

Hume and Mill on “Utility of Religion”: A *Borgean* Garden of Forking Paths?

This work is not a specific assessment of *Utility of Religion* by John Stuart Mill, but a defence of what I think is a utilitarian, but not millian, view on the problem that work states: the question of the utility of religion in contemporary societies. I construct that view from neo-humeanism more than from millian positions, notwithstanding, I postulate that view as a genuine utilitarian one.

Every cultural tradition takes a different approach to ethical and political theories. Spanish and Ibero American utilitarians are precisely concerned with that kind of specific view of Classical Utilitarianism.

From that point of view, Ibero American scholars identify utilitarianism with radical and enlightened tradition linked with the reform that, through XVIIIth and XIXth centuries tried to undermine the foundations of conservative society in our nations. This aim was not achieved, at least not completely; and for that reason, the pursuit of Utilitarianism remains open between us.

In the end, I will argue that Spanish and Iberoamerican utilitarians connect utilitarianism with philosophical and political radicalism, and inside that *Hispanic* utilitarianism plays an important role the criticism of social and political functions of Religion.

Perhaps part of the future of Utilitarianism in our cultural context depends on a return of the Theory to its radical roots, also in religious subjects.

José L. **Tasset**