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Charles Tennant

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Utilitarianism Explained and Exemplified in Moral and Political Government

A founder in 1830 of the National Colonization Society, Charles Tennant (1796–1873) advocated government support for emigration to Britain's colonies as a means of alleviating poverty at home and boosting the workforce overseas. Briefly representing St Albans in Parliament, he later wrote treatises on contemporary political and financial questions, notably arguing for the abolition of income tax in *The People's Blue Book* (1857). Also published anonymously, the present work, which appeared in 1864, offers a critique of John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* (1863). Tennant argues that happiness does not consist in utility, but rather in conformity to divine will as described by the Christian faith. Nevertheless, Tennant says, we ought to promote utility, as this is likely to be conducive to happiness. He then applies this view in detail to contemporary problems of government, domestic policy, taxation, colonies, dependencies, and foreign policy.

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IN

MORAL AND POLITICAL GOVERNMENT.

“THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE HIGHEST LAW.”

LONDON :

LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, ROBERTS, & GREEN.

1864.

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR.



IN offering to the Public these pages in answer to a small volume by Mr. John Stuart Mill, entitled “Utilitarianism,” the Author thinks it necessary at the same time to offer his apology for the introduction of many subjects which, at first sight, may seem to have little or no relevancy to the main subject.

It may, however, to thoughtful readers, be unnecessary to point out the connection between the abstract reasoning and its application to important current events concerning human government.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR.

How far the reasoning and its application are correct, is another question, which Public Opinion must determine.

The impartial judgment of the Public is now invited, between an Author of deservedly high repute, and an Author without a name.

January, 1864.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

—◆—	
CHAPTER I.	
GENERAL REMARKS	PAGE 1
CHAPTER II.	
WHAT UTILITARIANISM IS	5
CHAPTER III.	
UTILITARIANISM: ITS SANCTIONS	13
CHAPTER IV.	
UTILITARIANISM: HOW PROVED	22
CHAPTER V.	
UTILITARIANISM: HOW CONNECTED WITH JUSTICE	31
CHAPTER VI.	
FALLACIES OF THE UTILITARIANS	53
CHAPTER VII.	
HAPPINESS: THE ULTIMATE END	63
CHAPTER VIII.	
UTILITY: APPLIED TO GOVERNMENTS	90

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER IX.

	PAGE
UTILITY: APPLIED TO DOMESTIC POLICY . . .	130

CHAPTER X.

UTILITY: APPLIED TO TAXATION	154
--	-----

CHAPTER XI.

UTILITY: APPLIED TO COLONIES AND DEPENDEN- CIES	219
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

UTILITY: APPLIED TO FOREIGN POLICY . . .	318
--	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

CONCLUSION	338
----------------------	-----