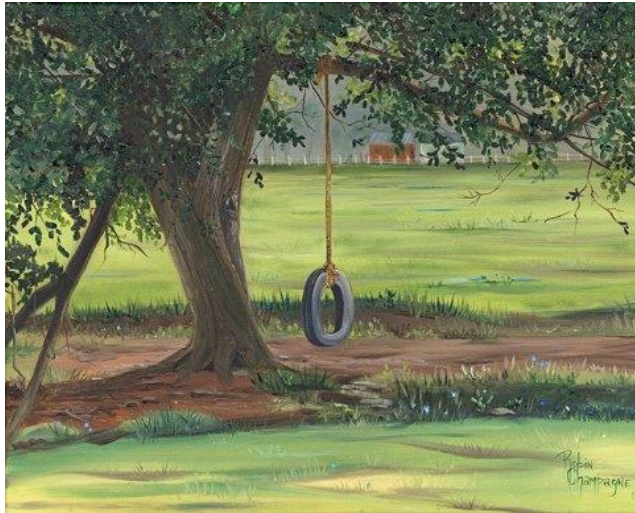


*Do the ends
justify the means?*

By Lisa Zhu, Jiazheng Li, and Kalina
Wang



1. The Law and Robert Latimer

- Happened in 1993 when Robert decides to kill his 12 years-old daughter with severe disabilities to set her free from the pain
- Posted on CBC News (Nov 15, 2019)
- Both sides are presented in the article by Omayra Issa
- mostly unbiased(there is slightly more information presented from Robert's perspective than the justice system's perspective)
- Fairly objective

1. Robert Latimer Continued...

- From Robert's point of view, he loved his daughter and can't bear to watch her being tortured by severe palsy. She couldn't walk, talk or even feed herself. She suffered pain from repeated surgeries.
- From the jury's perspective, Robert committed second degree murder. He broke the law because he caused the death of someone.
- Opposed to the idea of value of life and justice
- Leads to a moral question
- Can a good outcome to others excuse any wrongs committed to attain it?"



2. Benjamin Spall

- Writer, co-author of "MyMorning Routine", created his own website under his name, he has written outlets for the New York Times, the New York Observer, Quartz, Entrepreneur, Business Insider, CNBC, the Huffington Post, 99U, and more.
- He is slightly biased on this opinion



Some examples he used for the argument

- Cheating in sports in order to win
 - Lying on a resume to the job
 - Lying on a first date
 - Lying during election cycle
 - Going along with a false narrative
- These examples show that the end may or may not justify the means, depending on the person, but these do lean towards the negative

- He also pinpoints the argument for this phrase "the end justifies the means" is used to suggest that any activity, whether or not that activity could be considered ethically or morally bad, is worth it as long as a desired end result is achieved" (Benjamin Spall)

This statement is somewhat neutral because that is how this statement is interpreted

Examples from texts he referred

- Heroides a poem by Ovid

The quote used is "Exitus acta probat" meaning "The outcome justifies the deeds"

- The Prince by Niccolo Machiaveli

The quote used is "For although the act condemns the doer, the end may justify him"

He also mentioned "in the book of essays 'End and Means'(an Enquiry Into the Nature of Ideals and Into the Methods Employed for Their Realization) by Aldous Huxley, which was first published in 1937, the famed author of Brave New World, spoke of war, religion, ethics, and nationalism, topics of which he believed the end justifies the means thinking had permeated" (Benjamin Spall)

- His end statement however is towards the against side of the argument

"Don't ask whether you're proud of what you achieved. Ask whether you're proud of how you achieved it" (Benjamin Spall)

3. Michael Krieger

- The creator and editor of Liberty Blitzkrieg
- He gradually recognized that his true passion centers upon writing on issues of significant societal importance given the extremely challenging times we live in. This realization culminated with him losing interest in financial markets and eventually launching this website in early 2012.



3. Do Ends Justify the Means

- If someone is coming at your family with an intent to inflict harm, the ethical decision might be to harm the aggressor to protect your family despite the fact that harming another person in itself is an immoral act.

- What about if you're walking down the street and you see someone come from behind an old lady, hit her on the head and then struggle with her on the ground in an attempt to take her purse.

- Many people involved in politics swear by the notion that “the ends justify the means,” which is typically the sign of a self-serving actor attempting to justify questionable if not downright evil action in order to get what he or she wants.

- Indeed, so many of the wars, massacres and bloodshed around the world can be directly linked to “ends justify the means” type thinking.



4. Dr. Steven Mintz

- Known as "The Ethics Sage" and has a reputation as an expert in ethics
- Professor Emeritus from Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo
- His blog Ethics Sage is ranked 49 out of 100 top philosophy blogs and one of the top 30 blogs for in Corporate Social Responsibility
- In 2015 he received the Accounting Exemplar Award from the Public Interest Section of the American Accounting Association
- One of his credentials is
 - Author of Ethical Obligations and Decisions Making in Accounting, a textbook used in many colleges and universities

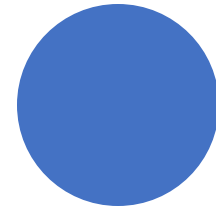
Some examples that Dr. Mintz give is

- Lying on a resume to get the job
- Statement from former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper about collecting data on millions of Americans
- Financial recession of 2008-2009
- Quotes from The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli

" There is nothing more necessary to appear to have than this last quality (appearing to be religious), inasmuch as men judge generally more by the eye than by the hand, because it belong to everybody to see you, too few to come in touch with you."

His last statement to this topic is:

"The reason the means are important, maybe more important than the ends, is how we get to our goal is just as important as getting there. In other words, destiny tells us what we are; It's the journey that unlocks our potential and establishes who we are as a person and what motivates us towards action."





5. Historical Example – The Great Wall

- Published on History.com
- The website broadcasts documentary programs and historical fiction series
- To inform readers the history, cost, and use of the Great Wall
- Fairly neutral and objective (slightly biased)
- Background information and facts are provided
- Few to no persuasive language or opinion-based discussion is made
- The for side (benefits) and against (cost) are both discussed

Some Facts - Cost vs Benefits

- The Great Wall provides defense against attacks from the north since it had been created in strategic places. It played an important role then.
- It provided protection to the economic development and cultural progress
- most recognizable symbol of China and its long and vivid history
- The labour force that built the wall is made up largely of soldiers and convicts
- Approximately 400,000 people died during the construction to provide a safe place for future generations
- Spend approx. 95 billion dollars over tens of centuries to finish the construction



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