

JUSTICE

WHAT'S
THE RIGHT
THING TO
DO?

MICHAEL J.
SANDEL

Executive Book Summary by Matthew Dow

Chapter 1: Doing the Right Thing

Michael J. Sandel opens his book "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?" by exploring several ethical and moral dilemmas that society has faced.

First, in the wake of Hurricane Charley in 2004, price gouging for gasoline and other basic necessities became common place which fueled an anger by both customers and observers over the exploitation of a crisis for personal profit.

The second example outlined concerns the awarding of the Purple Heart for American soldiers wounded or killed by enemies. But, the Purple Heart is only awarded for physical injuries and not mental injuries like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which had, at the time of writing, become a significant and widespread "injury" following the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The third example used was the infamous bailouts to Wall Street banks following the 2008 financial crisis where banks were given billions of dollars to secure risky investments. Banks then took the opportunity to award lavish bonuses on executives which sparked a wave of outrage.

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In all three case studies there is a moral concern about what is "just," or what is the right thing to do? Through the distribution of goods, whether gasoline, purple hearts or bank bonuses, Sandel identifies three ways of approaching these matters 1) Welfare; 2) Freedom; 3) Virtue. Many of the common debates about justice in society revolve around these three pillars: How do we maximize social welfare? How do

we respect freedom? And, how do we cultivate virtue?

Often moral disagreements occur between individuals, many times these disagreements occur within individuals. To resolve these conflicts, philosophers have employed moral reasoning to hypothetical and real life examples which Sandel employs throughout the book.

Ethical Dilemma # One

Imagine you're a trolley car driver. The car's brakes have broken and it is heading down the road towards a group of five people which will surely die if you hit them. You have the ability to turn and only kill one worker on the alternative track. What would you do?

Ethical Dilemma # Two

Now imagine you're an onlooker watching the car barrel down the track and you can save the five people down the track by pushing one person on the track which would effectively stop the train. What do you do? Why might your decision change from Conundrum One?

"Political philosophy cannot resolve these disagreements once and for all but it can give shape to the arguments we have, and bring moral clarity to the alternatives we confront as democratic citizens."

Michael Sandel Justice Chapter Summary

**Gary Colombo, Robert Cullen, Bonnie
Lisle, Uzzie Cannon**

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Generous Justice Timothy Keller, 2012-08-07 Keller explores a life of justice empowered by an experience of grace

A Materialist Theory of Justice Isaak Dore, 2025-02-06 This book presents a comprehensive theory of justice that has a threefold justification For the first justification the book presents a rigorously empirical methodology based on the stark realities of the human condition It has a strong anthropological grounding in that it is adapted from the methodology of cultural materialism which in turn is founded on the materialist epistemology of Karl Marx The second justification is philosophical The theory of justice derived from the above methodology is further buttressed by and or tested against the major trends of Western philosophy as represented by the thought of Aristotle Thomas Hobbes Thomas Aquinas Immanuel Kant Georg W F Hegel John Finnis John Dewey George Mead Jürgen Habermas Michel Foucault Jean Fran ois Lyotard Axel Honneth Michael Sandel Michael Walzer Martha Nussbaum John Maynard Keynes Amartya Sen and Karl Marx The third justification is moral The promotion of human flourishing on the basis of fairness and equality are the minimum goals to be achieved after which a more ambitious and comprehensive theory of overall goodness based on individual and governmental action can be implemented

The Protection Role and Jurisprudence of the United Nations Human Rights Council Bertrand G. Ramcharan, 2022-04-11 This book places under scrutiny for the first time whether and how the United Nations Human Rights Council actually contributes to the protection of human rights in the face of pervasive gross violations world wide It finds that the Council does little of preventive protection some mitigatory protection and little remedial or compensatory protection The Council's response to situations of gross violations depends on the political alignments within its membership for each situation The Council gives priority to cooperation and dialogue over principled denunciations of gross violations It is not an organ of justice but in some instances it is an organ for justice inasmuch as it addresses the structural causes of violations Much useful fact finding takes place under the auspices of the Council and it does contribute to the progressive development of international law

