

# JEREMY BENTHAM

1748 - 1832

The  
originator of  
modern  
Utilitarianism

a philosopher, economist,  
jurist, and legal reformer  
and the founder of  
modern utilitarianism.

*“The said truth is that it is the  
greatest happiness of the greatest  
number that is the measure of  
right and wrong.”*

*“Stretching his hand up to  
reach the stars, too often  
man forgets the flowers  
at his feet.”*

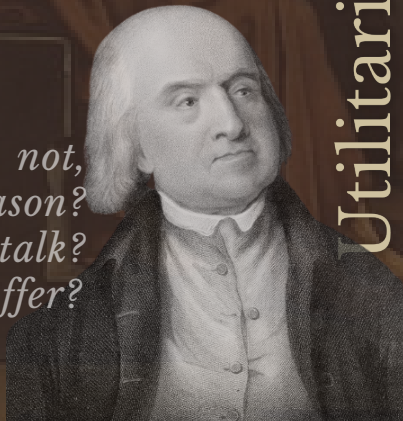
Jeremy Bentham is one of  
the most prominent  
philosophers for being one  
of the founders of modern  
utilitarianism, a main  
current of philosophical  
ethics since the late 18th  
century, for his defense of  
psychological and ethical  
hedonism, and for his far-  
reaching proposals for the  
reform of Parliament, the  
legal code, the judiciary,  
and the prison system in  
Britain.

Utilitarianism is one of the most  
powerful and persuasive  
approaches to normative ethics  
in the history of philosophy.  
Utilitarianism is also  
distinguished by impartiality and  
agent-neutrality. Everyone's  
happiness counts the same.

The principle of utility, or  
"greatest happiness  
principle," forms the  
cornerstone of all Bentham's  
thought. By "happiness," he  
understood a predominance  
of "pleasure" over "pain." He  
wrote in *An Introduction to  
the Principles of Morals and  
Legislation*

Utilitarianism

*“The question is not,  
can they reason?  
Nor, can they talk?  
But, can they suffer?”*



*Ria Claudine C. Gasgonia*