

BALANCED & UNBALANCED MORALITIES

, like hedonism, , such as Kant's.
A rights-only morality is just as unbalanced as a duties-only morality./

A balanced morality is one where every right is balanced by a duty and conversely, as e.g. in the maxim "To each according to his needs, and from each according to his abilities". A rights-only morality encourages selfishness and idleness, hence social disintegration and therefore, ultimately, personal unhappiness. A duties-only morality encourages sacrifice and discourages self-fulfilment, hence unhappiness and so, ultimately, social uselessness. Personal well-being and social peace can only be obtained by practising a balanced moral code. In point of fact the historical moralities, in contrast to the moral systems imagined by some philosophers, have been more or less balanced because no society is viable unless its members have duties as well as rights. (See Durkheim 18 .)

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