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# Engineering, Ethics & Society: Engineering Ethics 1 - Bases

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Dr. Gershon Weltman  
Engineering 183EW, UCLA SEAS  
Lecture 2

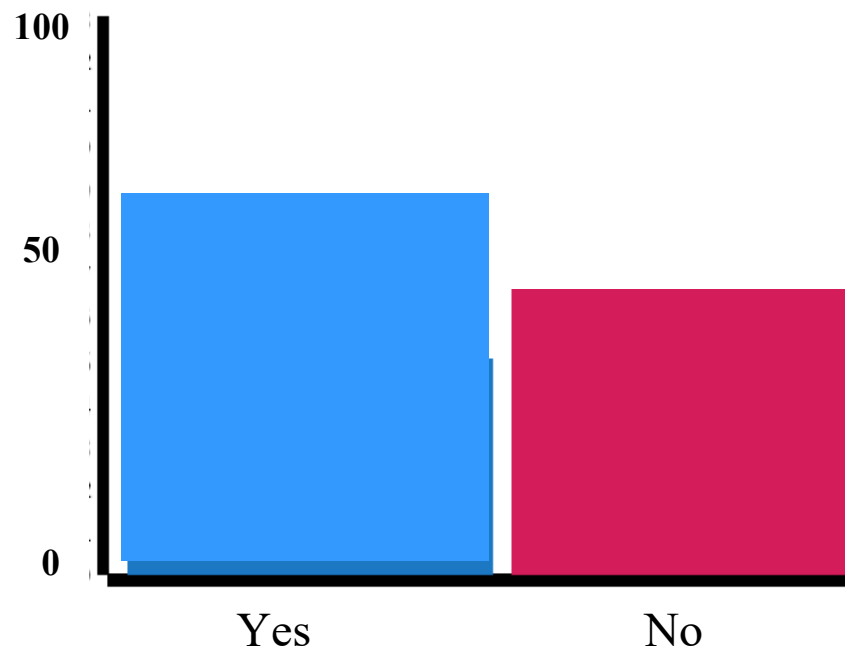
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# Lecture Contents

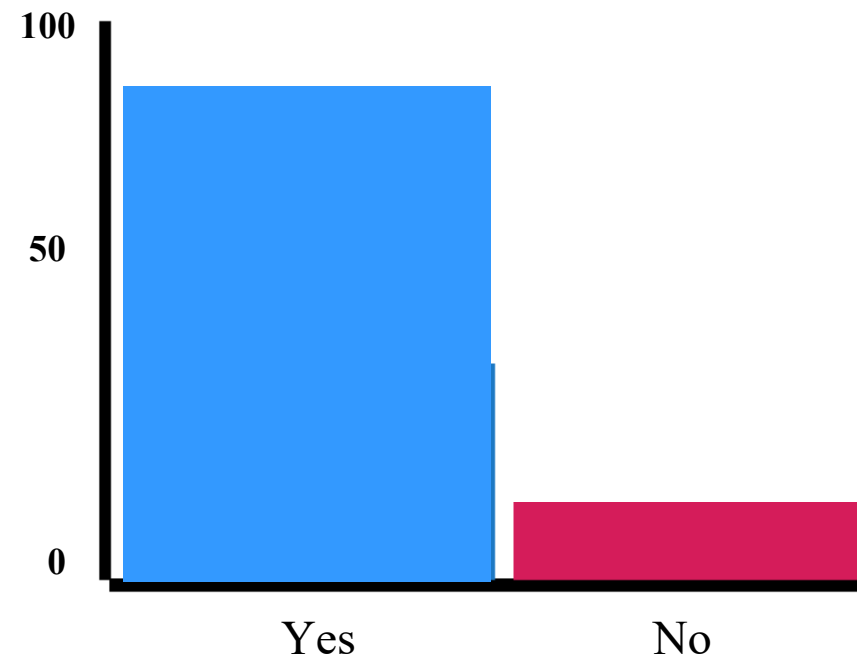
- Sources of Morals and Ethics
- Ethical Progressions
- Moral Revelations
- Some Ethical Codes Historically
- Morals, Ethics and The Law
  - The Principle
  - Case 1: Introduction of Child Labor Laws
  - Cases 2 & 3: Reversal of Laws and Covenants
  - Case 4: Movement of Knowledge
  - Engineering Practice Implications
- Ethical Action: Major Influences
  - Religion
  - Science
  - Reason
  - Intuition
  - Experience
  - Choice

# Online Poll Results I

Do you feel you are better at doing the right thing than other people?

