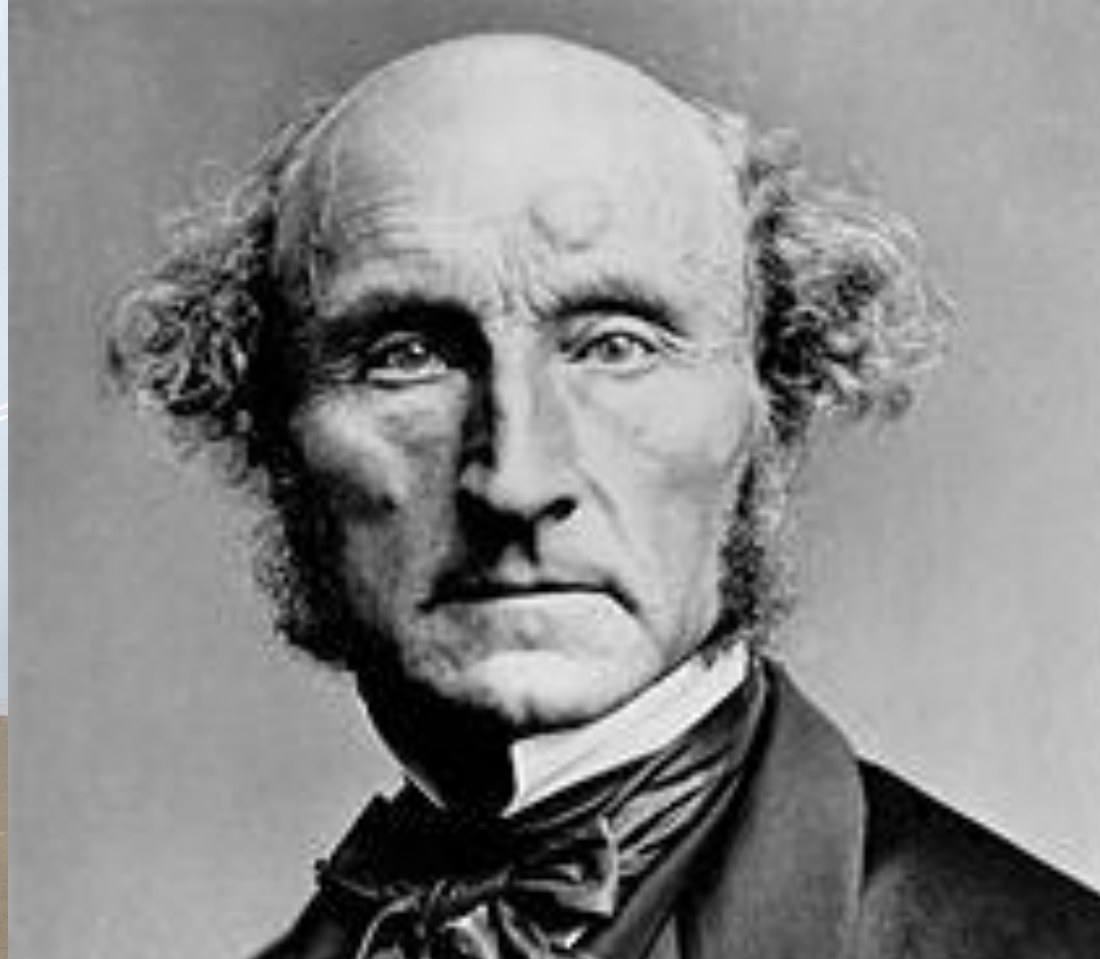
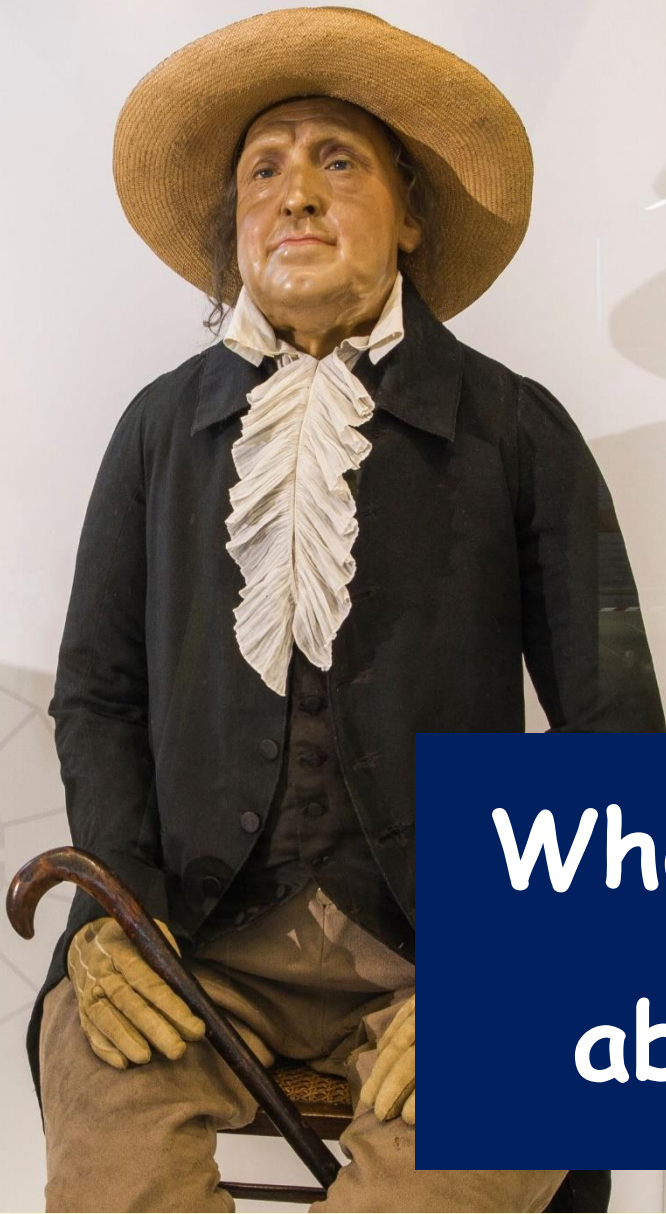


