

1. Instrumental and Intrinsic Arguments About Equality

- Libertarians criticize regulations in the name of equality on instrumental grounds and on grounds of principle, as unjust.
- Egalitarians may defend regulations that promote equality partly on instrumental grounds: (i) good for the general welfare (e.g., more equality may promote growth); and (ii) good for democracy (solidarity and political equality).
- But the distinctive argument is intrinsic: certain kinds of inequalities are unjust because they violate the basic requirement that members of society be treated as free and equal, in view of profound effects of law and policy on life chances.
- Difficult to accommodate liberty and equality, as cases of political equality and race/gender equality indicate. But justice demands no less.

2. Two Criticisms of Rawls

- Does the DP's focus on the worst-off group adequately express the idea of treating people as equals? Arguably not, especially in face of broad risks of declining income.
- Does DP adequately accommodate importance of responsibility—associated with freedom of equal members of society.
- Dworkin's equality of resources: meant to be a better expression of requirement of treating members of society as free and equal. Basic idea is to ensure sensitivity of distribution to choices but not to circumstances.
- Strategic problem: how to achieve both desiderata (choice sensitivity, endowment insensitivity).

3. Desert, Talent, Reward

- Friedman and Rawls both reject liberal equality because talents and inherited starting positions are morally on a par.

- Suppose we think that talent for making/doing things that others want to pay for is, unlike inheritance, a virtue (whether natural or acquired). So perhaps possessors of it *deserve* all the benefits they can reap.
- Three difficulties with argument for deservingness of wealth-talented, as a basis for case against redistributive taxation: (i) why economic reward for the virtue? (ii) is talent for wealth creation a virtue that deserves reward; (iii) if it is a virtue and does deserve economic reward, why *all* the reward?

4. Ethical Individualism

- Principles of equal importance and special responsibility: moral foundations for political argument (requirement of continuity).
- Are the two principles in deep conflict? No, because good life requires endorsement by agent.
- Implications of two principles in the political arena, in virtue of special features of that realm: equal concern, understood in light of the principle of special responsibility.
- Applied to the economic arena, this requirement of equal concern leads to the norms of choice-sensitivity and endowment insensitivity. Aim of the insurance scheme is to accommodate both norms.