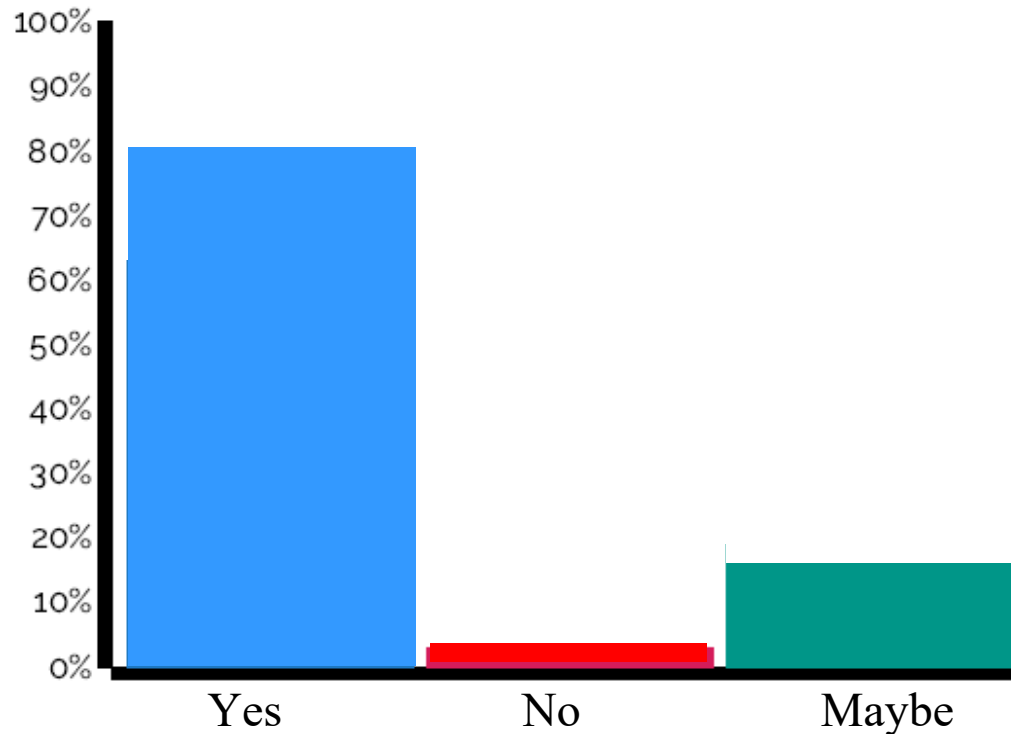


Are you satisfied with your own ethics?



# Online Poll Results II

Do you believe you will learn more about engineering ethics in this class?



The good news, for us anyway, is that only 4% feel the class is hopeless, and 96% are sure they'll learn something or are willing to give it a chance.

# Sources of Morals and Ethics

**Morals and Ethics Are:  
Beliefs, Assumptions, Values → Guides to Action**

The Main Sources of Morals and Ethics Are Considered to be

**Biological  
Genetic/Neurophysiological**

**Natural  
Nature's Laws/Universal Truths**

**Descriptive Ethics – Deals with describing existing ethical systems**  
**Normative Ethics – Deals with determining right choices and actions**

# A Sense of Fairness in Monkeys

A study reported by Dr. Frans de Waal and his colleagues at the California National Primate Research Center, UC Davis



## Procedure and Results

- Two sets of monkeys were taught a simple task
- The reward was a slice of cucumber for each monkey.
- One monkey was then given a grape instead of the cucumber.
- The “underpaid” monkey protested
- *The conclusion: The underpaid monkey recognized the unfairness of the deal and reacted accordingly.*

The implication for existential ethics is that while we are certainly free to act, we may have a disposition to act fairly, which is not a bad thing overall.

# Sources of Ethics

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Genetic/Neurophysiological**

**Natural  
Nature's Laws/Universal Truths**

**Revelation  
Transcendental Authorities**

**Philosophical  
Theoretical, Experiential**

**Societal  
Historical, Conventional**

**Cultural, Identity  
Family, Ethnicity, Gender, etc.**

**Descriptive Ethics – Deals with describing existing ethical systems**  
**Normative Ethics – Deals with determining right choices and actions**

# Ethical Progressions





## Early Codes: Egypt & Mesopotamia



- 2050 B.C. Ur-Nammu
- 1850 B.C. Lipit-Ishtar
- 1780 B.C. Hammurabi
- 1500 B.C. Hittite
- 1100 B.C. Assyrian

These were both bodies of law to be followed and records of how cases had been decided in the past. For instance, in Egypt the Pharaoh was the living law - and the law was he. The “law” was the prerogative of kings and priests, but they might be influenced by societal custom and past events.

# Code of Hammurabi (Babylonia, ~1800 BC)

Hammurabi, prince, called of Bel am I the, making riches and increase, enriching Nippur and Dur-  
ilu beyond compare, sublime patron of E-kur; who reestablished Eridu and purified the worship of  
E-apsu; who conquered the four quarters of the world..... When Marduk sent me  
to rule over men, to give the protection of right to the land, I did right and righteousness... and  
brought about the well-being of the oppressed.

1. If any one ensnare another, putting a ban upon him, but he can not prove it, then he that ensnared him  
**shall be put to death.**
2. If any one bring an accusation against a man, and the accused go to the river and leap into the river, if he  
sink in the river his accuser shall take possession of his house. But if the river prove that the accused is not  
guilty, and he escape unhurt, then he who had brought the accusation **shall be put to death**, while he who  
leaped into the river shall take possession of the house that had belonged to his accuser.
3. If any one bring an accusation of any crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged,  
he shall, if it be a capital offense charged, **be put to death.**

.....  
282. If a slave says to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him, his master **shall cut off his  
ear.**

(These are the) **LAWS** of justice which Hammurabi the wise king established. A righteous law and  
pious statute did he teach the land. Hammurabi, the protecting king am I.

## Early Biblical Material (~1000 BCE)



Potshard containing early biblical material

1. you shall not do [it], but worship the [Lord].
2. Judge the sla[ve] and the wid[ow]/Judge the orph[an] [and] the stranger.
3. [Pl]ead for the infant / plead for the po[or and] the widow.
4. Rehabilitate [the poor] at the hands of the king.
5. Protect the po[or and] the slave / [supp]ort the stranger

Translation by Gershon Galil  
University of Haifa, Israel

The writing was discovered on a pottery shard dug up during excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa, near Israel's Elah valley. The excavations were carried out by archaeologist Yosef Garfinkel of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This could mean that part of the Bible were written centuries earlier than previously thought.

[LiveScience.com](https://www.livescience.com/41111-ancient-bible.html) Jan 15, 2010

# Revealed Laws - Noahide (Israel, ~600 BCE)

## The Seven Laws for Mankind

1. You shall practice equity, establish and promote justice
2. You shall not commit Idolatry
3. You shall not commit Blasphemy
4. You shall not commit Sexual Immorality
5. You shall not commit Murder
6. You shall not commit Theft
7. You shall not eat the limb torn from a live animal. Flesh with the life of it, the blood of it, you shall not eat.

According to Biblical teachings the first six universal laws were given to Adam, the seventh was added for Noah after the flood.

# Revealed Laws - The Decalogue (Israel, ~500 BCE)

**I am the Lord your God who brought you out of slavery in the land of Egypt**

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make idols to worship them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods, nor his house, nor his wife, nor his manservant, nor his bull, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.



The Decalogue appears twice in the Jewish Torah, which has a total of 613 recognized injunctions involving religious practices.



