

Enlightenment period ethics

Enlightenment period: Ethics

- B. Spinoza: “Ethics”
 - a happiness in acknowledgement of God and Nature;
 - 2 sciences: psychology and physics;
 - Knowledge is a source of harmony

Enlightenment period: Ethics

- J.-J. Rousseau:
 - science and ethics: enemies.
 - Giving up the civilization = happiness;
 - An art to *live*

Enlightenment period: Ethics

- Voltaire, Montesquieu (France)
- E. Kant (Germany): imperatives
- G. F. Hegel: irrelativeness of morality

E. Kant: Ethics

- 2 types of human acts: moral and legal;
- Example: saving a drowning person: legal and moral ways;
- A moral act is often an act against your interests;
- Theory of a duty: a duty is not a boring obligation, but it is an act of freedom, or a free will. Moral act is an act against natural egoism.

E. Kant: Ethics

- Moral laws should be applied equally to everyone, regardless of his physical, social, other features.
- There are many reasons to justify bad acts, but there are now reasons for committing a good act, - it is done by duty.
- 1. Act as if your will could become a legal basis for everyone; (categorical imperative)
- 2. A man should always be an aim, not the mean. (is not, unfortunately, a law of history)

E. Kant: Ethics

- “ 2 things please and surprise my soul: that is a sky full of stars, and the moral law inside a man, that makes him free.” – E. Kant.
- A man should live *as if he is free*.

G.F. Hegel: Ethics

- A bourgeois society can form a moral point of view;
- 3 stages of development: law - Rome; morality – medieval centuries; conscience - modern bourgeois society;
- Work: “Philosophy of Law”:
 - Abstract law;
 - Morality;
 - Conscience.

G.F. Hegel: Ethics

- Relative approach to the good and bad acts;
- For Hegel it is unacceptable to commit “*fiat justitia pereat mundus*” (“Apply the law even if the world dies”);

S. Kierkegaard: a misery of life and existentialism

A. Shopenhauer: a school of pessimism

- S. Kierkegaard: a desperation of life and
existentialism

“Desires or Duties”: 3 stages of life:
aesthetical, ethical and religious;

“Christ is the Way”

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- A. Shopenhauer: a school of *pessimism*
“From Sufferings to Boredom”:
A psychology of a human being
Suffering as a condition for genius