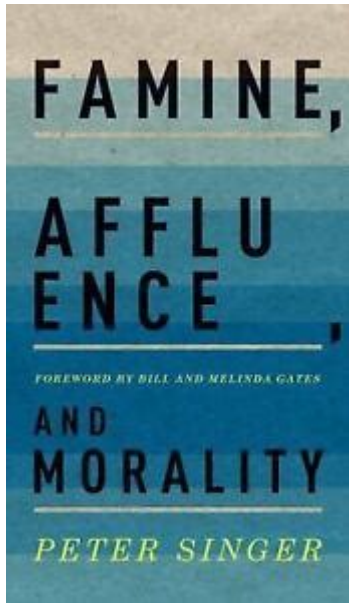


# Famine Affluence And Morality



## **Famine, Affluence, and Morality: Why We Must Act**

The stark contrast between opulent affluence in the developed world and devastating famine in others presents a profound moral dilemma. This isn't just a distant tragedy playing out on our screens; it's a challenge to our fundamental values and responsibilities as global citizens. This post dives deep into Peter Singer's seminal work, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," exploring its core arguments, criticisms, and the enduring relevance of its ethical challenge in today's interconnected world. We'll examine the moral obligations of affluent individuals and nations, exploring practical implications and ways we can contribute to alleviating suffering on a global scale.

## **Singer's Core Argument: A Duty to Prevent Suffering**

Peter Singer's 1972 essay, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," revolutionized discussions surrounding global poverty and our moral responsibilities towards those less fortunate. His central thesis is simple yet radical: if it is within our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it. He argues that the suffering caused by famine is preventable, and that those of us in affluent nations have a moral obligation to alleviate it, even if it requires significant personal sacrifice.

This isn't about charity; Singer frames it as a moral duty, comparable to the moral obligation to rescue a drowning child. The proximity of the child doesn't change the moral imperative; similarly, geographic distance shouldn't excuse inaction in the face of preventable suffering.

# **The Proximity Problem and its Rebuttal**

A common criticism of Singer's argument centers around the concept of "proximity." Critics argue that we are less obligated to help those far away than those in our immediate vicinity. Singer counters this by highlighting the irrelevance of physical distance in the age of global interconnectedness. We can readily donate to aid organizations, and our actions, however small, contribute to a larger collective effort to alleviate suffering. The scale of the problem doesn't diminish our individual responsibility; rather, it emphasizes the urgency and collective nature of the solution.

## **The "Drowning Child" Analogy and its Implications**

Singer's powerful "drowning child" analogy remains one of the most discussed aspects of his essay. He posits that if we were to see a child drowning in a shallow pond, we would have a moral obligation to rescue them, even if it meant ruining our expensive shoes. The analogy extends to global poverty; the cost of saving a life through donations is significantly less than the cost of maintaining a luxurious lifestyle. This isn't about abandoning our own needs but about re-evaluating our priorities and making conscious choices to allocate resources to prevent suffering.

## **Criticisms and Counterarguments to Singer's Philosophy**

Singer's essay has not been without its detractors. Some argue that his argument leads to an unsustainable level of obligation, potentially demanding the impoverishment of affluent individuals to alleviate global poverty. Others question the practicality of his proposals, citing issues of efficient aid distribution and potential unintended consequences. Additionally, some argue that governments, not individuals, bear the primary responsibility for addressing global poverty.

However, these critiques don't entirely invalidate Singer's central point. The essay encourages a reevaluation of our priorities and a more mindful approach to our consumption patterns. Even if complete eradication of poverty isn't immediately achievable, a significant reduction in suffering is possible through collective action and a change in individual attitudes.

## **Practical Steps Towards Moral Action**

Singer's work isn't merely theoretical; it calls for concrete action. This could involve:

Donating a significant portion of our income to effective charities: Researching and supporting organizations with a proven track record of delivering aid efficiently.

Advocating for policy changes: Supporting initiatives aimed at promoting fair trade, debt relief, and sustainable development.

Making conscious consumer choices: Reducing our environmental footprint and supporting ethical and sustainable businesses.

