

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451344303321
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Titolo	Utilitarianism // Geoffrey Scarre
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 1996
ISBN	1-85278-097-5 1-134-82792-X 0-203-21376-9 0-203-29228-6 1-280-18722-0 1-134-82793-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (234 p.)
Collana	Problems of Philosophy
Disciplina	144.6 171.5 171/.5
Soggetti	Ethics Utilitarianism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 212-221) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Contents; Preface; Introduction: The Character of the Theory; Four Ancient Moralists; Jesus; Aristotle; Epicurus; Utilitarianism and Enlightenment; Chastellux and Helvetius; Hutcheson; Hume; Priestley and Paley; Godwin; Bentham; John Stuart Mill; James Mill; The importance of character; Higher and lower pleasures; The 'proof of utility'; Utility and justice; Some Later Developments; Ideal Utilitarianism: Moore and Rashdall; Rule-utilitarianism; Happiness and Other Ends; Dominant-and inclusive-end conceptions of happiness; Problems about multiple ends Two contrasting responses Maximisation, Fairness and Respect for Persons; Panem et circenses; 'Whoever debases others is debasing himself'; But should the consequences count?; Limitations of the self-respect argument; Archangels, proles and the natural man; Utilitarianism and Personality; The hard line: utilitarians should be

saints; A softer line: utilitarians may be human; Maximisation and alienation; Non-alienating direct utilitarianism; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Surveying the historical development and the present condition of utilitarian ethics, Geoffrey Scarre examines the major philosophers from Lao Tzu in the fifth century BC to Richard Hare in the twentieth. Utilitarianism traces the 'doctrine of utility' from the moralists of the ancient world, through the Enlightenment and Victorian utilitarianism up to the lively debate of the present day. Utilitarianism today faces challenges on several fronts: it cannot warrant the drawing of adequate protective boundaries around the essential interests of individuals, and it does not allow them the
