



Greed and Morality

Sub-chapter	Section	Subject Matter	People
Part 1: The Lure of Temptation		Our unbounded material desires • Greed & the capitalist way • Politics & commerce: the lure of power & money • The gradual erosion of traditional moral & ethical boundaries within western culture • Sex, gambling & drugs / industrial, legal & religious hypocrisy • The destructive global impact of consumerism	Jesse Ventura Ronald Reagan Donald Trump
Part 2: The Excesses of Human Greed	i. A sixth mass extinction	Comparing ancient mass extinctions to the present Anthropocene extinction • Some of the many consequences of human existence - from disease to extreme pollution • Various pollutants & their effects	
	ii. The human effect	The plight of endangered species: from orangutans to mountain gorillas • Animals & human indignity - from circuses to experimentation • The ultimate futility of conservation efforts • Raping the oceans - the plight of sharks & whales • Destroying the food web we rely on	Milan Kundera John Merrick
Part 3: Morality (Spiritual, Religious & Political)	i. Male authority and the warping of morality	The rise of male-dominated culture - from prehistory to the modern world • Status & class • Marriage: the historic suppression of womanhood • The shame of Ethiopian Christian tradition • Control & the Christian taboo of sex • Modern moral freedoms & the power of social dissent • A warning of political moral regression	Solomon
	ii. A struggle with 'evil'	Christian indoctrination • The creation of sin • Modern moral perceptions • Society & moral identity • Christian moral hypocrisy	John Dewy Jurgen Habermas Richard Rorty Christopher Marlow Lilian Smith





Part 3: Morality (Spiritual, Religious & Political) (...continued)	<i>iii. Philosophical enlightenment</i>	The influence of ancient philosophers & early scientists • Early modern philosophy: challenging the Christian ethic • Modern moral codes: theistic, egotistic & hedonistic morality • <i>Utilitarianism</i> • A question of individual freedoms • The naturalistic fallacy & popular perception • Language (interwoven with morality) • The potent connections of common language & culture	Buddha Lao Zi Jesus of Nazareth Mohammed Mao Tse-Tung Johannes Rosellinus Pierre Abelard Plato Aristotle Galileo Galilei Copernicus René Descartes Jeremy Bentham John Locke Jean-Jaques Rousseau John Mill John Rawles G.E. Moore Saddam Hussein Ludwig Wittgenstein Georg Hegel
	<i>iv. Philosophical realities</i>	<i>Empiricism</i> <i>Subjective idealism</i> & the ‘is/thought problem’ • <i>Prescriptivism</i> <i>Nominalism</i> <i>Idealism</i> & <i>emotivism</i> : warnings from the past	John Locke George Berkely David Hume Willard Quine Georg Hegel A.J. Ayer
	<i>v. Science of the self</i>	Ethical debate & philosophical maturity (from theistic belief to idealism) • The link between scientific theory & modern philosophy (from quantum physics to <i>conventionalism</i>) • Subjective idealism & <i>solipsism</i> • <i>The categorical imperative</i>	Jules Poincaré Albert Einstein Johann Fichte Immanuel Kant
Part 4: The Dustbin of Human Life	<i>i. Lessons to be learned</i>	War & the spiral of human depravity • Post-war conciliation & the ‘ <i>United Nations</i> ’ • Examples of post-war atrocities: war crimes & genocide (from Cambodia to the Middle East) • Human rights: a westernised perception of liberty • Western hypocrisy / mistrust of the West • The ‘ <i>European Court of Human Rights</i> ’	Martin Luther King Leonid Brezhnev
	<i>ii. From the depths of depravity</i>	The rise of neo-Nazis • The impressionable minds of fanatics • The warped realities of war (the massacre of Oradour-sur-Glasne) • Mainstream right-wing politics in the Cold War / the increasing lack of sensibilities in the West during the 1980s • ‘ <i>Charter 88</i> ’ & the reaction to conservatism in Britain • The warped values of Christian America & the FBI (from gun control to the Waco massacre) • Political lies & hypocrisy	Rudolf Hess Ronald Reagan Margaret Thatcher John Major John F. Kennedy Martin Luther King Frank Sinatra David Koresh Janet Reno Bill Clinton





Part 4: The Dustbin of Human Life (...continued)	<i>iii. A world of western moralities</i>	Capitalist morality & religious (Islamic) law • Morality & disease: The effect of AIDS on western sensibilities • TB & malaria: Third World killers & First World economics • Slavery & western shame • Modern slavery in Africa & East Asia • The moral self-righteousness of the English-speaking world • Military corruption in the wake of the Soviet collapse	Nicolae Ceausescu
	<i>iv. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>	The thirty articles of the ' <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> ' • A note on female repression	John Stewart Mill
Part 5: Corporate Power and Its Global Influence	<i>i. Agricultural immorality</i>	The immorality of commerce & industry • Agriculture: pollution, genetic manipulation & the treatment of animals • CJD, scrapie & kuru • BSE & government hypocrisy • DDT : our deadly abuse of nature	John Gummer
	<i>ii. Antibiotic misuse</i>	The overuse of antibiotics & the rise of ' <i>superbugs</i> ' • Pharmaceutical & agricultural exploitation - a danger to all life	
	<i>iii. Human health and capital venture</i>	Pharmaceutical corruption & capital investment • The economic prejudices of right-wing politics • ' <i>Thatcherism</i> ' at work • Exploitation of the <i>NHS</i> : the privatisation of health care & creation of hospital trusts • Financial reward versus the <i>Hippocratic Oath</i>	Margaret Thatcher
	<i>iv. Experimenting on the innocent</i>	The shame of Australia: <i>CSL</i> & the <i>Broadmeadows Baby Home</i>	





Part 5: Corporate Power and Its Global Influence (...continued)	<i>v. Sildenafil and tobacco</i>	Pfizer & the story of Viagra • The abuse of sildenafil in a masculine world • The tobacco industry & its influence on society • The power of targeted advertising
	<i>vi. Man and modern society</i>	Producer sovereignty: manipulation & control of the marketplace • The moral gap between society & authority • Mankind's unrelenting world of competition • Collective moral judgement & the hypocrisy of humanity

