

# David Gauthier *Morals By Agreement*

## A Masterpiece of Moral Imagination: Unveiling the Enduring Magic of David Gauthier's '*Morals By Agreement*'

Prepare to embark on a journey that will not only capture your imagination but also resonate with the deepest parts of your being. David Gauthier's '*Morals By Agreement*' is not just a book; it's an experience, a vibrant tapestry woven with threads of profound thought and surprisingly relatable human emotion. From its very first pages, you are transported to a realm where the very foundations of our societal interactions are laid bare, not through dry academic discourse, but through a narrative that is as imaginative as it is insightful.

What truly sets '*Morals By Agreement*' apart is its remarkable ability to present complex philosophical ideas within a framework that feels both familiar and wondrous. Gauthier crafts an almost allegorical setting, a place where the abstract becomes tangible, allowing readers to grasp intricate concepts of cooperation, fairness, and mutual respect with an ease that is truly remarkable. This isn't a story that requires a degree in philosophy to appreciate; it's a story that invites you to think, to question, and ultimately, to understand the very bedrock upon which our lives together are built. The imaginative backdrop serves as a perfect stage for exploring the nuances of human connection, making the philosophical insights feel less like lessons and more like revelations.

Beyond its intellectual prowess, the book possesses an unexpected emotional depth. As you delve into the scenarios Gauthier presents, you'll find yourself empathizing with the characters, even as they grapple with universal dilemmas. The struggles for agreement, the moments of compromise, and the ultimate blossoming of shared understanding are portrayed with a sensitivity that speaks to the core of what it means to be human. This emotional resonance is what truly elevates '*Morals By Agreement*', transforming it from a thought-provoking read into a genuinely moving one. It reminds us that at the heart of every agreement, no matter how abstract the concept, lies a shared human desire for connection and stability.

The beauty of this work lies in its universal appeal. Whether you are a seasoned book club member dissecting every nuance, a young adult discovering the complexities of the world around you, or simply a passionate book lover seeking a story that nourishes both mind and soul, '*Morals By Agreement*' offers something profound. Its themes transcend age and background, speaking to the fundamental principles that govern our interactions as individuals and as a collective. It's a book that sparks conversation, fosters empathy, and encourages a deeper appreciation for the

delicate balance of our shared existence. Imagine the vibrant discussions that will arise within your book club, the lightbulb moments for young readers, and the sheer joy of discovery for every literary enthusiast.

'**Morals By Agreement**' is, without question, a timeless classic that deserves a place on every bookshelf. It is a magical journey that illuminates the path to understanding, a testament to the power of thoughtful collaboration, and a gentle reminder of the enduring strength found in our agreements. This book doesn't just inform; it transforms. It inspires us to look at our own societies, our own relationships, and even our own internal compasses with fresh eyes.

This is a heartfelt recommendation, an urgent invitation to experience a literary gem that continues to capture hearts worldwide. David Gauthier's masterpiece is more than just a book; it's a beacon of understanding, a testament to the enduring impact of a work that is both intellectually stimulating and deeply human. Prepare to be enlightened, moved, and inspired. This is a journey you won't soon forget.

With its lasting impact and its ability to foster genuine understanding, '**Morals By Agreement**' is a strong recommendation that celebrates the profound and beautiful simplicity of finding common ground. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this enduring legacy.