Raising awareness: Educating ourselves and others about global poverty and inspiring collective action.

## Conclusion: A Continuing Moral Imperative

"Famine, Affluence, and Morality" remains a profoundly relevant and challenging work. While criticisms exist, the core ethical challenge it presents remains undeniable. The stark reality of widespread suffering in the face of abundant resources necessitates a fundamental shift in our priorities and a collective commitment to alleviating global poverty. By acknowledging our moral obligations and taking concrete steps, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

## FAQs

1. Isn't it the government's responsibility to address global poverty, not individuals? While governments play a crucial role, individual actions are also vital. Collective action, fueled by individual contributions and advocacy, can put pressure on governments and organizations to act more effectively.
2. How do I know which charities are truly effective? Thorough research is crucial. Websites like GiveWell and Charity Navigator offer independent evaluations of charitable organizations, helping donors make informed decisions.
3. Won't my small contribution make little difference? Even small donations, when aggregated with those of others, can create a significant impact. Furthermore, individual actions can inspire others to contribute, creating a ripple effect of positive change.
4. What if I can't afford to donate significant amounts of money? Donating time, volunteering skills, or advocating for policy changes are equally valuable contributions.
5. Doesn't addressing global poverty require complex systemic solutions? While systemic change is essential, individual actions are a crucial catalyst for systemic change. Our individual choices influence markets, policies, and ultimately, the direction of societal change.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Famine, Affluence, and Morality* Peter Singer, 2016 As Bill and Melinda Gates point out in their Foreword, Singer's classic essay *Famine, Affluence and Morality*, is as relevant today as it ever was. It is published here together with two of Singer's more popular writings on our obligations to those in poverty, and a new introduction by Singer that brings the reader up to date with his current thinking.

**famine affluence and morality: The Life You Can Save** Peter Singer, 2009-03-03 For the

first time in history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Yet around the world, a billion people struggle to live each day on less than many of us pay for bottled water. In *The Life You Can Save*, Peter Singer uses ethical arguments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to show that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but morally indefensible. *The Life You Can Save* teaches us to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Moral Demands of Affluence* Garrett Cullity, 2006-09-21 Given that there is a forceful case for thinking that the affluent are morally required to devote a substantial proportion of what they have to helping the poor, Garrett Cullity examines, refines and defends an argument of this form. He then identifies its limits.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Most Good You Can Do* Peter Singer, 2015-04-07 An argument for putting sentiment aside and maximizing the practical impact of our donated dollars: "Powerful, provocative" (Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*). Peter Singer's books and ideas have been disturbing our complacency ever since the appearance of *Animal Liberation*. Now he directs our attention to a challenging new movement in which his own ideas have played a crucial role: effective altruism. Effective altruism is built upon the simple but profoundly unsettling idea that living a fully ethical life involves doing the "most good you can do." Such a life requires a rigorously unsentimental view of charitable giving: to be a worthy recipient of our support, an organization must be able to demonstrate that it will do more good with our money or our time than other options open to us. Singer introduces us to an array of remarkable people who are restructuring their lives in accordance with these ideas, and shows how, paradoxically, living altruistically often leads to greater personal fulfillment than living for oneself. *Doing the Most Good* develops the challenges Singer has made, in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, to those who donate to the arts, and to charities focused on helping our fellow citizens, rather than those for whom we can do the most good. Effective altruists are extending our knowledge of the possibilities of living less selfishly, and of allowing reason, rather than emotion, to determine how we live. *Doing the Most Good* offers new hope for our ability to tackle the world's most pressing problems.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Ethics of Assistance* Deen K. Chatterjee, 2004-04-08 As globalization has deepened worldwide economic integration, moral and political philosophers have become increasingly concerned to assess duties to help needy people in foreign countries. The essays in this volume present ideas on this important topic by authors who are leading figures in these debates. At issue are both the political responsibility of governments of affluent countries to relieve poverty abroad and the personal responsibility of individuals to assist the distant needy. The wide-ranging arguments shed light on global distributive justice, human rights and their implementation, the varieties of community and the obligations they generate, and the moral relevance of distance. This provocative volume will interest scholars in ethics, political philosophy, political theory, international law and development economics, as well as policy makers, aid agencies, and general readers interested in the moral dimensions of poverty and affluence.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Applied Ethics* Larry May, 2017-07-05 This best-selling text continues to fill an existing gap in the literature taught in applied ethics courses. As a growing number of courses that include the perspectives of diverse cultures are being added to the university curriculum, texts are needed that represent more multicultural and diverse histories and backgrounds. This new edition enhances gender coverage, as nearly half of the pieces are now authored by women. The new edition also increases the percentage of pieces written by those who come from a non-Western background. It offers twelve up-to-date articles (not found in previous editions) on human rights, environmental ethics, poverty, war and violence, gender, race, euthanasia, and abortion; all of these topics are addressed from Western and non-Western perspectives.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Methods of Ethics* Henry Sidgwick, 1874

