CAN MORALITY BRING HAPPINESS?

The classical utilitarians and the Marxists answered the question "Which is the social structure or order more likely to maximize human happiness?" The former found it in social liberalism (or reformism), the latter in communism. They were realistic by comparison with philosophers who, from Aristotle b Spinoza to some of our contemporaries ask "What is the moral code more lilely to maximize human happiness?" Indeed, it is naive to suppose that (a) moral codes can be adopted separately from social structures, and that (b) observing or breaking moral norms can suffice to ensure human happiness or misery. To be sure, a Calvinistic morality makes life harder than a Catholic one, which in turn is more inhibitory of the pursuit of happiness than a humanistic moral. But there is no escaping the prevailing morality, because it which is embedded in the very social structure.