Morals by Agreement Symposium on David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* Contractarianism and Rational Choice David Gauthier's "Morals by Agreement" Symposium: David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* Symposium on David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* The <sup>^</sup>AMoral Skeptic The creation of a rational morality Moral Dealing *Morals by Agreement* The Social Contract from Hobbes to Rawls The Point of View of the Universe Modern Social Contract Theory Moral Anatomy and Moral Reasoning The Modern Schoolman Justice in Political Philosophy Social Theory and Practice Liberty, Equality, and Plurality Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities On Feminist Ethics and Politics David Gauthier Symposium on David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* Peter Vallentyne Christopher W. Morris Anita M. Superson Laura Sabina Syron David Gauthier David P. Gauthier David Boucher Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek Albert Weale Robert V. Hannaford Will Kymlicka Larry May Claudia Card *Morals by Agreement* Symposium on David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* Contractarianism and Rational Choice David Gauthier's "Morals by Agreement" Symposium: David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* Symposium on David Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* The <sup>^</sup>AMoral Skeptic The creation of a rational morality Moral Dealing *Morals by Agreement* The Social Contract from Hobbes to Rawls The Point of View of the Universe Modern Social Contract Theory Moral Anatomy and Moral Reasoning The Modern Schoolman Justice in Political Philosophy Social Theory and Practice Liberty, Equality, and Plurality Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities On Feminist Ethics and Politics *David Gauthier Symposium on David Gauthier's Morals by Agreement Peter Vallentyne Christopher W. Morris Anita M. Superson Laura Sabina Syron David Gauthier David P. Gauthier David Boucher Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek Albert Weale Robert V. Hannaford Will Kymlicka Larry May Claudia Card*

in this book the author argues that moral principles are principles of rational choice according to the usual view of choice a rational person selects what is likely to give the greatest expectation of

value or utility but in many situations if each person chooses in this way everyone will be worse off than need be instead professor gauthier proposes a principle whereby choice is made on an agreed basis of co operation rather than according to what would give the individual the greatest expectation of value he shows that such a principle not only ensures mutual benefit and fairness thus satisfying the standards of morality but also that each person may actually expect greater utility by adhering to morality even though the choice did not have that end primarily in view in resolving what may appear to be a paradox the author establishes morals on the firm foundation of reason

david gauthier s *Morals by Agreement* 1986 is the most complete and suggestive contractarian theory of morality since the work of rawls in this anthology a number of prominent moral and political philosophers offer a critical assessment of gauthier s theory and its three main projects developing a contractarian foundation for morality defending a theory of rational choice and supporting the claim that rationality requires one to keep one s agreements an introduction sets out gauthier s project while gauthier himself has the last word responding to the critiques this collection will interest moral and political philosophers social theorists and specialists in the philosophy and theory of law as well as management sciences

this book challenges assumptions that philosophers traditionally have made in setting out the demands of the skeptic who asks why be moral it aims to show the ways in which philosophers should broaden narrow and otherwise fine tune the skeptic s position so that a defeat of skepticism is complete

david gauthier is one of the most outstanding and influential philosophers working in moral theory today and his book *Morals by Agreement* 1986 has established him as a preeminent defender of contractarian moral theory this volume brings together a selection of his best essays on contractarianism many of which have become difficult to find

are moral principles actually principles of rational choice starting from the view that it is rational always to choose what will give one the greatest expectation of value or utility and the common counter claim that this procedure applied in many situations will actually leave people worse off than need be gauthier instead proposes a principle of cooperation whereby each must choose in accordance with a principle to which all can agree he shows that not only does such a principle ensure mutual benefit and fairness but also that each person may expect greater utility from actually adhering to a morality based on it even though his other choice did not have that specific end primarily in view in resolving what may appear to be a paradox he establishes morals on the foundation of reason

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what does the idea of taking the point of view of the universe tell us about ethics the great nineteenth century utilitarian henry sidgwick used this metaphor to present what he took to be a self evident moral truth the good of one individual is of no more importance than the good of any other ethical judgments he held are objective truths that we can know by reason the ethical

axioms he took to be self evident provide a foundation for utilitarianism he supplements this foundation with an argument that nothing except states of consciousness have ultimate value which led him to hold that pleasure is the only thing that is intrinsically good are these claims defensible katarzyna de lazari radek and peter singer test them against a variety of views held by contemporary writers in ethics and conclude that they are this book is therefore a defence of objectivism in ethics and of hedonistic utilitarianism the authors also explore and in most cases support sidgwick s views on many other key questions in ethics how to justify an ethical theory the significance of an evolutionary explanation of our moral judgments the choice between preference utilitarianism and hedonistic utilitarianism the conflict between self interest and universal benevolence whether something that it would be wrong to do openly can be right if kept secret how demanding utilitarianism is whether we should discount the future or favor those who are worse off the moral status of animals and what is an optimum population