**famine affluence and morality:** *Peter Singer Under Fire* Jeffrey A. Schaler, 2011-09-30 One of the leading ethical thinkers of the modern age, Peter Singer has repeatedly been embroiled in

controversy. Protesters in Germany closed down his lectures, mistakenly thinking he was advocating Nazi views on eugenics. Conservative publisher Steve Forbes withdrew generous donations to Princeton after Singer was appointed professor of bioethics. His belief that infanticide is sometimes morally justified has appalled people from all walks of life. Peter Singer Under Fire gives a platform to his critics on many contentious issues. Leaders of the disability rights group Not Dead Yet attack Singer's views on disability and euthanasia. Economists criticize the effectiveness of his ideas for solving global poverty. Philosophers expose problems in Singer's theory of utilitarianism and ethicists refute his position on abortion. Singer's engaging "Intellectual Autobiography" explains how he came by his controversial views, while detailed replies to each critic reveal further surprising aspects of his unique outlook.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Current Debates in Global Justice* Gillian Brock, Darrel Moellendorf, 2006-03-30 Issues of global justice dominate our contemporary world. Increasingly, philosophers are turning their attention to thinking about particular issues of global justice and the accounts that would best facilitate theorizing about these. This volume of papers on global justice derives from a mini-conference held in conjunction with the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Pasadena, California, in 2004. The idea of holding a mini-conference on global justice was inspired by the growth of interest in such questions, and it was hoped that organizing the mini-conference would stimulate further good writing in this area. We believe that our mission has been accomplished! We received a number of thoughtful papers on both theoretical and more applied issues, showing excellent coverage of a range of topics in the domain of global justice. A selection of some of the very best papers is published in this special issue of *The Journal of Ethics*. In particular, we tried to include papers that would reflect some of the range of topics that were covered at the conference, to give readers a sense of both the scope of the field as it is currently emerging and the direction that the debates seem to be taking. As a result of increased attention to theorizing about global justice, cosmopolitanism has enjoyed a resurgence of interest as well.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Point of View of the Universe* Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer, 2014 Tests the views and metaphor of 19th-century utilitarian philosopher Henry Sidgwick against a variety of contemporary views on ethics, determining that they are defensible and thus providing a defense of objectivism in ethics and of hedonistic utilitarianism.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Famine, Affluence, and Morality* Peter Singer, 2015-11-04 In 1972, the young philosopher Peter Singer published *Famine, Affluence and Morality*, which rapidly became one of the most widely discussed essays in applied ethics. Through this article, Singer presents his view that we have the same moral obligations to those far away as we do to those close to us. He argued that choosing not to send life-saving money to starving people on the other side of the earth is the moral equivalent of neglecting to save drowning children because we prefer not to muddy our shoes. If we can help, we must--and any excuse is hypocrisy. Singer's extreme stand on our moral obligations to others became a powerful call to arms and continues to challenge people's attitudes towards extreme poverty. Today, it remains a central touchstone for those who argue we should all help others more than we do. As Bill and Melinda Gates observe in their foreword, in the age of today's global philanthropy, Singer's essay is as relevant now as it ever was. This attractively packaged, concise edition collects the original article, two of Singer's more recent popular writings on our obligations to others around the world, and a new introduction by Singer that discusses his current thinking.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Strangers Drowning* Larissa MacFarquhar, 2015 What does it mean to devote yourself wholly to helping others? In *Strangers Drowning*, Larissa MacFarquhar seeks out people living lives of extreme ethical commitment and tells their deeply intimate stories; their stubborn integrity and their compromises; their bravery and their recklessness; their joys and defeats and wrenching dilemmas. A couple adopts two children in distress. But then they think: If they can change two lives, why not four? Or ten? They adopt twenty. But how do they weigh the needs of unknown children in distress against the needs of the children they already have? Another

