

HOBBSInternational Relations

- Disarmament
 - o Always rational to arm regardless of if your neighbor does
 - o Leads to ceaseless expansion of power
- Pre-Emptive Strikes
 - o Often rational, especially if it removes the capacity for retaliation
 - o Explains aggression and why there is a ceaseless attempt to acquire power
- Explains
 - o Why there is war
 - Without positing hatred of neighbors, ignorance, intolerance, irrationality, etc.

Domestic PDs

- Who does the dishes?
 - o Explains the state of the sink in student houses

Hobbes' solution to the paradox of self-interest

- Renounce your right to choose an A on condition that your partner does too
- Leave the state of nature and form a COMMONWEALTH
 - o How do you establish a commonwealth?
 - Renounce certain rights on condition that others do too (establish a social contract)
 - Renounce those that allow you to escape the state of nature (kill, assault, coerce, etc.)

- o What is a commonwealth like?
 - Peace and morality: morality is defined by the contract
 - Morality is the set of rules established in the covenant
 - Hobbes justification for traditional morality: it's in our self-interest
 - Morality is the solution to a practical problem
 - State/govt.: this is the means of enforcing the contract, what Hobbes calls sovereign
 - A contract that is not enforced is worthless
 - The sovereign is not bound by the contract
 - Fruits of civilization "commodious building," etc.; divisions of labor
 - We can induce in altruistic feelings or take care of others without fear

Questions for Hobbes

- Why should I act morally?
 - o Answer: because it is in your self-interest to do so
 - Hobbes' theory is really just Egoism that takes into account the fact that we act in a world of others like us
- Why shouldn't I sometimes break the rules if this will benefit me?
 - o Answer: no one would agree to a contract that allows this; the benefits of a commonwealth would not be possible
- When is it permissible to rebel against a government?
 - o Answer: When you are not or are no longer bound by the contract

Advantages of Hobbes' Account

- Doesn't demand self-sacrificing or unending obligations to the poor (unlike Utilitarianism)
- Secular; no appeal to God (unlike Divine Command Theory)

- Doesn't require objective moral facts built into nature (unlike Natural Law Theory)
- Morality is not just a matter of custom or taste (unlike relativism)
- Does not assume a rich notion of rationality (unlike Kantianism)
- Does not assume anything about human psychology
- Shows there is no special moral subject matter
 - Reconstructs morality starting with the general practical problem: what ought I to do?
- Justifies the state
 - Even a self-interested being would agree to it, so it is not unjust to make someone obey it

RAWLS

Some Definitions

- C is a contract: C is a set of rules
- R is a rule: R is a sentence of the form: if in situation type S, do action type A
- Contract C is complete: for every situation of type S, C contains some rules of the form: if in situation type S, do action type A
- Contract C is consistent: it is possible to follow all rules in C
 - A consistent contract cannot contain two rules unless it is possible to do both

The Naïve Social Contract Theory

- An action is morally right iff it is permitted by the contract that the original founders of the society agreed to abide by when they emerged from a state of nature
- Problems
 - Why think that there is a unique contract?