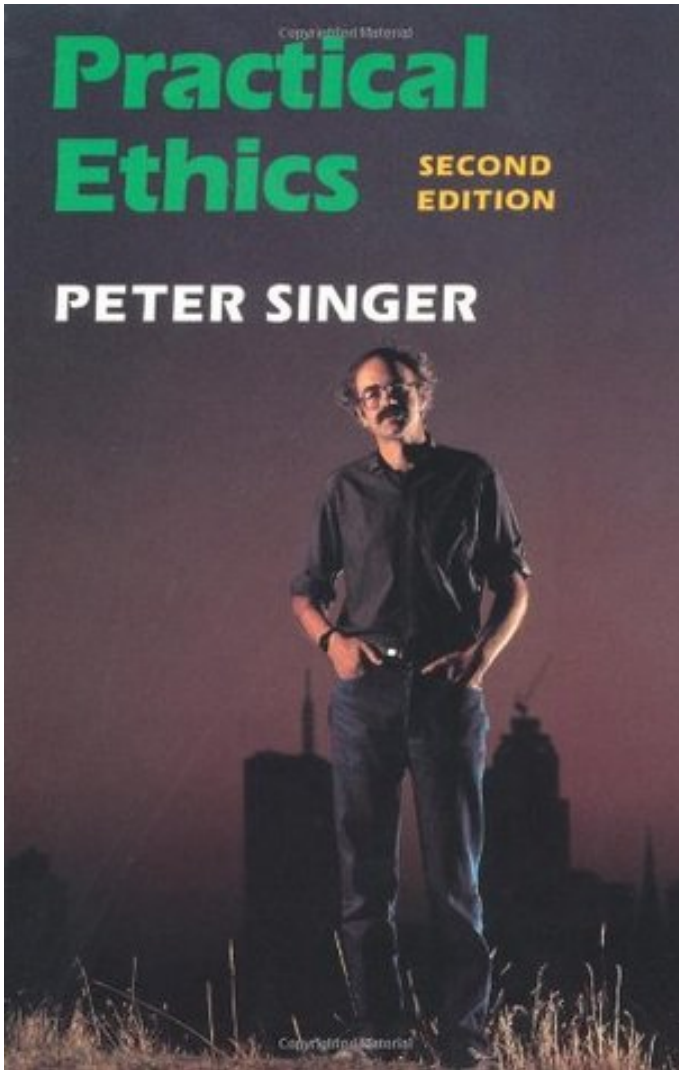

Peter Singer

Practical Ethics



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Author: Peter Singer

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Description

Peter Singer's remarkably clear and comprehensive *Practical Ethics* has become a classic introduction to applied ethics since its publication in 1979 and has been translated into many languages. For this second edition the author has revised all the existing chapters, added two new ones, and updated the bibliography. He has also added an appendix describing some of the deep misunderstanding of, and consequent violent reaction to, the book in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland where the book has tested the limits of freedom of speech. The focus of the book is the application of ethics to difficult and controversial social questions: equality and discrimination by race, sex, ability, or species; abortion, euthanasia, and embryo experimentation; the moral status of animals; political violence and civil disobedience; overseas aid and the obligation to assist others; responsibility for the environment; the treatment of refugees. Singer explains and assesses relevant arguments in a perspicuous, non-doctrinaire way. He structures the book to show how contemporary controversies often have deep philosophical roots; and he presents an ethical theory of his own that can be applied consistently and convincingly to all the practical cases. The book's primary readership remains teachers and students of ethics whether in philosophy or some other branch of the humanities or social sciences. However, such is the clarity of the book's style and structure that it should interest any thinking person concerned with the most difficult social problems facing us as we approach the twenty-first century.