couple founds a leprosy colony in the wilderness in India, living in huts with no walls, knowing that their two small children may contract leprosy or be eaten by panthers. The children survive. But what if they hadn't? How would their parents' risk have been judged? A woman believes that if she spends money on herself, rather than donate it to buy life-saving medicine, then she's responsible for the deaths that result. She lives on a fraction of her income, but wonders: when is compromise self-indulgence and when is it essential? We honor such generosity and high ideals; but when we call people do-gooders there is skepticism in it, even hostility. Why do moral people make us uneasy? Between her stories, MacFarquhar threads a lively history of the literature, philosophy, social science, and self-help that have contributed to a deep suspicion of do-gooders in Western culture. Through its sympathetic and beautifully vivid storytelling, *Strangers Drowning* confronts us with fundamental questions about what it means to be human. In a world of strangers drowning in need, how much should we help, and how much can we help? Is it right to care for strangers even at the expense of those we are closest to? Moving and provocative, *Strangers Drowning* challenges us to think about what we value most, and why.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Ethics of Care and Empathy* Michael Slote, 2007-08-07 Eminent moral philosopher Michael Slote argues that care ethics presents an important challenge to other ethical traditions and that a philosophically developed care ethics should, and can, offer its own comprehensive view of the whole of morality. Taking inspiration from British moral sentimentalism and drawing on recent psychological literature on empathy, he shows that the use of that notion allows care ethics to develop its own sentimentalist account of respect, autonomy, social justice, and deontology. Furthermore, he argues that care ethics gives a more persuasive account of these topics than theories offered by contemporary Kantian liberalism. The most philosophically rich and challenging exploration of the theory and practice of care to date, *The Ethics of Care and Empathy* also shows the manifold connections that can be drawn between philosophical issues and leading ideas in the fields of psychology, education, and women's studies.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Ethics of Giving* Paul Woodruff, 2018 In giving to charity, should we strive to do the greatest good or promote a lesser good? This is a unique collection of new papers on philanthropy from a range of philosophical perspectives, including intuitionism, virtue ethics, Kantian ethics, utilitarianism, theories of justice, and ideals of personal integrity.

**famine affluence and morality:** *The Demands of Consequentialism* Tim Mulgan, 2005 According to consequentialism, we should always put our resources where they will do the most good. A small contribution to a reputable aid agency can save a child from a crippling illness. We should thus devote all our energies to charity work, as well as all our money, till we reach the point where our own basic needs, or ability to keep earning money, are in jeopardy. Such conclusions strike many people as absurd. Consequentialism seems unreasonably demanding, as it leaves the agent no room for her own projects or interests. Tim Mulgan examines consequentialist responses to this objection. A variety of previous consequentialist solutions are considered and found wanting, including rule consequentialism, the extremism of Shelly Kagan and Peter Singer, Michael Slote's satisficing consequentialism, and Samuel Scheffler's hybrid moral theory. *The Demands of Consequentialism* develops a new consequentialist theory, designed to be intuitively appealing, theoretically sound, and only moderately demanding. Moral choices are first divided into distinct realms, primarily on the basis of their impact on the well-being of others. Each realm has its own characteristic features, and different moral realms are governed by different moral principles. The resulting theory incorporates elements of act consequentialism, rule consequentialism, and Scheffler's hybrid theory. This original and highly readable account of the limits of consequentialism will be useful to anyone interested in understanding morality.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Practical Ethics* Peter Singer, 2011-02-21 For thirty years, Peter Singer's *Practical Ethics* has been the classic introduction to applied ethics. For this third edition, the author has revised and updated all the chapters and added a new chapter addressing climate change, one of the most important ethical challenges of our generation. Some of the

