

Individualism

1 Individualism, liberty and autonomy

demonstrating multiple facets of individualism

1.1 *strands*

1.1.1 ontological liberalism

- philosophy of being
- is critical of primacy of society over the individual - why demand deprivation of Individual liberty for the social construct?
- does not give us any rational of autonomy or self-determination

Indiv are more real than collectivities

THEREFORE society has no right to limit freedom of individuals

Mill, J. S.;

- everyone is free
- there are restraints on liberty than are rational and that are derived from the conception of liberty.
- Exercise of liberty must recognise the fundamental fact of liberty of all, not of the few.

Individuals are authors of collectives; society is an abstraction, no greater than the sum of its parts

The individual is shorthand, removes the need to enumerate all the individuals in a collective

The grammar of the multitude can be employed here; e.g. the plural *Individuals* enumerates multiple and most crucially *different* beings

Hobbes

- Individual more real than society, temporal grouping in social contract
- More real; i.e. prior to?
 - society is something made rather than found
- society state law: formed through social contract between individuals

Bentham

- dispenses with unhelpful and confusing Social Contract
fictitious
- utilitarian calculus; maximising the collective pleasure and minimising pain

Arblaster - individualism is ontological call

potential of absurdity in reduction of ontological liberalism

de Sadé

real individuals, pursuing pleasure, consenting autonomous free agents could legitimate self-disolution of freedom

inprescriptable/inalienable rights - can not sell ones self into slavery; can not give up own individual freedom

liberal is not usually committed to the idea that society is not an abstraction, society is usually recognised as real, not as an abstraction

ontological individualism allows humans to creatively express and fulfil ones self

- freedom from external constraints...
- capacity to decide for myself
- exercise of freedom is the means by which people become themselves

1.1.2 religious individualism

Lukes, S
personal relationship with god, no intermediary

1.1.3 epistemological individualism

sources of knowledge in the individual

1.1.4 methodological individualism

start with individuals to discover social whole

1.1.5 ethical liberalism

see separate mind map

1.2 are these strands joined or disparate?

1.2.1 a mobilised vocabulary of thought

1.2.2 these multiple strands have come to depend on the multiple senses on Individualism, referring to one refers to all.

1.2.3 each trades on the familiar currency of the other

2 conceptions of freedom

2.1 *Ancient*

2.1.1 freedom found in a social contract

2.1.2 citizen presupposes the polis

2.1.3 to be self-governing as a collectivity

2.1.4 humans inherently belong and can only be understood within the matrix of society

2.1.5 freedom is social and political

- citizens are free, many are not citizens
slaves, women &c
- Greek freedom presupposes unfreedom (slavery) for coherency

2.2 *Modern*

Confers little moral agency on the individual; ind is more real, important because it comes first (creating society), not because ind is more moral.

2.2.1 freedom is not necessarily social

- freedom as a human being, not as a citizen

2.2.2 trading of freedom for membership of society

2.2.3 only natural, ex-social, humans are freedom

2.2.4 individuals creating society, society is/should be subservient to its creators

2.2.5 trading off liberty to allow us to live in the company of others

- legitimate deprivation of liberty
- choice in deprivation
- not coercion, manipulation