Utilitarianism, the approach to ethics based on the maximization of overall well-being, continues to have great traction in moral philosophy and political thought. This Companion offers a systematic exploration of its history, themes, and applications. First, it traces the origins and development of utilitarianism via the work of Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, Henry Sidgwick, and others. The volume then explores issues in the formulation of utilitarianism, including act versus rule utilitarianism, actual versus expected consequences, and objective versus subjective theories of well-being. Next, utilitarianism is positioned in relation to Kantianism and virtue ethics, and the possibility of conflict between utilitarianism and fairness is considered. Finally, the volume explores the modern relevance of utilitarianism by considering its practical implications for contemporary controversies such as military conflict and global warming. The volume will be an important resource for all those studying moral philosophy, political philosophy, political theory, and the history of ideas.

Ben Eggleston is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kansas. He is co-editor (with Dale E. Miller and David Weinstein) of John Stuart Mill and the Art of Life (2011).

Dale E. Miller is Professor of Philosophy at Old Dominion University. He is author of J. S. Mill: Moral, Social and Political Thought (2010) and co-editor of Morality, Rules, and Consequences (with Brad Hooker and Elinor Mason, 2000) and John Stuart Mill and the Art of Life (with Ben Eggleston and David Weinstein, 2011).
OTHER VOLUMES IN THE SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS

ABELARD  Edited by JEFFREY E. BROWER and KEVIN GUILFOY

ADORNO  Edited by THOMAS RUHN

ANCIENT SCEPTICISM  Edited by RICHARD BETT

ANSELm  Edited by BRIAN DAVIES and BRIAN LEFTOW

AQUINAS  Edited by NORMAN KRETZMANN and ELEONORE STUMP

ARABIC PHILOSOPHY  Edited by PETER ADAMSON and RICHARD C. TAYLOR

HANNAH ARENDT  Edited by DANAILLA

ARISTOTLE  Edited by JONATHAN BARNES

ARISTOTLE’S ‘POLITICS’  Edited by MARGUERITE DESLAFURIES and PAUL DESTRÉE

ATHEISM  Edited by MICHAEL MARTIN

AUGUSTINE  Edited by ELEONORE STUMP and NORMAN KRETZMANN

BACON  Edited by MARKKU PELTONEN

BERKELEY  Edited by KENNETH P. WINKLER

BOETHIUS  Edited by JOHN MARENBON

BRENTANO  Edited by DALE JACQUETTE

CARNAP Edited by MICHAEL FRIEDMAN and RICHARD CREATH

CONSTANT  Edited by HELENA ROSENBLATT

CRITICAL THEORY  Edited by FRED RUSH

DARWIN  2nd edition Edited by JONATHAN HODGE and GREGORY RADICK

SIMONE DE BEAUVIOR  Edited by CLAUDIA CARD

DELEUZE  Edited by DANIEL W. SMITH and HENRY SOMERS-HALL

DESCARTES  Edited by JOHN COTTINGHAM

DEWEY  Edited by MOLLY COCHRAN

DUNS SCOTUS  Edited by THOMAS WILLIAMS

EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY Edited by A. A. LONG

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY  Edited by DONALD RUTHERFORD

EPICUREANISM  Edited by JAMES WARREN

Continued at the back of the book
The Cambridge Companion to

 UTILITARIANISM

Edited by

Ben Eggleston  
University of Kansas

Dale E. Miller  
Old Dominion University
CONTENTS

Notes on contributors  ix
Acknowledgments  xiii

Introduction  1
BEN EGGLESTON AND DALE E. MILLER

1 Utilitarianism before Bentham  16
COLIN HEYDT

2 Bentham and utilitarianism in the early nineteenth century  38
JAMES E. CRIMMINS

3 Mill and utilitarianism in the mid-nineteenth century  61
HENRY R. WEST

4 Sidgwick and utilitarianism in the late nineteenth century  81
ROGER CRISP

5 Utilitarianism in the twentieth century  103
KRISTER BYKVIST

6 Act utilitarianism  125
BEN EGGLESTON

7 Rule utilitarianism  146
DALE E. MILLER

8 Global utilitarianism  166
JULIA DRIVER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Objectivism, subjectivism, and prospectivism</td>
<td>Elinor Mason</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Subjective theories of well-being</td>
<td>Chris Heathwood</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Objective theories of well-being</td>
<td>Ben Bradley</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kantian ethics and utilitarianism</td>
<td>Jens Timmermann</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>What virtue ethics can learn from utilitarianism</td>
<td>Daniel C. Russell</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Utilitarianism and fairness</td>
<td>Brad Hooker</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Utilitarianism and the ethics of war</td>
<td>William H. Shaw</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Utilitarianism and our obligations to future people</td>
<td>Tim Mulgan</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bibliography 348
Index 373
CONTRIBUTORS

BEN BRADLEY is Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Syracuse University. He is the author of Well-Being and Death (2009) and co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Death (2012).