# The Ten Commandments in American Society



[H48200 Ten Commandments Cardboard Cutout Standup](#)  
by Wet Paint Printing + Design  
**\$ 49.00** + \$14.90 shipping



[4030037 10 Commandments Stretch Bracelet](#)  
by Christian Scripture Religious Thou  
Price: **\$9.99** FREE Shipping



[Ten Commandments Dog tag Necklace Pendant](#)  
[24 inch Stainless Steel Chain Giftpouch and Keyr](#)  
By Keyring  
Price **\$17.99** Prime

American society has embraced the Ten Commandments as a historical moral symbol, and as a result various groups believe the Commandments should be part of civic locations such as city halls, courtrooms, etc. Other groups say this would directly violate the Constitutional clause prohibiting “establishment.”

## Additional Biblical Injunctions: Leviticus 19

26 Ye shall not eat *any thing* with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

27 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I *am* the Lord.

29 Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.

30 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the Lord.

31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the Lord your God.

32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I *am* the Lord.

33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.

34 *But* the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I *am* the Lord your God.

35 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.

36 Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I *am* the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

37 Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I *am* the Lord.

# Revealed Christian Doctrine (Israel, ~30 AD)

## According to the Gospels, Jesus of Nazareth preached:

- Follow the Law, obey the Commandments
- Do not only not swear oaths falsely, do not swear oaths at all
- Blessed are the meek, the persecuted, the merciful, the peacemakers
- Agree with your adversary, murder begins in the heart,
- Turn the other cheek, do not give “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”
- Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you
- Do your charitable deeds in secret, pray privately, fast to be seen only by God
- Lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth, you cannot serve both God and mammon
- Adultery is committed in the heart when you look at a woman with lust
- Divorce is adultery, unless for sexual immorality
- Do not worry – about your life, about food and drink, about clothing.....
- Judge not, that you be not judged

These novel teachings emphasized humility, loving kindness, and forgiveness rather than prohibitions and retribution



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# An Essential Idea: The Golden and Silver Rules

- Judaic: “Silver”  
*What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.*
- Christian: “Golden”  
*What you would want others to do to you, do so to them.*
- Buddhist: “Silver”  
*Hurt not others with that which pains you.*
- Muslim: “Golden”  
*Desire for your brother that which you desire for yourself.*
- Hindu: “Silver”  
*Do nothing to others which if done to you would cause you pain.*
- Baha’i: “Golden”  
*Choose for your neighbor that which you choose for yourself.*

# And a Silver and Golden Conundrum

How do you know what is hateful or desirable to others?


- Experiential Level
  - Assume homogeneity – Everyone thinks the same ❌



# And a Silver and Golden Conundrum

How do you know what is hateful or desirable to others?

- Experiential Level

- ❑ Assume homogeneity – Everyone thinks the same 
- ❑ Emphasize *principles* over *particulars* – E.g., pleasure & pain
- ❑ Empathize -- Do *as they would have you do* onto them! “Platinum Rule”

## What is Empathy?

“Empathy is an awareness of other peoples' feelings, needs and concerns.”


Daniel Goleman, PhD

Author, *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ*

Co-Director, Consortium for Research on Emotional Intelligence, Rutgers University

# And a Golden Conundrum

How do you know what is hateful or desirable to others?

- Experiential Level
  - ❑ Assume homogeneity – Everyone thinks the same 
  - ❑ Emphasize *principles* over *particulars* – E.g., pleasure & pain
  - ❑ Empathize -- Do *as they would have you do* onto them! “Platinum”
- Practical Level: How to Empathize
  - ❑ Shared cognitive models
    - Family and Friends
  - ❑ Learned cognitive models:
    - Individuals – Psychology
    - Groups – Sociology
  - ❑ Meta-cognitive processes
    - Create models
    - Test and refine models
- Analytical Level: Ethical Philosophies Based on Normative Principles

# Codes: Chivalry (Europe, ~1000 AD)<sup>1</sup>

- Observe all the Church teaches
- Defend the Church
- Do not recoil before your enemy
- Make war on the non-believer without cessation or mercy
- Love your country of birth
- Perform your feudal duties
- Champion the Right and Good against Injustice and Evil
- Be generous to everyone
- Respect all weaknesses and make yourself their defender
- **Never lie, and keep your word**



<sup>1</sup>After Gautier, Chivalry, 1989

# Codes: Bushido, Way of the Warrior (~1100 AD)

## THE SEVEN VIRTUES OF BUSHIDO

義

**GI**

Integrity

Be acutely honest throughout your dealings with all people. Believe in justice, not from other people, but from yourself. To the true warrior, all points of view are deeply considered regarding honesty, justice and integrity.



Warriors make a full commitment to their decisions.

礼

**REI**

Respect

True warriors have no reason to be cruel. They do not need to prove their strength. Warriors are courteous even to their enemies. Warriors are not only respected for their strength in battle, but also by their dealings with others.



The true strength of a warrior becomes apparent during difficult times.

義

Justice (gi)

勇

Bravery (yuu)

仁

Benevolence (jin)

真

Veracity (makoto)

礼

Politeness (rei)

名誉

Honor (meiyo)

忠義

Loyalty (chuugi)

真

**MAKOTO**

Honesty and Sincerity

When warriors say that they will perform an action, it is as good as done. Nothing will stop them from completing what they say they will do. They do not have to "give their word." They do not have to "promise."



Speaking and doing are the same action.

忠義

**CHU**

Duty and Loyalty

Warriors are responsible for everything that they have done and everything that they have said, and all of the consequences that follow. They are immensely loyal to all of those in their care.