Jeremy Bentham



What do you remember
about utilitarianism?



What are the
main
criticisms of
Mill's
utilitarianism?

Criticism 1

- Elitism



Criticism 2

- Conceptual confusion
- Georg Henrik von Wright



Criticism 3

- Potentially, a false dualism



Criticism 4

- **Contradiction**

(a) pleasure is the
sole intrinsic good

(b) but some
pleasures qualitatively
better than others





Non- hedonistic utilitarianism

including preference
utilitarianism



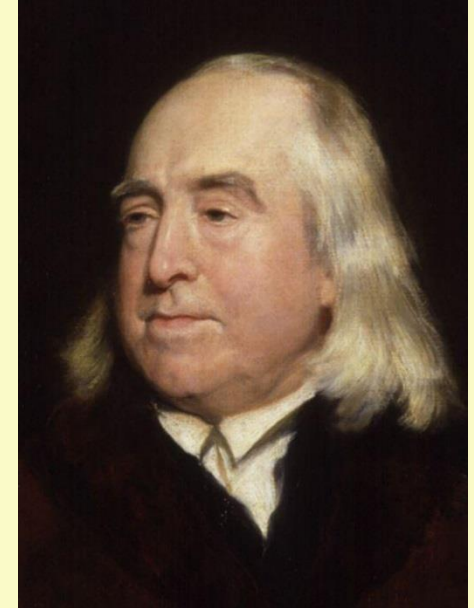
What are the key ideas of preference utilitarianism?

Preference Utilitarianism

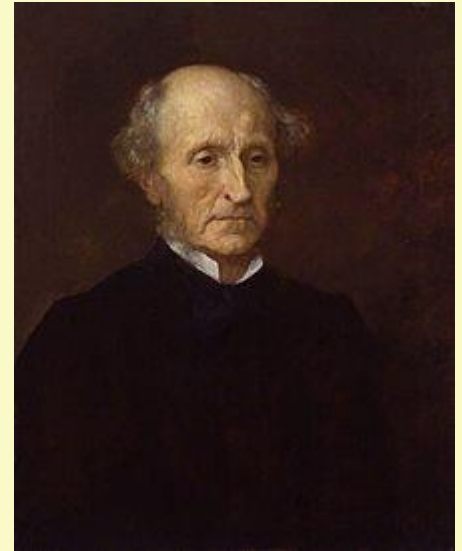


- Rule off
- Underline title & date

- Bentham's concept of pleasure comes under sustained attack...
- Then... e.g. 'monotonous hedonism'