questions discussed in this book concern our daily lives. Is it ethical to buy luxuries when others do not have enough to eat? Should we buy meat from intensively reared animals? Am I doing something wrong if my carbon footprint is above the global average? Other questions confront us as concerned citizens: equality and discrimination on the grounds of race or sex; abortion, the use of embryos for research and euthanasia; political violence and terrorism; and the preservation of our planet's environment. This book's lucid style and provocative arguments make it an ideal text for university courses and for anyone willing to think about how she or he ought to live.

**famine affluence and morality: Giving Well** Patricia Illingworth, Thomas Pogge, Leif Wenar, 2011-01-14 So long as large segments of humanity are suffering chronic poverty and are dying from treatable diseases, organized giving can save or enhance millions of lives. With the law providing little guidance, ethics has a crucial role to play in ensuring that the philanthropic practices of individuals, foundations, NGOs, governments, and international agencies are morally sound and effective. In *Giving Well: The Ethics of Philanthropy*, an accomplished trio of editors bring together an international group of distinguished philosophers, social scientists, lawyers and practitioners to identify and address the most urgent moral questions arising today in the practice of philanthropy. The topics discussed include the psychology of giving, the reasons for and against a duty to give, the accountability of NGOs and foundations, the questionable marketing practices of some NGOs, the moral priorities that should inform NGO decisions about how to target and design their projects, the good and bad effects of aid, and the charitable tax deduction along with the water's edge policy now limiting its reach. This ground-breaking volume can help bring our practice of charity closer to meeting the vital needs of the millions worldwide who depend on voluntary contributions for their very lives.

**famine affluence and morality: Doing and Allowing Harm** Fiona Woollard, 2015 Fiona Woollard presents an original defence of the Doctrine of Doing and Allowing, according to which doing harm seems much harder to justify than merely allowing harm. She argues that the Doctrine is best understood as a principle that protects us from harmful imposition, and offers a moderate account of our obligations to offer aid to others.

**famine affluence and morality: Distant Strangers** Judith Lichtenberg, 2014 Lichtenberg argues for a practical and moral approach to reducing poverty, exploring concepts such as altruism, responding to criticisms of the effectiveness of aid, and asking whether and how the world's richer populations should assist. This book is for those interested in ethics, political theory, public policy and development studies.

**famine affluence and morality: Ferraris for All** Ben-Ami, Daniel, 2012-03-14 The growth of the economy and the spread of prosperity are increasingly seen as problematic rather than positive - a trend Daniel Ben-Ami has termed 'growth scepticism'. Prosperity is accused of encourage greed, damaging the environment, causing unhappiness and widening social inequalities. *Ferraris for all: A defence of economic progress* is a rejoinder to the growth sceptics. Using examples from a range of countries, including the US, the author argues that society as a whole benefits from greater affluence. Action is needed - but to increase abundance and spread it worldwide, not to limit prosperity, as the sceptics would have it. The lively and provocative hardback edition was published to widespread coverage in 2010, and triggered debate and dissent in equal measure.

**famine affluence and morality: Moral Tribes** Joshua Greene, 2014-01-02 A ground-breaking and ambitious book that promotes a new understanding of morality, one that will help us to solve society's biggest problems. Our brains were designed for tribal life, for getting along with a select group of others (Us), and for fighting off everyone else (Them). But modern life has thrust the world's tribes into a shared space, creating conflicts of interest and clashes of values, along with unprecedented opportunities. As the world shrinks, the moral lines that divide us become more salient and more puzzling. We fight over everything from tax codes to gay marriage to global warming, and we wonder where, if at all, we can find our common ground. A grand synthesis of neuroscience, psychology, and philosophy, *Moral Tribes* reveals the underlying causes of modern conflict and lights a way forward. Our emotions make us social animals, turning Me into Us. But they