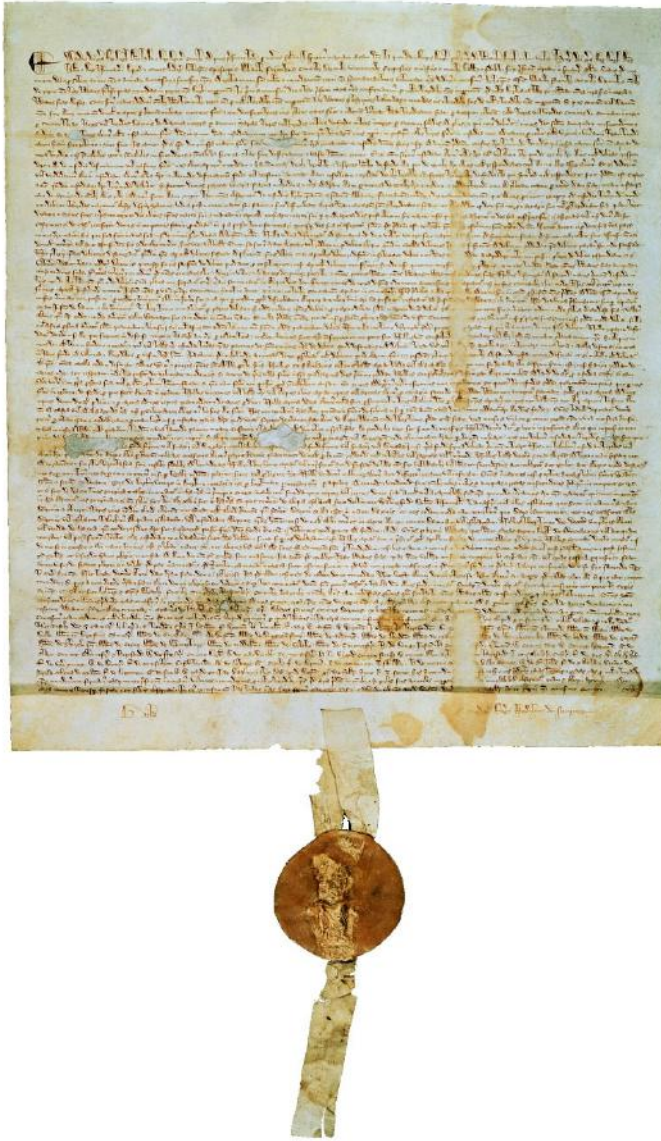


To everyone that they are responsible for, they remain fiercely true.

Stated in different ways, and sometimes involving 8 rather than 7 qualities, the Way of the Warrior appears in Japanese, Chinese and Korean cultures.



# Codes: Magna Carta (England, 1215)



- A promise by England's King John to his barons that he will “obey the law of the land”
- Establishes the principle that *laws apply to all* -- even to kings
- Recognizes the rights of individuals within states and elucidates those rights
- A partial basis for the American Constitution and Bill of Rights

# Codes: Boy Scouts (England, ~1900 AD)

## Oath:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

## Law: A Scout is

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| ■ Trustworthy | ■ Obedient |
| ■ Loyal       | ■ Cheerful |
| ■ Helpful     | ■ Thrifty  |
| ■ Friendly    | ■ Brave    |
| ■ Courteous   | ■ Clean    |
| ■ Kind        | ■ Reverent |





## Codes: West Point (USA, ~1950 AD)



A cadet will not lie, cheat or steal,  
*or tolerate those who do!*



Simple codes are easy to remember, but in their simplicity they may neglect more complex ethical and moral issues of great importance

# Codes: UCLA Student Ethical Standards



# Codes: UCLA Faculty/Employee Ethical Standards

- ✓ Fair Dealing
- ✓ Individual Responsibility and Accountability
- ✓ Respect for Others
- ✓ Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations
- ✓ Compliance with Applicable University Policies, Procedures and Other
- ✓ Forms of Guidance
- ✓ Conflicts of Interest or Commitment
- ✓ Ethical Conduct of Research
- ✓ Records: Confidentiality/Privacy and Access
- ✓ Internal Controls
- ✓ Use of University Resources
- ✓ Financial Reporting
- ✓ Reporting Violations and Protection from Retaliation

Again, codes with such broad categories have their uses, but generally give little guidance toward applying them to specific individual cases.

## Codes: Engineering Profession (USA ~2000)

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

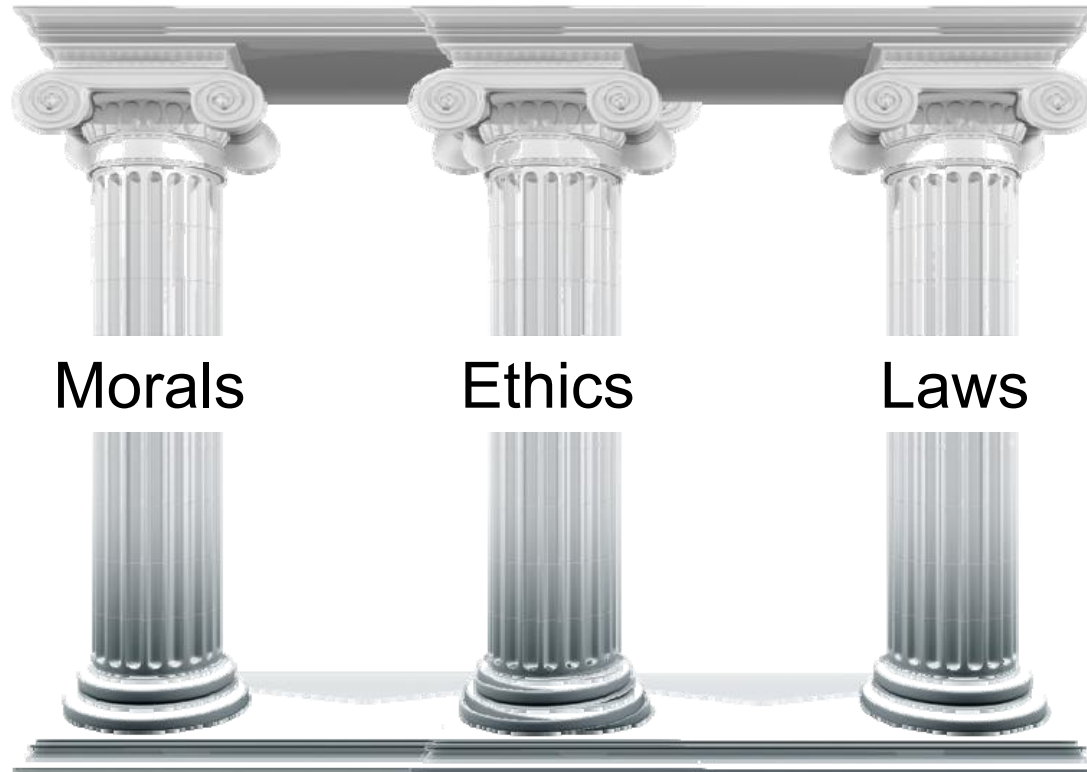
- Hold paramount the *safety, health and welfare of the public*
- Perform services only in the *area of their competence*
- Issue public statements only in an *objective and truthful manner*
- Act in professional matters for each employer or client as *faithful agents or trustees*
- Avoid *deceptive acts in the solicitation* of professional employment

The above Fundamental Canons are followed by detailed Rules of Practice and Professional Obligations. Most if not all of these cast the engineer in the role of employee or agent rather than in the role of entrepreneur, employer or initiator. *And few if any deal with societal moral or ethical issues.* Is a Professional Code of this type still appropriate and/or adequate for today's more complex world?

