



On Liberty

- Its Importance?
- What is liberty?
- Liberty rests on certain values.
- Mill seeks to protect the individual.
 - Tyranny of the State
 - Power of the Elite
 - Tyranny of Public Opinion

The Harm Principle

- The harm principle protects the individual from harm.
- The harm principle is opposed to -
- Legal Paternalism
- Legal Moralism
- Offense

- When we look at all kinds of human action they can be put into two categories.
- Self-regarding actions
- Other-regarding actions
- The sphere of other regarding behavior is where it is legitimate but not wise to use the law.

- There are two types of other regarding cases.
- My actions harm others.
- My inactions harm others.

- Mill places a high value on liberty.
- Liberty of action versus liberty of thought.
- Mill gives an argument for freedom of speech that has become famous.
- What happens if we oppress opinion and its true?
- Suppose a view is possibly false?
- Suppose a view is totally false?

- Truth and reason have a utilitarian payoff. The greatest happiness of the greatest number is seen by the survival of the most true. The most true survives in an open society – a society that affords the individual the framework to seek his or her good. So *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism* come together.