also make us tribal animals, turning Us against Them. Our tribal emotions make us fight, sometimes with bombs, sometimes with words, and often with life-and-death stakes. Drawing inspiration from moral philosophy and cutting-edge science, *Moral Tribes* shows when we should trust our instincts, when we should reason, and how the right kind of reasoning can move us forward. Joshua Greene is the director of Harvard University's Moral Cognition Lab, a pioneering scientist, a philosopher, and an acclaimed teacher. The great challenge of *Moral Tribes* is this: How can we get along with Them when what they want feels so wrong? Finally, Greene offers a surprisingly simple set of maxims for navigating the modern moral terrain, a practical road map for solving problems and living better lives.

**famine affluence and morality: 10th Anniversary Edition *The Life You Can Save*** Peter Singer, 2019-12-01 In this Tenth Anniversary Edition of *The Life You Can Save*, Peter Singer brings his landmark book up to date. In addition to restating his compelling arguments about how we should respond to extreme poverty, he examines the progress we are making and recounts how the first edition transformed the lives both of readers and the people they helped. Learn how you can be part of the solution, doing good for others while adding fulfillment to your own life.

**famine affluence and morality: *Working Virtue*** Rebecca L. Walker, Philip J. Ivanhoe, 2007-01-04 *Working Virtue* is the first substantial collective study of virtue theory and contemporary moral problems. Leading figures in ethical theory and applied ethics discuss topics in bioethics, professional ethics, ethics of the family, law, interpersonal ethics, and the emotions. Virtue ethics is centrally concerned with character traits or virtues and vices such as courage (cowardice), kindness (heartlessness), and generosity (stinginess). These character traits must be looked to in any attempt to understand which particular actions are right or wrong and how we ought to live our lives. As a theoretical approach, virtue ethics has made an impressive comeback in relatively recent history, both posing an alternative to, and, in some ways, complementing well-known theoretical stances such as utilitarianism and deontology. Yet there is still very little material available that presents virtue-ethical approaches to practical contemporary moral problems, such as what we owe distant strangers, our parents, or even non-human animals. This book fills the gap by dealing with these and other pressing moral problems in a clear and theoretically nuanced manner. The contributors offer a variety of perspectives, including pluralistic, eudaimonistic, care-theoretical, Chinese, comparative, and stoic. This variety allows the reader to appreciate not only the wide range of topics for which a virtue-ethical approach may be fitting, but also the distinctive ways in which such an approach may be manifested.

**famine affluence and morality: *The Case for Animal Rights*** Tom Regan, 1983 THE argument for animal rights, a classic since its appearance in 1983, from the moral philosophical point of view. With a new preface.

**famine affluence and morality: *Singer and His Critics*** Dale Jamieson, 1999-06-28 This is the first book devoted to the work of Peter Singer, one of the leaders of the practical ethics movement, and one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century.

**famine affluence and morality: *World Hunger and Moral Obligation*** William Aiken, Hugh LaFollette, 1977 Lifeboat ethics : the case against helping the poor / Garrett Hardin -- Famine, affluence, and morality / Peter Singer -- Rights and the duty to bring aid / John Arthur -- Morality and starvation / Jan Narveson -- Moral philosophy and world hunger / William K. Frankena -- The right to be saved from starvation / William Aiken -- Give if it helps but not if it hurts / Joseph Fletcher -- Reason and morality in a world of limited food / Richard A. Watson -- The morality of wealth / Michael A. Slote -- Lifeboat earth / Onora O'Neill -- Productive justice / Howard Richards -- Vegetarianism and The other weight problem / James Rachels.

**famine affluence and morality: *Rethinking Life and Death*** Peter Singer, 1996-04-15 In a reassessment of the meaning of life and death, a noted philosopher offers a new definition for life that contrasts a world dependent on biological maintenance with one controlled by state-of-the-art medical technology.

