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Elements in Ethics

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PARFIT'S ETHICS

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Parfit's Ethics

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Abstract: Derek Parfit (1942–2017) was one of the most important and influential moral philosophers of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This Element offers a critical introduction to his wide-ranging ethical thought, focussing especially on his two most significant works, *Reasons and Persons* (1984) and *On What Matters* (2011), and their contribution to the consequentialist moral tradition. Topics covered include: rationality and objectivity, distributive justice, self-defeating moral theories, Parfit's Triple Theory (according to which consequentialism, contractualism, and Kantian ethics ultimately converge), personal identity, and population ethics.

Keywords: Parfit, consequentialism, ethical theory, population ethics, distributive justice

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