Insightful reviews

Nick Black: Read down in Savannah back in 2002; I picked up an archival copy back in 2004. Lots of good thinking here, but Singer's *way* too quick to consider something "conclusively demonstrated." I found his animal rights doctrine a particularly grotesque pill to swallow, and his arguments regarding abortion rather slipshod reasoning (although not so much as the *roe v wade* decision itself) -- I'm staunchly pro-choice, but certainly not due to Singer-style arguments. For that matter, the 700,000 Americans arrested each year for marijuana possession -- the major ethical failure of our times, and a barbarism that future generations will look upon with shudders -- are never mentioned. Sorry Pete, but while billions of dollars are being spent to restrict basic pharmaceutical freedoms, the cows can wait.

For a non-scientist, though, his reasoning's not too bad and cut well above the typical jib surrounding such passionate topics. Until my comrades in the neurological arts get off their duffers and solve this problem, armchair ethicists like Singer will lead the way.

(Singer, featured on the cover, is far too thin and needs badly to eat some delicious animals. It'd probably leave him much less worried and flighty.)

Jason: Interesting and challenging book. I don't agree with many of his conclusions but he has put a lot of time into creating a strong argument for his views.

Kory: I had read enough Singer to know I would enjoy this, but I think this has been my favorite

of his so far. Singer's ethical reasoning is exact and unassuming - he follows the logic to the end, even if his conclusions seem radical and clash with current ways of thinking.

I particularly enjoyed this book because he covers a broad spectrum of ethical issues and gives a slightly more technical/philosophical treatment to the issues than I have seen him give elsewhere. The book is still very accessible, but he carefully lays out a variety of philosophical approaches one could take to each issue and discusses what makes sense from the perspective of that moral framework. Singer personally approaches ethical issues from a preference Utilitarian perspective, but most of his arguments hold under other approaches.

Again, Singer reaches conclusions that clash heavily with current norms, but his reasoning is difficult to argue with. In addition, many of the issues he discusses are at the forefront of political debate (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, providing aid to developing nations, animal rights and more). Even if you don't agree with Singer's views, his arguments help hone your own views and cut through some shoddy rhetoric surrounding these issues.

Jeff Rogers: I beloved this e-book greater than so much books that I provide 3 stars and that i respect Peter Singer for his reasoning and his conviction. However, i discovered his arguments unconvincing, in general simply because I disagree along with his premise that we have got a few ethical compulsion to behave ethically within the first place. whereas it definitely turns out rational to aim to maintain the surroundings for egocentric purposes (as good as other, virtuous, reasons), I see no ethical compulsion to do so. equally for no longer killing animals. We might separately make a decision that the soreness of animals upsets us, and that we don't wish our wish to consume them reason their suffering, but when to you the tradeoff within the animal's discomfort is well worth the profit you get from consuming it, then I see no explanation for you to not consume it. I felt equally in regards to the different arguments Singer made, whereas they're moderate when you settle for his premises, I see no cause to do so, and so the arguments are unconvincing for me.

Michael Bohli: "Praktische Ethik" ist ein Standardwerk in der ethischen Lehre. Peter Singer behandelt ausführlich die Grundfragen, welche sich beim Thema ethical und Ethik stellen. Dank der leicht verständlichen Schreibweise, ist das Buch auch für Einsteiger und nicht Gelehrte geeignet. Grundsätzlich dies die Auseinandersetzung mit diesen Gedanken ein Muss für jeden Menschen, der sein Leben besser verstehen und führen möchte. Somit spricht eigentlich nichts gegen das Buch, das hier von mir auch empfohlen wird. Warum ich aber nur drei Sterne verteile, liegt an dem utilitaristischen Standpunkt Singers. Seine Argumente und Schlussfolgerungen basieren auf dieser philosophischen Strömung, mir der ich nicht konform gehen kann. Meine Ergebnisse widersprechen somit seinen und ich empfinde Singers "absolute" Resultate als falsch. Trotzdem, interessant und lehrreich.

Eric Eisberg: Peter Singer's vintage paintings on ethics replaced the best way i glance on the complete subject. His paintings is clear, logical and entire of insightful anecdotes and hypothetical occasions that aid illustrate his point. the best books i have learn in a truly lengthy time.

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