**famine affluence and morality: *Peter Singer and Christian Ethics*** Charles C. Camosy,



2012-04-12 This book explores a number of important issues to illuminate the common ground between Peter Singer and Christian ethics.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* Andrew I. Cohen, Christopher Heath Wellman, 2014-01-14 Now in an updated edition with fresh perspectives on high-profile ethical issues such as torture and same-sex marriage, this collection pairs cogently argued essays by leading philosophers with opposing views on fault-line public concerns. Revised and updated new edition with six new pairs of essays on prominent contemporary issues including torture and same-sex marriage, and a survey of theories of ethics by Stephen Darwall Leading philosophers tackle colleagues with opposing views in contrasting essays on core issues in applied ethics An ideal semester-length course text certain to generate vigorous discussion

**famine affluence and morality:** *Global Justice* Sebastiano Maffettone, Aakash Singh Rathore, 2020-11-29 The global justice debate has been raging for forty years. Not merely the terms and conditions, but, more deeply, the epistemic, existential and ethical grounds of the international relations of persons, states and institutions are being determined, debated and negotiated. Yet the debate remains essentially a parochial one, confined largely to Western intellectuals and institutional spaces. An Introduction to the field is therefore still urgently required, because it remains necessary to include more 'global' voices into this debate of worldwide reach and significance. The book addresses this need in two closely related ways. In Part I, it introduces the main contours of the debate by reproducing three of the most fundamental and influential essays that have been composed on the topic — essays by Peter Singer, Thomas Pogge and Thomas Nagel. In Part II, it makes a decisive critical intervention in the main stream of the debate through exposing the participation deficit afflicting the theorization of global justice. This part begins with a well-known essay by Amartya Sen, who famously referred to the 'parochialism' of the global justice debate in making a break with the Rawlsian paradigm that has dominated the field until now. Finally, a series of lively essays newly composed for this volume reflect on the possibilities for deparochializing global justice opened up by Sen's work in this area. The book will be useful for students of international relations, postcolonial studies, political theory, and social and political philosophy, as well as for those engaged in studies of globalization or global studies.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Rightness as Fairness* Marcus Arvan, 2016-03-29 Rightness as Fairness provides a uniquely fruitful method of 'principled fair negotiation' for resolving applied moral and political issues that requires merging principled debate with real-world negotiation.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Humanitarianism in the Modern World* Norbert Götz, Georgina Brewis, Steffen Werther, 2020-07-23 A fresh look at two centuries of humanitarian history through a moral economy approach focusing on appeals, allocation, and accounting.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Living High and Letting Die* Peter Unger, 1996-06-20 By contributing a few hundred dollars to a charity like UNICEF, a prosperous person can ensure that fewer poor children die, and that more will live reasonably long, worthwhile lives. Even when knowing this, however, most people send nothing, and almost all of the rest send little. What is the moral status of this behavior? To such common cases of letting die, our untutored response is that, while it is not very good, neither is the conduct wrong. What is the source of this lenient assessment? In this contentious new book, one of our leading philosophers argues that our intuitions about ethical cases are generated not by basic moral values, but by certain distracting psychological dispositions that all too often prevent us from reacting in accord with our commitments. Through a detailed look at how these tendencies operate, Unger shows that, on the good morality that we already accept, the fatally unhelpful behavior is monstrously wrong. By uncovering the eminently sensible ethics that we've already embraced fully, and by confronting us with empirical facts and with easily followed instructions for lessening serious suffering appropriately and effectively, Unger's book points the way to a compassionate new moral philosophy.

**famine affluence and morality:** *Writings on an Ethical Life* Peter Singer, 2015-04-14 The essential collection of writings by one of the most visionary and daring philosophers of our time Since bursting sensationally into the public consciousness in 1975 with his groundbreaking work

Animal Liberation, Peter Singer has remained one of the most provocative ethicists of the modern age. His reputation, built largely on isolated incendiary quotations and outrage-of-the-moment news coverage, has preceded him ever since. Aiming to present a more accurate and thoughtful picture of Singer's pioneering work, *Writings on an Ethical Life* features twenty-seven excerpts from some of his most lauded and controversial essays and books. The reflections on life, death, murder, vegetarianism, poverty, and ethical living found in these pages come together in a must-read collection for anyone seeking a better understanding of the issues that shape our world today. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Peter Singer, including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