Justice as Right Actions Young Kim, 2015-10-08 Justice as Right Actions presents an original theory of justice anchored in the analytical philosophical tradition In contrast to many contemporary approaches the theory provides normative guidance rather than focusing solely on political structures and institutions as the question of justice is seen to comprise both a moral inquiry concerned with questions of good and bad right and wrong and a political inquiry concerned with the nature of the polity and how individuals relate to it Presenting a relational account of justice rather than a distributive account the latter so much more prevalent in current studies communications are seen as the key to the theory both in the substantive sense as a discursive method of resolving disputes as well as instrumentally in the transmission of concepts especially values through time Rule oriented in approach justice as right actions attempts to be value neutral acknowledging however an underlying thin theory of the good including concepts of rationality autonomous moral agency equal concern and respect for others as well as plurality of values Its political context is liberalism with components of

negative liberty and equality of concern and respect while underscoring as well the concepts of tolerance and social diversity In this study the original theory of Justice as Right Actions is also contrasted with and situated among contemporary accounts of justice including the most important theoretical works on the topic in the past half century Thus the study also serves as a valuable review and critique of such major contemporary accounts of justice

Justice and Harmony Joshua Mason,2022-08-16 Justice and harmony have long been two of the world s most treasured ideals but much of modern moral and political philosophy puts them on opposite sides of the divide between liberal theories of the right and communitarian theories of the good Joshua Mason argues that the encounter with their Chinese counterparts zhengyi and hexie can overcome this opposition revealing a pattern that reframes justice and harmony as mutually interdependent concepts in a three part framework of root harmony benhe harmonic justice heyi and just harmony zhenghe Broadly surveying the histories of western and Chinese moral and political philosophies Justice and Harmony Cross Cultural Ideals in Conflict and Cooperation explores our cross cultural conceptual inventories and develops a comparative framework that can overcome entrenched binary oppositions and reconcile these grand global values

Pluralism, Property, and Radical Transformation Matthew Kruger,2024-12-16 Drawing on intellectual history ethics political economy and jurisprudence Pluralism Property and Radical Transformation offers a novel pluralistic property theory Acknowledging the tragic conflicts between goods it reveals the limits of theory and defends the radical freedom of communities to transform their property systems

Interpreting the World William James Booth,1986 **On Sharing Fate** Norman S. Care,1987 **Rereading America** Gary Colombo,Robert Cullen,Bonnie Lisle,Uzzie Cannon,2025-08-14 Designed for first year writing courses Rereading America 13e is a thematically organized collection of 54 readings that challenge students to critically examine the cultural myths shaping American society With selections focused on justice education race gender class and technology the anthology features a diverse range of voices and genres Each chapter includes visual portfolios prereading activities and thought provoking questions that connect personal experience to academic inquiry and foster deeper critical thinking

Justice Across Generations Lee M. Cohen,Public Policy Institute (American Association of Retired Persons),1993

Labor of Dionysus Michael Hardt,1994 **Justice Gender And F** Susan M. Okin,1989-11-05 In the first feminist critique of modern political theory Okin shows how the failure to apply theories of justice to the family not only undermines our most cherished democratic values but has led to

Making the Connections Beverly Wildung Harrison,1985

Ideology and Political Life Kenneth R. Hoover,1987 *Illiberal Justice* David Lewis Schaefer,2007 Schaefer challenges John Rawls s practically sacrosanct status among scholars of political theory law and ethics by demonstrating how Rawls s teachings deviate from the core tradition of American constitutional liberalism toward libertarianism Provided by publisher

International Quarterly of Community Health Education ,1992 **Radical Business Ethics** Richard L. Lippke,1995-11-07 Arguing against most scholars of business ethics who have articulated a set of moral principles and

applied them to problems faced by business people Richard Lippke steers away from offering moral directives In *Radical Business Ethics* he develops a more comprehensive perspective on business issues that is tied to larger questions of social justice Analyzing a select group of timely issues such as advertising employee privacy and insider trading in the context of debates about the nature of the just society Lippke argues that the most plausible theory of justice is one whose implications are highly critical of many features of advanced capitalist societies *Radical Business Ethics* will be an eye opening book for students and scholars of ethics and anyone interested in the role business plays in a just society

Blair's Community Sarah Hale, 2006 Blair's Community is an exciting and timely book which challenges the accepted wisdom about the role of communitarian thought in the development of New Labour under Tony Blair From the mid 1990s there has been a widespread view that Labour policies have reflected or even been influenced by the work of communitarian writers like Amitai Etzioni and John Macmurray and philosophers such as Alasdair MacIntyre and Michael Sandel

The Fate of America Michael Gellert, 2001 He describes how our national character influenced this ideal and pinpoints what has caused it to go awry

BOOK JACKET

The Anatomy of Antiliberalism Stephen Holmes, 1993 Holmes challenges the philosophical arguments of the high communitarians and their intellectual forebears By the time he is finished the opposing camp has no survivors ancient or modern Anybody who feels drawn to the high communitarian cause owes it to himself though not to society to read Mr Holmes's book everybody else should read it for pleasure

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