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# Morals, Ethics and the Law

## Societal Guides to Action

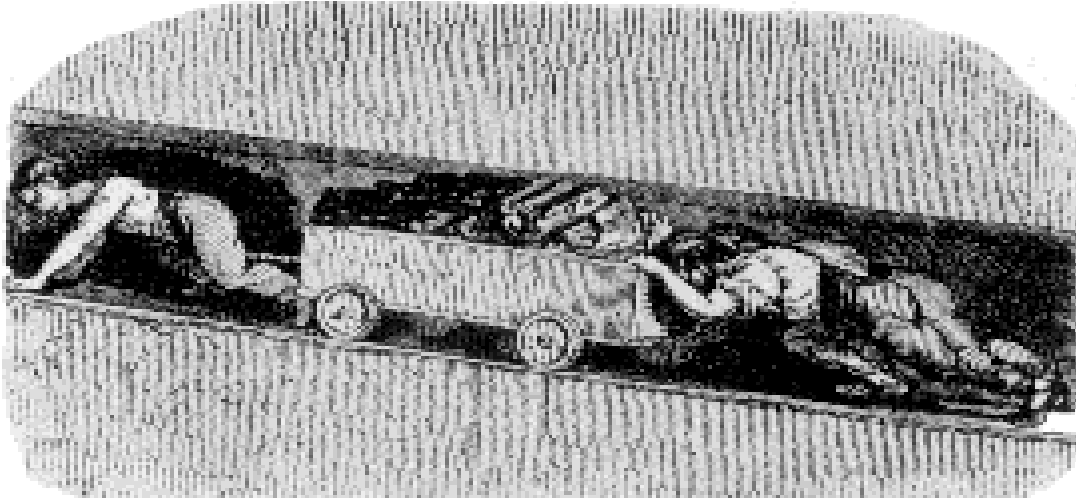


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# Morals, Ethics and the Law

- Ethics occupy the *middle ground* between a society's *Fundamental Morals* and its government's *Regulations and Laws*
- Ethics provide *direction* toward adherence to the Law as well as *guidance* in ambiguous areas of the Law
- Moral and ethical principles often *create new laws* when there is sufficient political and/or public support
- The reverse is also true, laws become *outmoded or unenforceable* when the moral and/or ethical climate surrounding them changes

## Case 1: Creation of Child Labor Laws



Child “hurriers” in  
19<sup>th</sup> century coal mines

- Child labor played a major role in the European Industrial Revolution
- More than 50% of children from 5 to 15 worked without regulation
- 1802 - English law reduced children’s work day from 16 to 12 hours
- 1847 - English law limited adults and children to 10 hours work daily
- Child labor laws presaged other restrictions on industrial practices

## Case 2: Reversal of Existing Laws

In the USA many previously legal practices have been overturned or are being reexamined on the basis of moral or ethical considerations:

- Slavery
- Racial Segregation
- Racial Discrimination
- Disenfranchisement
- Subjugation of Women
- No Contraception/Abortion
- No Interracial Marriage
- No Same-Sex Marriage
- Few LGBTQ Rights
- Government Surveillance
- Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- Torture for Interrogation
- Death Penalty for Crimes
- Chemical/Biological Weapons
- Sale of Body Parts
- Treatment of Animals
- Regulation of Industrial Pollution
- Others

Many further examples in politics, business, sports and daily life, and many of these remain open issues in America and the world.



## Case 3: Ethics and Law in Los Angeles

### CORPORATION GRANT DEED

The Title Insurance and Trust Company, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of California, and having its principal place of business at Los Angeles, California, in consideration of Ten Dollars to it in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant to V. H. Sherman,

(Notarial Seal)

F. H. Greene, Notary Public

in and for the County of Los Angeles,

State of California.

#151-

A full, true and correct copy of original recorded at request of Grantee, Feb. 8, 1917 at 24 min. past 2 P. M. #418 Copyist 22

C. L. Logan, County Recorder By F. Levy

Deputy

## Case 3: Ethics and Law in Los Angeles

and all fences shall be stained, painted or whitewashed.

2. And upon the following express conditions:

That no part of said premises shall ever be used for the purpose of buying, selling or handling intoxicating liquors and that no part of said premises shall ever at any time be sold, conveyed, leased or rented to any person of African, Chinese or Japanese descent.

Provided, that all and each of the restrictions, conditions, and covenants herein contained in Condition "1" above, shall in all respects terminate and end, and be of no further effect, either legal or equitable, after January 1, A. D., 1916, but each of the restrictions, conditions and covenants herein contained in Condition "2" above, shall be perpetual and binding forever upon