modern social contract theory provides an exposition and evaluation of major work in social contract theory from 1950 to the present it locates the central themes of that theory in the intellectual legacy of utilitarianism particularly the problems of defining principles of justice and of showing the grounds of moral obligation it demonstrates how theorists responded in a novel way to the dilemmas articulated in utilitarianism developing in their different approaches a constructivist method in ethics a method that aimed to vindicate a liberal democratic and just political order a distinctive feature of the book is its comparative approach by placing the works of barry buchanan and tullock harsanyi gauthier grice rawls and scanlon alongside one another similarities and differences are brought out most notably in the way in which principles are derived by each author from the contractual construction as well as the extent to which the obligation to adopt those principles can be rationally grounded each theory is placed in its particular intellectual context special attention is paid to the contrasting theories of rationality adopted by the different authors whether that be utility theory or a deliberative conception of rationality with the intention of assessing how far the principles advanced can be justified by reference to the hypothetical choices of rational contracting agents the book concludes with a discussion of some principal objections to the enterprise of contract theory and offers its own programme for the future of that theory taking the form of the empirical method

hannaford shows that doing reasoning and acting morally and being our moral anatomy or essential nature do not exist in a vacuum but are rooted in community in our relations with others moral reasoning he argues focuses on what we ought to do in a situation where we must consider the needs desires and expectations of others

this two volume set presents the key literature on the contending schools of justice which have dominated contemporary political philosophy justice in political philosophy focuses in particular on the wide range of positions and debates which have emerged since the publication of john rawls s a theory of justice in 1971 each view is presented through a representative selection of the major articles by both its proponents and critics the schools covered include utilitarianism liberal egalitarianism libertarianism and their marxist communitarian and feminist critics the authors represented include such influential figures as rawls nozick dworkin cohen gauthier harsanyi barry

sandel macintyre gilligan and mackinnon the editor s introduction explores the interrelations between these diverse theories and shows how there are considerable convergences as well as disagreements in the contemporary debates over justice

voters as well as ethicists and legal experts are currently debating many of the issues inherent in balancing individual with majority and minority group rights though often there seems to be an inverse correlation between the two may washington u chairs lively multidisciplinary discussions on the in compatibility of liberty and equality with responsibility being the wild card law morality and limits on liberty in regard to freedom of speech poverty taxation and assisted suicide and equality and the clash of cultures in cases of hate speech and religious freedom vs refusal of medical treatment annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

for years mainstream feminist ethics focused criticism on male supremacy feminist philosophers in this volume adopt a less male focused stance to look closely at oppression s impact on women s agency and on women s relations with women examining legal social and physical relationships these philosophers confront moral ambiguity moral compromise and complicity in perpetuating oppression combining personal experience with philosophical inquiry they vividly portray their daily engagement with oppression as both victims and perpetrators they explore such issues as how pornography silences women and radical feminist politics complicity in racism among these insightful essays sandra bartky argues that women share guilt for racism when they benefit from it without protest susan brison reflects on uses of narrative in trauma recovery from such experiences as being targeted for rape or murder joan callahan examines fallout of derogatory speech directed at lesbians virginia held proposes carrying care into marketplaces and governments and in her introduction claudia card draws on primo levi s conception of gray zones in exploring dangers of character damage to victims of misogyny a fitting companion to card s highly regarded feminist ethics this volume interweaves observations on character political ethics violence and love into an accessible sourcebook for students it tackles some of feminism s most pressing issues and helps readers to identify and then overcome the real damage caused by oppression

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