

Mill on Justice

Use the following rough outline as a guide to Chapter 5 of Mill's *Utilitarianism*. As you read, you will need to add detail to this outline.

[Read in particular pp. 42-50 & 53-59; the other pages may be skimmed.]

Mill first asks (pp. 42-43) what justice is and distinguishes two possible answers. What are those answers?

Then (p. 43), he identifies two tasks he will undertake. What are they? We will concentrate on the first.

Task #1: Determining what makes acts just or unjust (pp. 43-50)

a survey of examples of injustice (pp. 43-47)

identification of the common element of justice

preliminary notes on origin & growth of the idea (pp. 47-48)

He distinguishes three stages. What are they? How do they constitute a series?

He then makes two distinctions.

The first (pp. 48-49) distinguishes morality from other rules of conduct. What is distinctive about morality?

The second distinguishes justice from other duties (pp. 49-50). What "other duties"? How is justice different from them?

Task #2: The source of our (strong) feelings about justice (pp. 50-53)

Other matters

Mill has mentioned rights before; On pp. 53-54 he offers a definition. How does he define a right? How does this definition help us see what are rights & what are not?

Next (pp. 55-59), he argues that justice is not independent of utility. Why does he think that looking at all the things we say about justice shows that it is in fact dependent on utility?