DEVISEES

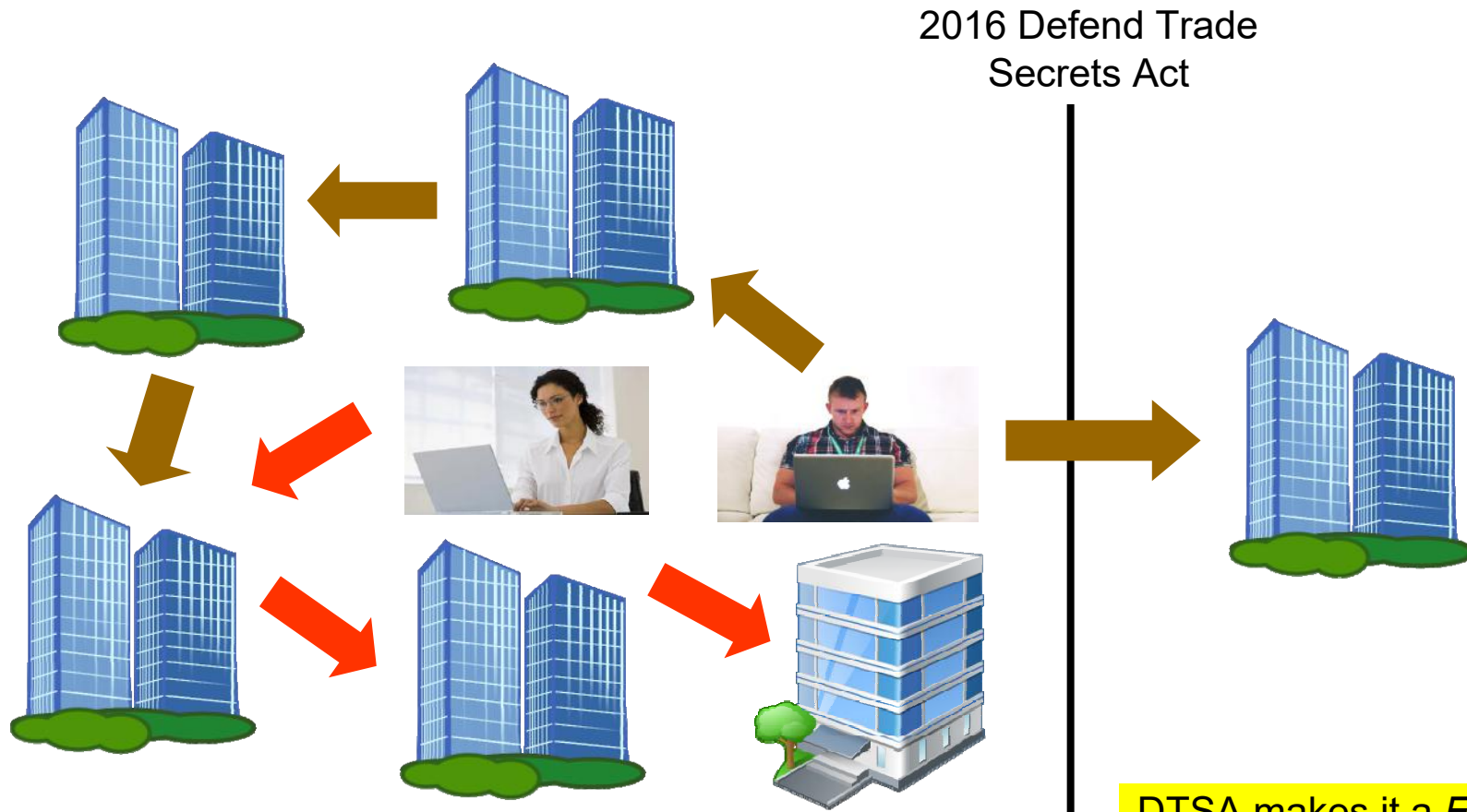
## Case 3: Similar Covenants

None of the said lands, interests therein or improvements thereon shall be sold, resold, conveyed, leased, rented to or in any way used, occupied or acquired by any person of Negro blood or to any person of the Semitic race, blood, or origin which racial description shall be deemed to include Armenians, Jews, Hebrews, Persians or Syrians.

JEWISH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
GREATER WASHINGTON

Covenants such as these were legal and enforceable in California until they were specifically outlawed by the Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963.

## Case 4: Movement of Technical Knowledge



Silicon Valley benefited from California laws allowing virtually free movement of ideas as people changed jobs, but it also becomes known for idea theft and treachery

DTSA makes it a *Federal crime* for a person to move trade secrets from one position to the next

# Ethical Scenario 1: Andrei's Printer Problem



## Scenario

Andrei is a manager in a newly established unit and is responsible for selecting and purchasing all the office equipment for the unit.

After narrowing his selection to two vendors with similar products and pricing, he learns that one of the vendors offers a *free printer* for bulk purchases. Feeling inspired by the prospect of a free printer, he focuses his efforts on this company and ends up negotiating a large discount.

Given the discount he negotiated, as well as all his extra efforts on this project, Andrei feels justified in accepting the printer for his home office. However, he isn't sure if it would be appropriate to do so per UC policy.

## Should Andrei accept the free printer for his home office?

- A. No. There are laws and University policies that prevent acceptance of a significant gift from a vendor and participating in decisions to award business to that vendor.
- B. Yes. Since the University has not increased his compensation in two years, he should be able to keep the printer as compensation.
- C. Yes. It would be inappropriate to turn down such a gift.
- D. No. Accepting the printer is a conflict of interest.

**General Compliance Briefing: University of California Ethical Values and Conduct (2018)**



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**The best answers are A and D, the others are not ethical.**

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## Ethical Scenario 2: Contract Shell Games



### Scenario

Jesse is a researcher paid 100% on a federal grant fund in a small laboratory. Meredith, the principal investigator of the lab, asks Jesse to stop working on the project in order to work on an other project unrelated to his grant funding.

Hayden, the departmental manager, notices that Jesse has been assisting with developing Meredith's project materials and inquires about the situation. Jesse confides that he is concerned that the workload associated with the new project is preventing him from completing the work on the grant from which he is actually being paid.

### Which statements are true?

- A. As long as Jesse is getting the work done on the project he is paid from, it is OK to work on the new project.
- B. If Jesse's time is charged 100% to the current grant and he is also working on another project, he and his supervisor Meredith are causing the grant to be falsely reported to the federal government.
- C. There are good internal controls in place to prevent inaccurate charges.
- D. The situation involves an allegation of Improper Governmental Activity, so Hayden should contact her campus Locally Designated Official (LDO).

