see medical professionals as both persons and professionals, as there is still a person who is making the decisions and making the mistakes, and if we see the patient as a person it is only fair to also see the doctor as a person.

b. Can their Hippocratic Oath become an authority which takes away the doctor's individual liberty?

- I believe that the Hippocratic Oath should have some authority that takes away the doctors individual liberties, as when taking the oath the doctor is essentially agreeing to a contract that states they will follow it. When taking the oath the doctor should be aligned with what the oath says or else they should maybe pick another profession.