

Zeitschrift: Revue de Théologie et de Philosophie
Herausgeber: Revue de Théologie et de Philosophie
Band: 48 (1998)
Heft: 4: L'utilitarisme en débat

Bibliographie: English summaries

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ENGLISH SUMMARIES

- B. BAERTSCHI, Shadows and insights of utilitarianism, RThPh 1998/IV, p. 357-383.

Since its foundation by Bentham, utilitarianism has been the target of numerous criticisms, mainly from deontologists. Compiling the most influential ones, the author exposes these in detail and then the rejoinders of utilitarianism. In the last sections, he discusses these replies and shows the flaws of this doctrine while observing that deontologism shares them. Thus he concludes by proposing the rejection of both.

- D. MÜLLER, Utilitarianism and Christianity, seen in triple perspective, RThPh 1998/IV, p. 385-397.

The author sketches the link of utilitarianism and Christianity on three bases : the relation of goodness and faith ; of sacrifice and the individual, of suffering denied and suffering met. This three-legged stool is not an iron cage meant to be accepted or rejected by the reader, but only a possible framework for dialogue designed to allow the mutual questioning of utilitarian morals and Christian ethics.

- F. DERMANGE, From the utility of faith to faith in utility, RThPh 1998/IV, p. 399-412.

Although utilitarianism presents itself as a purely descriptive scientific theory, the author shows that it is an essentially normative social construct. With this in mind, he recalls several of its antecedents, particular in the reformed theology of Calvin, Hutcheson and Smith. The reminder of certain emphases on service and divine utilitarianism or of the fact that utility refers to other fields than just economy must invite us to question socially the meaning we want to give to utility today.

- A. BONDOLFI, Utilitarianism in the Catholic tradition : some historical and systematic landmarks, RThPh 1998/IV, p. 413-429.

The author gives a survey of the confrontation of the Catholic tradition with the teleological ethics. Beginning with the legacy of Augustin and Aquinas, he goes on to examine the Catholic response to Machiavelli and Beccaria. He concludes with the contemporary Catholic debate, characterized by the effort of the advocates of autonomous morality to integrate some aspects of the teleological approach.