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**In this case, statements B and D are true, A and C are not.**

**General Compliance Briefing: University of California Ethical Values and Conduct (2018)**

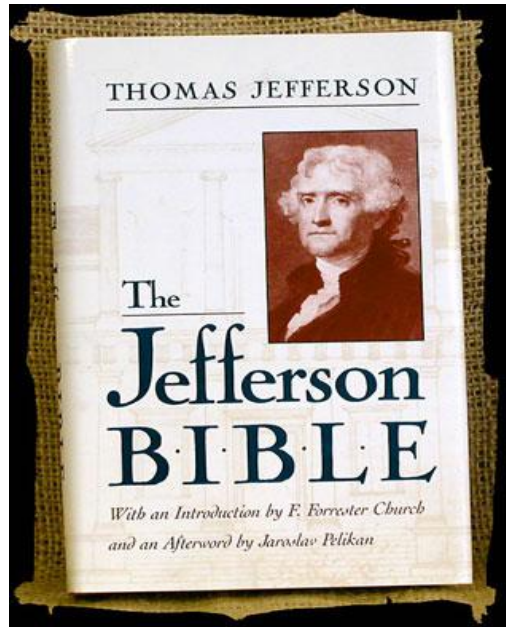


# Ethics, Morality and Law: Engineering Practice

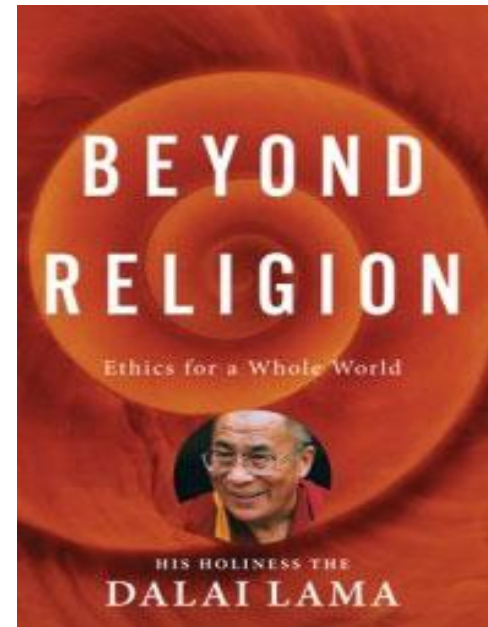
- *Legal*: Many of the difficult problems in engineering ethics are *inside* the boundary of what is legal.
- *Illegal*: But a number of things that were formerly ethical questions -- such as sexual harassment, age discrimination, arbitrary dismissal, and moving trade secrets -- are now *outside* the Law.
- *Open Issues*: Many of *our* current laws are *open issues from a national and worldwide perspective*, and even some of our well established laws are being reexamined from ethical, moral and religious viewpoints

The challenge is to establish a solid *Personal and Professional Ethical Framework* in the face of the continual fluctuation of societal morals, ethics and laws – and then to act decisively on the basis of that framework.

# Ethical Action: The Role of Religion



Thomas Jefferson created an abridged New Testament that contained his choice of Jesus' most important moral and ethical teachings, and eliminated the miracles and supernatural happenings. The Smithsonian Institute recently republished the original Jefferson Bible.



The Dalai Lama has said: “All of us, all human beings, are basically inclined toward what we perceive to be good...In view of this, I am of the firm opinion that we have within our grasp a secular way and means to ground inner values without contradicting any religion and yet, crucially, without depending on any religion.”

While religion can certainly be a guide to ethics, many people, even religious ones, have also sought a secular or non-religious path to ethical behavior

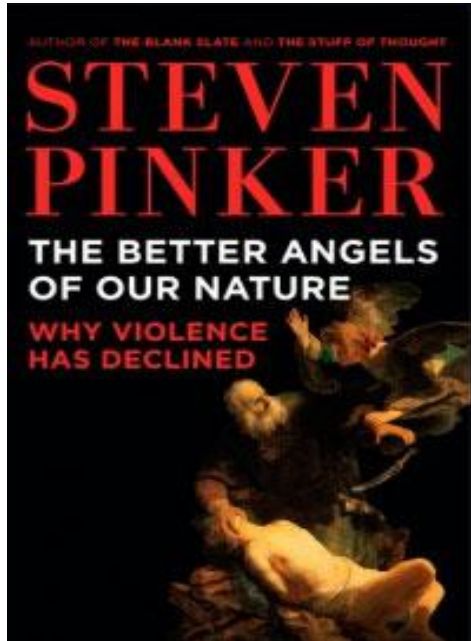
# America is Becoming More Secular

■ Members of a church, synagogue or mosque	<u>1945</u>	<u>2020</u>
	75%	47%
■ Claiming “None” as religion	<u>1970</u>	<u>2020</u>
	5%	30%
■ Believe bible is actual word of God	<u>1970</u>	<u>2020</u>
	40%	25%
■ Confidently believe in existence of God	<u>1990</u>	<u>2020</u>
	63%	53%

Pitzer College Professor Phil Zuckerman believes that America is joining societies such as Japan, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and Australia that combine social consciousness with a declining religious foundation. At the same time, the US Supreme Court is granting more leeway to religious institutions to use their beliefs as the basis for societal decisions and actions.

Statistics from Phil Zuckerman, “Why America’s record godlessness is a good thing.” Los Angeles Times, April 2, 2021

# Ethical Action: The Role of Science



“Modern sensibilities have increasingly conceived moral worth in terms of consciousness, particularly the ability to suffer and flourish, and have identified consciousness with the activity of the brain. *The change is part of the turning away from religion and custom and toward science and secular philosophy as a source of moral illumination.*”

Steven Pinker  
The Better Angels of our Nature

Pinker is certain that the growing field of brain research will clarify the idea of consciousness and provide a scientific basis for our moral and ethical actions.

# Ethical Action: The Role of Reason



Aref Ali Nayed  
Kalam Research, Dubai

- Reason has little or no role...

*“Rather, moral action depends on compassion. Parents need no reasoning to nourish their children to loving kindness. Human beings need no reasoning to help other needy humans and creatures. All we truly need is compassion.”*



Prof. Christine Korsgaard  
Harvard University

- Moral action depends on reason, but not always...

