Utilitarian Philosophy

Jeremy Bentham refered to as the Father of modern Utilitarian Philosophy.

"The greatest happiness for the greatest number"

Good is consequential

· the right action leads to consequential good

Utilitarianism links

· Good - with pleasure - with happiness

· The greatest good - the greatest pleasure - the greatest happiness

Bentham counterposes - pleasure with pain

· We seek pleasure and seek to avoid pain - hence:

o We seek to be good

o We seek happiness

Utiliterians seeked legal and social reforms

Bentham also argued for more and wider access to education

John Locke described as "the Father of liberalism"

· All men are naturally free and equal

· Legitimate government is as a result of entering into a social contract between the people and the government

· The social contract transfers some of the people rights to the government

Sir Thomas Hobbs

· Rules out acting for the greater good when in conflict with self interest

Other critique

· happiness and pleasure impute hedonism not caring

· What degree of happiness

· What degree of pleasure