

J.S Mill Philosophy and The Government

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Subject: J.S Mill Philosophy and Current issues in the government

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Assessment:

Jermy Betham's political philosophy is tied to the government and is very crucial to today, but there is another philosopher who challenges the ideas of Jermy Betham. This philosopher is J.S Mill and he advocates individual rights over egalitarian ideals. J.S Mills will serve as a good topic to ask the youth about to see if his ideas will become more or less ubiquitous. Knowing how the youth feels about his ideas will create an accurate model of the future government.

J.S Mill's philosophical idea is that all people should have their rights and require the government to have the most minimal amount of power over the people. An example of this is seatbelt laws. J.S Mill's political idea says people have the right not to wear a seatbelt because it is not putting anyone else in danger and the government has no jurisdiction to place laws that restrict the choices of individuals. This is an extreme of Mill's Philosophy and why it is watered down in our government. To test the youth we can use the example of the seatbelt and see if they think it is okay for the government to regulate that law. If they answer yes, which is what I would expect, it is clear that the youth will support a more Betham based government. J.S Mill's

whole claim is that the government does not have the authority to regulate the actions of citizens unless they interfere with other citizens.

J.S Mill also supported the idea that the government should respect the rights of individuals. This is a watered-down interpretation of the libertarian philosophy and is present in our government through the bill of rights. This does prompt the discussion about sexual intimacy and how people can love whoever they want because it does not affect anybody else rights. This is an idea that also needs to be evaluated in our youth to see if the government will add sexuality as a protected class. This would alter the way sexuality is interpreted in the eyes of the court, which would fundamentally have a ripple effect on the entire constitution. If the youth does accept the idea of same-sex intimacy this will lead me to implement the predicted change in the government into my own model.

Another issue brought up by the lecture was the distribution of wealth among a society, which is a significant topic that can prompt changes in policies. In the United States, 10% of the population has 70% percent of the total wealth the United States has. The major argument is if the wealth of the wealthier population is distributed to the poorer population, would that be right or wrong? If the members of the youth end up supporting the distribution of wealth from the rich to the poor there then they are either part of the poorer population and know how the money can change their situation or the youth is in the middle class and will not be negatively impacted by it. If they answer that it is wrong to distribute wealth from the rich to the poor, they would have to be apart of the wealthy because they would not want to be stripped of their wealth.

Overall I learned about multiple controversial issues that I can use to formulate my own government model for the future. This information will help me create my interview questions for the youth.

Link to annotations:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LigEzGOLyxzPFJF-Rdop36SJ7EpoFoahIWkyNDNkuJw/edit?usp=sharing>