*“.. We do not have to go through a process of reasoning in order to arrive at a view of what morality requires on every occasion. Often, we simply know. But moral action does not merely depend on reason. Moral action is rational action, because the moral law is a law of reason.”*



Prof. Antonio Damasio  
USC

- Moral action depends on previous reasoning...

*“...because the actions we can truly call moral depend on the work of reason at some stage, [but] the moment-to-moment execution of actions, moral or otherwise, is not necessarily under the control of reason.”*

Today's ethical philosophers are divided, citing a variety of factors including genetics. For a complete presentation of these and other views, see [www.templeton.org/reason](http://www.templeton.org/reason).

## Sample Application: The Gorilla or the Child?

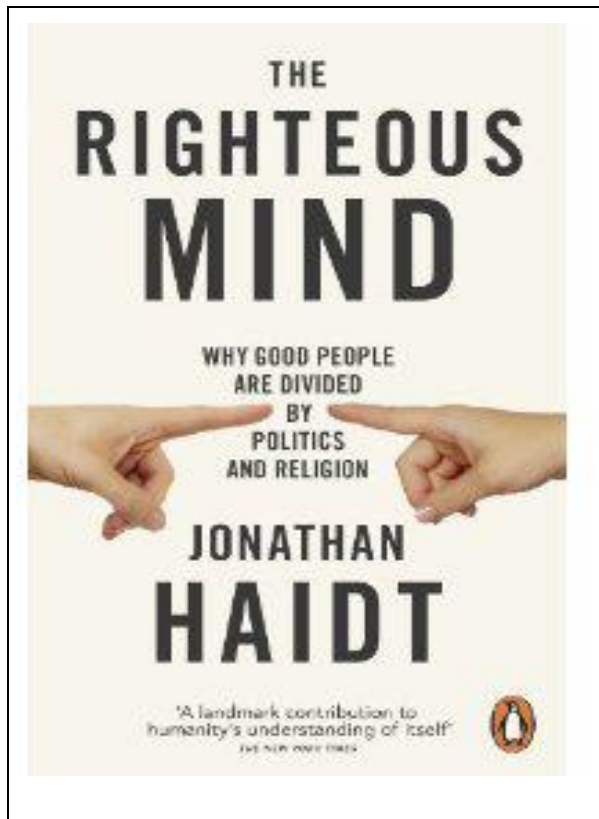


Harambe, the gorilla, at Cincinnati Zoo with child who fell into his enclosure

With no time to waste, our action includes compassion for the child (and for the gorilla), but it likely results from previous reasoning about their relative value.



# Ethical Action: The Role of Intuition 1

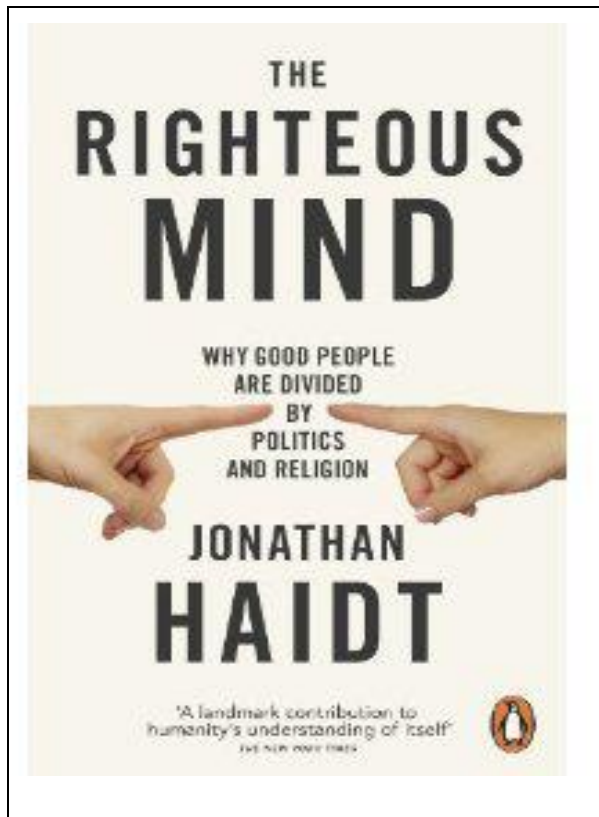


In accord with *Moral Foundations Theory*, which postulates a universal set of “intuitive ethics,” Jonathan Haidt lists six types of moral response that have evolved to promote group cohesion and are manifested through *intuitive emotional reactions*:

1. *Care/harm*
2. *Liberty/oppression*
3. *Fairness/cheating*
4. *Loyalty/betrayal*
5. *Authority/subversion*
6. *Sanctity/degradation*

Haidt further theorizes, using scientific evidence, that different groups make different use of these basic ingredients to form their moralities, and that these evolutionary attitudes contribute more to the control of behavior than does reason.

## Ethical Action: The Role of Intuition 2



Jonathan Haidt postulates six types of moral response that have evolved to promote group cohesion and are manifested through intuitive emotional reactions:

- *Care/harm*
- *Liberty/oppression*
- *Fairness/cheating*
- *Loyalty/betrayal*
- *Authority/subversion*
- *Sanctity/degradation*

For example, Haidt believes Liberals emphasize the first three responses, while Conservatives emphasize the last three. The two groups are building on the same set of responses, and so should be better able to understand each other.



# Ethical Action: The Role of Experience :

*“The life of the law has not been logic; it has been **experience**.”*

Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.  
The Common Law, 1881

*“**Genuine experience** is aggregated of events and individual circumstances from which conclusions are drawn and tested over time. It is the **wisdom to be had from the commonplace**, which is why the consensus that grows from shared experience transcends mere custom. Recourse to that civilizing authority is one of the things that breaths ethical life into the day-to-day administration of our courts and the production of newspapers and newscasts.”*

Tim Rutten, Regarding Media  
Los Angeles Times, July 30, 2003

“Learning from experience” undoubtedly includes the ability to reason as well.

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# Ethical Action: The Role of Choice

*“An act has no ethical quality whatsoever unless it be chosen out of several (acts that are) all equally possible.”*

William James  
The Principles of Psychology, 1890