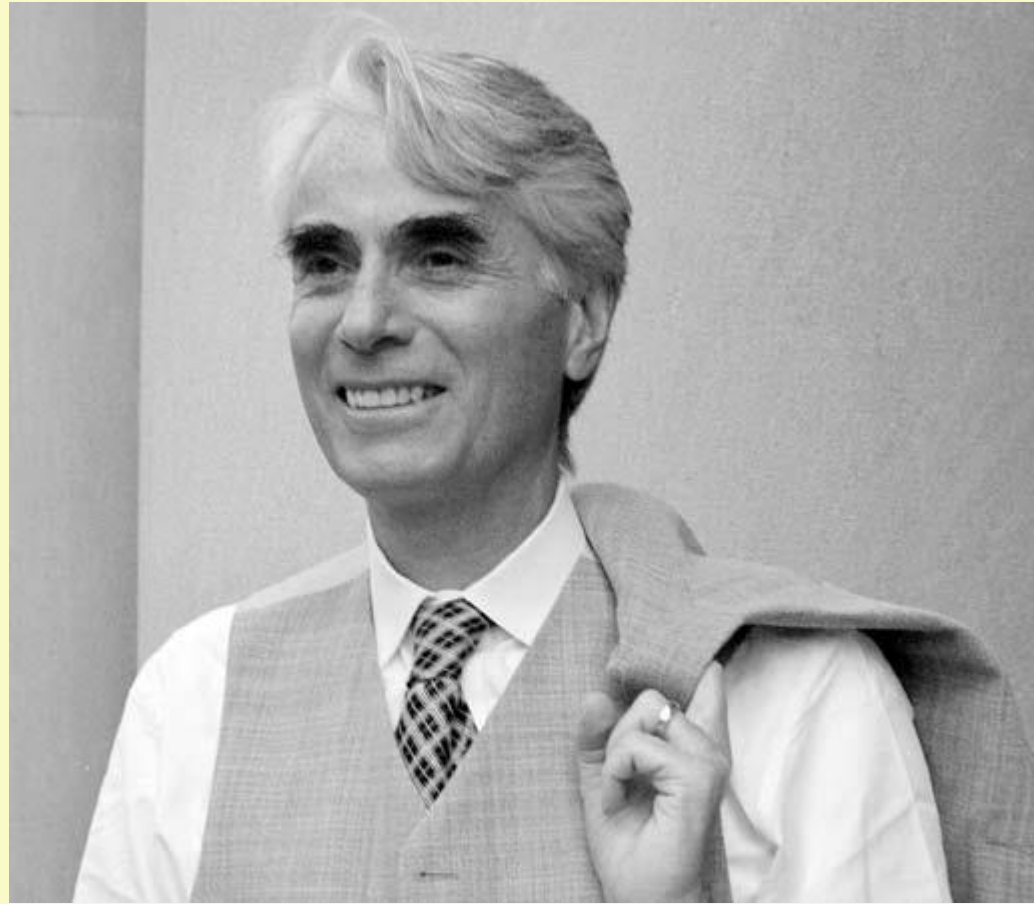


- Mill attempted to strengthen it...
- ...distinguishing between higher and lower pleasures...
- But this distinction itself comes under sustained fire...



Nozick

- Pleasure machine
thought
experiment(s)...



- Problem of minority rights...

- e.g. sadistic guards



Peter Singer's U



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Singer

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVViICWs4dM>



1: Objective

- Rational, non-emotional, objective
- but non-calculative...





we should take the viewpoint of an
impartial spectator

2: Preferences

- **Reconceptualises**
pleasure and pain
- Satisfaction of
preferences
- (=non-elitist)





"An action contrary to the preference of any being is, unless the preference is outweighed by contrary preferences, wrong"

3: Preference v pleasure

- It is possible that we rationally prefer X even though X does not maximise our pleasure (sensation)



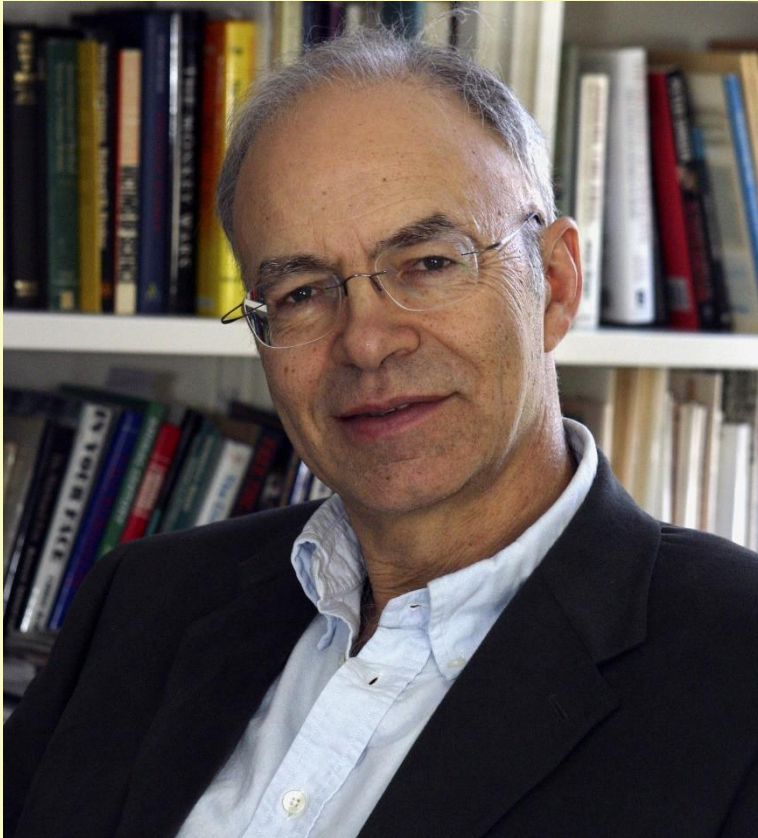
the 'best possible
consequences' means
what is in the **best**
interests of the
individuals affected

Who decides what
our real interests /
preferences are?

