JUSTICE

Lecture 9 – Rights as side-constraints

- 1. Utilitarianism as a consequentialist theory of morality
- 2. Some problem cases for consequentialist theories
 - a. The trolley problem
 - b. The survival lottery
- 3. Distinguish two different objections to utilitarianism
 - a. Utilitarianism misunderstands what is intrinsically valuable
 - b. Utilitarianism treats all rights as derivative, but some rights are fundamental
- 4. Distinguish two ways of taking fundamental rights into account
 - a. Non-violation of rights is taken to be a goal of action
 - b. Non-violation of rights is taken to be a side-constraint on action
- 5. Consequentialist theories must treat non-violation of rights as a goal of action
 - a. What if punishing the innocent leads to fewer rights violation?
 - b. What if killing civilians in war leads to fewer rights violations?
- 6. Non-consequentialist theories treat non-violation of rights as a side-constraint on action
- 7. Nozick's fundamental libertarian side-constraint against aggression
- 8. Consequences of Nozick's libertarian side-constraint
 - a. Economic redistribution is unjust
 - b. The only kind of state that can be justified is a minimal state

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