KRISTER BYKVIST is Professor of Practical Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden. Before taking up this professorship he was a Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at Jesus College, Oxford. He is the author of “No Good Fit: Why the Fitting Attitude Analysis of Value Fails” (Mind, 2009), “Can Unstable Preferences Provide a Stable Standard of Well-Being?” (Economics and Philosophy, 2010), and Utilitarianism: A Guide for the Perplexed (2010).


ROGER CRISP is Uehiro Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at St. Anne’s College, Oxford, and Professor of Moral Philosophy at the

**Julia Driver** is Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis. She is the author of *Uneasy Virtue* (2001), *Ethics: The Fundamentals* (2006), and *Consequentialism* (2012), as well as articles in a variety of journals such as *Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Hypatia,* and *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. She is an associate editor of *Ethics* and a co-editor of *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

**Ben Eggleston** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kansas. He is the author of several articles on utilitarianism and related topics in journals such as *Utilitas, Mind,* and *Philosophical Quarterly*. He is also a co-editor, with Dale E. Miller and David Weinstein, of *John Stuart Mill and the Art of Life* (2011).

**Chris Heathwood** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he works mainly in theoretical ethics. He has written on well-being, the nature of pleasure, and various topics in metaethics. He also has interests in metaphysics and the philosophy of religion.

**Colin Heydt** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. His work focuses on the history of ethics, with special attention to seventeenth- through nineteenth-century British thought. He is the author of *Rethinking Mill’s Ethics: Character and Aesthetic Education* (2006) as well as chapters in edited collections and articles published in *Journal of the History of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, History of Philosophy Quarterly,* and *Hume Studies*.

**Brad Hooker** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Reading. He is the author of *Ideal Code, Real World: A Rule-consequentialist Theory of Morality* (2000) and a co-editor (with Dale E. Miller and Elinor Mason) of *Morality, Rules, and Consequences* (2000). His paper “Fairness” appeared in *Ethical

Elinor Mason is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh. She is a co-editor (with Brad Hooker and Dale E. Miller) of Morality, Rules, and Consequences (2000), and her work has appeared in numerous journals including American Philosophical Quarterly, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, Philosophical Studies, and Utilitas.

Dale E. Miller is Professor of Philosophy at Old Dominion University. He is the author of J. S. Mill: Moral, Social and Political Thought (2010). He is also a co-editor of Morality, Rules, and Consequences [with Brad Hooker and Elinor Mason, 2000] and John Stuart Mill and the Art of Life [with Ben Eggleston and David Weinstein, 2011].

Tim Mulgan is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Auckland, and Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy at the University of St. Andrews. He is the author of The Demands of Consequentialism (2001), Future People (2006), Understanding Utilitarianism (2007), and Ethics for a Broken World (2011).

Daniel C. Russell is Professor of Philosophy in the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom at the University of Arizona, and the Percy Seymour Reader in Ancient History and Philosophy at Ormond College, University of Melbourne. His research focuses on ancient and contemporary ethics. He is the author of Plato on Pleasure and the Good Life (2005), Practical Intelligence and the Virtues (2009), and Happiness for Humans (2012), and the editor of the Cambridge Companion to Virtue Ethics (2013).

William H. Shaw is Professor of Philosophy at San Jose State University. In addition to essays in various professional journals, he is the author of Marx’s Theory of History (1986), Moore on Right and Wrong (1995), Contemporary Ethics: Taking Account of Utilitarianism (1999), Business Ethics [8th edn., 2013], and Moral Issues in Business [with Vincent Barry, 12th edn., 2012].
xii    CONTRIBUTORS

edited or co-edited six books, including *G. E. Moore’s Ethics* (2005), *Philosophy of Law* (5th edn., 2009), and *Social and Personal Ethics* (7th edn., 2012).

**Jens Timmermann** is Reader in Moral Philosophy at the University of St. Andrews. He is the author of *Sittengesetz und Freiheit* [2003] and of Kant’s “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”: A Commentary [2007]. He is the editor of, inter alia, *Kant’s “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”: A Critical Guide* [2009], *Kant’s “Critique of Practical Reason”: A Critical Guide* (jointly with Andrews Reath, 2010), and the first German–English edition of Kant’s “Groundwork” [2011].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all of the authors who have written chapters for this book. We appreciate not only their initial contributions, which were very skillfully done, but also their patience with an intensive editing process through which we tried to make the final manuscript as clear and accessible as possible. We would also like to thank Hilary Gaskin and Anna Lowe, of Cambridge University Press, for their support of this book and their guidance through the production of it. Finally, we would like to thank Monica Shafii, a student at the University of Kansas, for her assistance with the checking and compilation of the bibliography entries; Robert Vinten, for his assistance with the compilation of the index; the College of Arts and Letters at Old Dominion University, for subsidizing Vinten’s work; and Martin Barr, for his conscientious copy-editing.