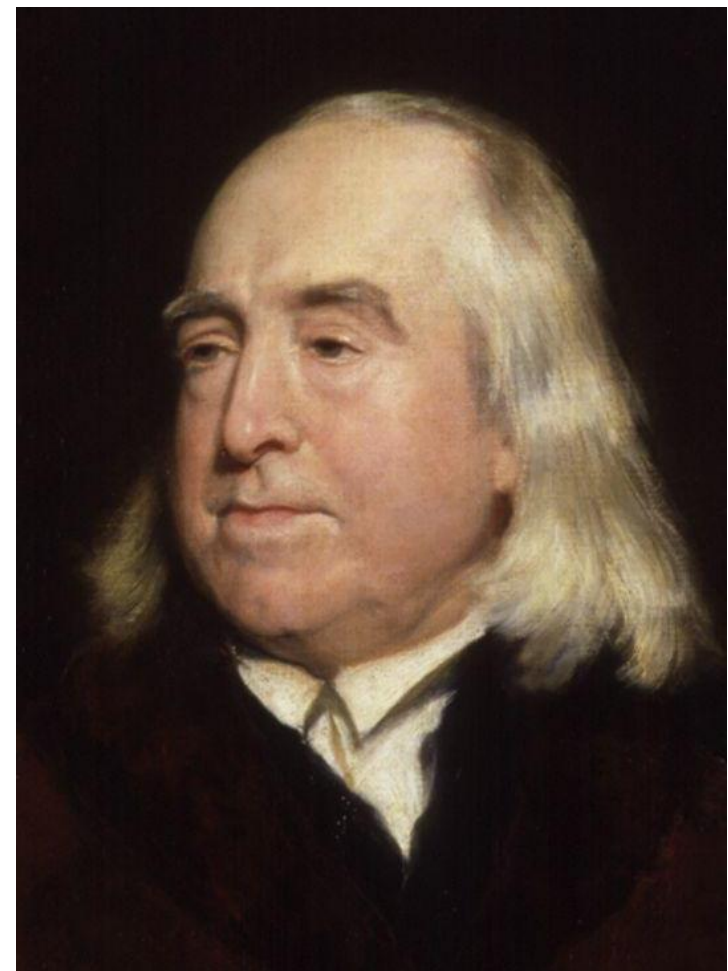


JEREMY BENTHAM

He devoted his life to reform almost every aspect of society, including government, law, economics, education and religion
Some evidence suggests he may be on the ASD spectrum with Asperger's syndrome

Biography

- Born 1748 in England
- Died 1832 in London
- On his death in 1832, Bentham left instructions for his body to be first dissected, and then to be permanently preserved as an "auto-icon" (or self-image), which would be his memorial. This was done, and the auto-icon is now on public display in London



Jeremy Bentham – Founder of Modern Utilitarianism. Biography and theory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c358xzlrO-s> (19 minutes)

Utilitarianism: Crash Course Philosophy #36
School of thought founded by Bentham and John Stewart Mill. Batman example!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI> (10 minutes)

Philosophy (major ideas)

He is an early proponent for animal rights. He argued and believed that **the ability to suffer, not the ability to reason, should be the threshold upon which beings (animals included) should have rights.**

↳ Bentham makes clear that he accepted that animals could be killed for food, or in defense of human life, provided that the animal was not made to suffer unnecessarily. Bentham did not object to medical experiments on animals, providing that the experiments had in mind a particular goal of benefit to humanity, and had a reasonable chance of achieving that goal.

He is **against a nation's imperialistic tendencies**

He believed that **corruption permeated all levels of society**

He favored women equality with men, including the right to vote.

Human behavior is controlled by the imposition of sanctions

Justice requires equality, but is subordinate to utility/ethics

The father of **utilitarianism**, a moral theory that argues that **actions should be judged right or wrong to the extent they increase or decrease human well-being or 'utility'** (ie, evaluate actions based on their consequences)

↳ this line of thought came out of his concern for legal and social reform