**famine affluence and morality: World Poverty and Human Rights** Thomas W. Pogge, 2023-02-10 Some 2.5 billion human beings live in severe poverty, deprived of such essentials as adequate nutrition, safe drinking water, basic sanitation, adequate shelter, literacy, and basic health care. One third of all human deaths are from poverty-related causes: 18 million annually, including over 10 million children under five. However huge in human terms, the world poverty problem is tiny economically. Just 1 percent of the national incomes of the high-income countries would suffice to end severe poverty worldwide. Yet, these countries, unwilling to bear an opportunity cost of this magnitude, continue to impose a grievously unjust global institutional order that foreseeably and avoidably perpetuates the catastrophe. Most citizens of affluent countries believe that we are doing nothing wrong. Thomas Pogge seeks to explain how this belief is sustained. He analyses how our moral and economic theorizing and our global economic order have adapted to make us appear disconnected from massive poverty abroad. Dispelling the illusion, he also offers a modest, widely sharable standard of global economic justice and makes detailed, realistic proposals toward fulfilling it. Thoroughly updated, the second edition of this classic book incorporates responses to critics and a new chapter introducing Pogge's current work on pharmaceutical patent reform.

**famine affluence and morality: Disasters: Core Concepts and Ethical Theories** Dónal P. O'Mathúna, Vilius Dranseika, Bert Gordijn, 2018-10-16 This Open Access Book is the first to examine disasters from a multidisciplinary perspective. Justification of actions in the face of disasters requires recourse both to conceptual analysis and ethical traditions. Part 1 of the book contains chapters on how disasters are conceptualized in different academic disciplines relevant to disasters. Part 2 has chapters on how ethical issues that arise in relation to disasters can be addressed from a number of fundamental normative approaches in moral and political philosophy. This book sets the stage for more focused normative debates given that no one book can be completely comprehensive. Providing analysis of core concepts, and with real-world relevance, this book should be of interest to disaster scholars and researchers, those working in ethics and political philosophy, as well as policy makers, humanitarian actors and intergovernmental organizations..

**famine affluence and morality: Consequentialism and Its Critics** Samuel Scheffler, 1988 This volume presents papers discussing arguments on both sides of the consequentialist debate. The distinguished contributors include John Rawls, Bernard Williams, Thomas Nagel, Derek Parfit, among others.

**famine affluence and morality: Human Welfare and Moral Worth** Thomas E. Hill, 2002 Volume II of the exclusive behind-the-scenes diaries of one of Ireland's most hard-working politicians ... Another hilarious account of local politics from Pat Shortt's legendary creation, the esteemed Councillor Maurice Hickey. The sequel to the popular *I will in me Politics* which was a runaway success - features a host of hilarious and recognisable characters.

**famine affluence and morality: Comment on "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" by Peter Singer. A brief evaluation** Tim Windbrake, 2021-09-17 Essay from the year 2020 in the subject Philosophy - Theoretical (Realisation, Science, Logic, Language), grade: First Class Honours, London School of Economics, language: English, abstract: This essay claims that Singer's argument, We ought to be preventing as much suffering as we can without sacrificing something else of comparable moral importance, is valid but unsound. It acknowledges his overall purpose to alleviate absolute poverty, and his more recent attempts of rewriting the concept to make his conclusion less

demanding and thereby more appealing to a broader audience. Nevertheless, this essay will solely focus on the strong version of his initial argument.

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### **FAMINE, AFFLUENCE, AND MORALITY**

Given a society in which a wealthy man who gives 5 percent of his income to famine relief is regarded as most generous, it is not surprising that a proposal that we all ought to give away half our incomes will be thought to be absurdly unrealistic.

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"Famine, Affluence, and Morality" was written at the height of the refugee crisis brought about by military repression in what was then East Pakistan. Nine million people fled across the border into India, where they struggled to survive in refugee camps.

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