- A matter of judgement rather than calculation...
- Though the *more* preferences that are satisfied, the better



4: Universality



- "In accepting that ethical judgements must be made from a universal point of view, I am accepting that my own needs, wants and desires cannot, simply because they are my preferences, count more than the wants, needs and desires of anyone else."

• *Practical Ethics*

- We ought to do what on balance furthers the preferences of those affected.

5. Equality

- Equal consideration of preference (or interest)
- Principle of diminishing marginal utility

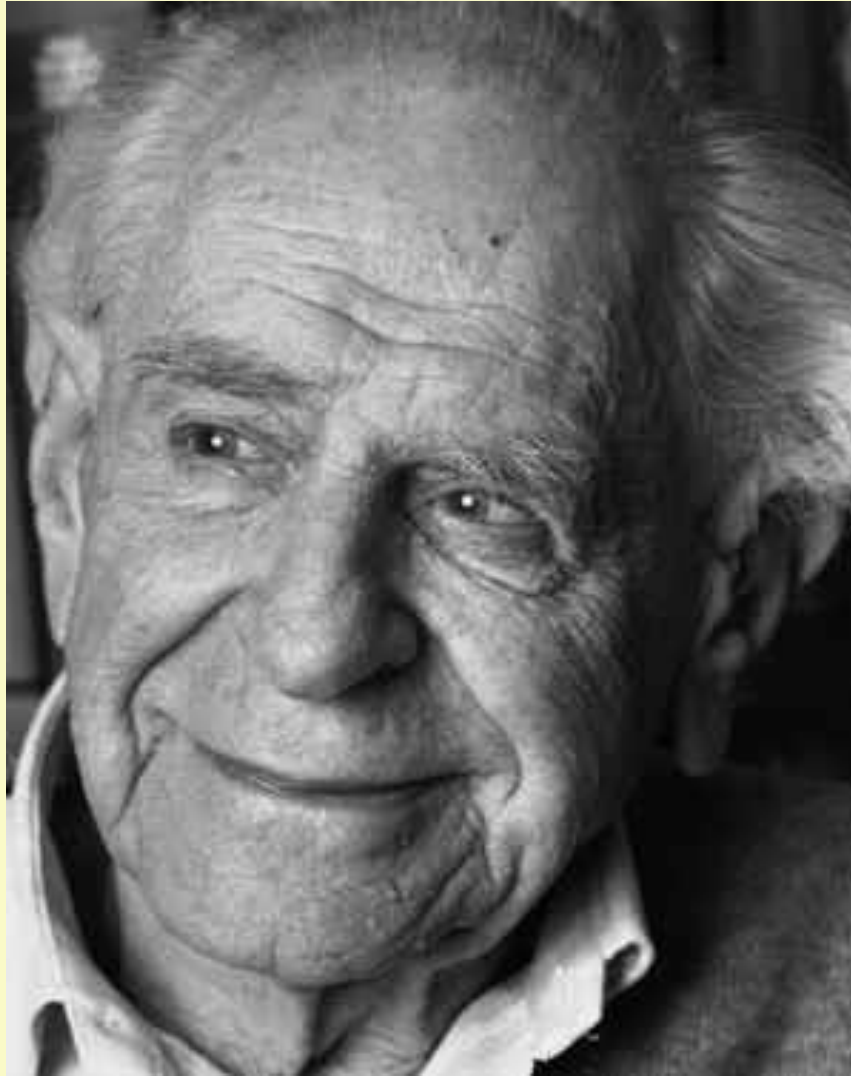


6. Minimise suffering

- Singer concentrates, like Popper, on minimising suffering
- But overcomes the problem of Popper's negative utilitarianism



Karl Popper



Negative Utilitarianism

- Seek to reduce the amount of pain and suffering existing in society
- Minimising pain is seen as a more valuable goal than the creation of happiness





What steps could you/the state take to minimise societal suffering?



green queen media

- Sentient v. non-sentient animals
- Sentient animals can experience suffering
- Therefore their preferences ought to be taken into account
- Champions terms, 'speciesism'



[Peter Singer | Full Q&A at The Oxford Union - YouTube](#)

Hare

'equal preferences count equally,
whatever their content'.

People are happy when they get what
they prefer, but what we prefer may
clash with the preferences of others.

Universality: we need to 'stand in
someone else's shoes' and try to imagine
what someone else might prefer.

We should treat everyone, including
ourselves, with **impartiality**.



**Write a detailed
account of Singer's
utilitarianism**