

The Case Against Perfection Ethics In The Age Of Genetic Engineering

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breakthroughs in genetics present us with a promise and a predicament the promise is that we will soon be able to treat and prevent a host of debilitating diseases the predicament is that our newfound genetic knowledge may enable us to manipulate our nature to enhance our genetic traits and those of our children although most people find at least some forms of genetic engineering disquieting it is not easy to articulate why what is wrong with re engineering our nature the case against perfection explores these and other moral quandaries connected with the quest to perfect ourselves and our children michael sandel argues that the pursuit of perfection is flawed for reasons that go beyond safety and fairness the drive to enhance human nature through genetic technologies is objectionable because it represents a bid for mastery and dominion that fails to appreciate the gifted character of human powers and achievements carrying us beyond familiar terms of political discourse this book contends that the genetic revolution will change the way philosophers discuss ethics and will force spiritual questions back onto the political agenda in order to grapple with the ethics of enhancement we need to confront questions largely lost from view in the modern world since these questions verge on theology modern philosophers and political theorists tend to shrink from them but our new powers of biotechnology make these questions unavoidable addressing them is the task of this book by one of america s preeminent moral and political thinkers

this textbook offers an introduction to the field of bioethics specifically from a practicing physician standpoint it engages a wide range of recent scholarship and emerging research covering many crucial topics in clinical ethics while there has been increasing attention to the role of bioethics in medicine the gap between theory and practice still exists and it continues to impede the dialogue between health care professionals from one side and bioethicists and philosophers of medicine from the other side this book builds bridges and open channels of connection between different parties in these conversations it does so from a physician s practical perspective engaging recent

scholarship and emerging research to shed light on pivotal ethical dilemmas in contemporary clinical practice

unveil the intricate tapestry of faith and reason in nature and time integrative dialogues in history and theology this insightful work bridges the gap between traditional christian thought and contemporary scientific understanding delving deep into the evolving role of natural theology it explores how human reason and empirical observation intertwine with divine revelation from the hierarchical dance between natural and revealed theology to the pressing political and ecological challenges of our time this book offers a fresh lens through which to view the divine in the modern world journey through philosophical perspectives on time understand divine action in new dimensions and grapple with the global struggle against oppression all while discovering the enduring relevance of natural theology by weaving together insights from ecology cosmology and neuroscience it fosters a dynamic dialogue that enriches both science and spirituality whether a theologian seeking depth a scientist exploring beyond the empirical or a curious mind yearning for meaning this book invites the reader to a transformative exploration engage with a framework that not only addresses the complexities of the world but also fosters a deeper understanding of the divine in every aspect of life

the hope and despair of human bioenhancement is a virtual dialogue between transhumanists of the oxford school and the thought of joseph ratzinger set in the key of hope and despair it considers whether or not the transhumanist interpretation of human limitations is correct and whether their confidence in the methods of human enhancement especially through biotechnology corresponds to genuine hope to this end it investigates the philosophical foundations of transhumanism in modernity s rejection of metaphysics the triumph of positivism and the universalism of the theory of evolution which when applied to anthropology becomes the materialist reduction of the human person ratzinger calls into question this absolutization of positive reason and its limitation of hope to what human beings can produce naming it a pathology of reason a mutilation of human dignity and a facade of a world without hope in its place he offers a richer concept of hope that acknowledges our contingency and limitations

aldous huxley the political thought of a man of letters argues that huxley is not a man of letters engaged in politics but a political thinker who chooses literature to spread his ideas his preference for the dystopian genre is due to his belief in the tremendous impact of dystopia on twentieth century political thought his political thinking is not systematic but this does not stop his analysis from supplying elements that are original and up to date and that represent fascinating contributions of political theory in all the spheres that he examines from anti marxism to anti positivism from political realism to elitism from criticism of mass society to criticism of totalitarianism from criticism of ideologies to the future of liberal democracy from pacifism to ecological communitarianism huxley clearly grasped the unsolved issues of contemporary liberalism and the importance of his influence on many twentieth century and present day political thinkers ensures that his ideas remain indispensable in the current liberal democratic debate brave new world is without doubt huxley s most successful political manifesto while examining the impassioned struggle for the development of all human potentialities it yet manages not to close the doors definitively on the rebirth of utopia in the age of dystopia

this book is primarily concerned with some of the most important kinds of philosophical issues that arise in sport which are ethical or moral ones it focuses on the nature of principles and values that should apply to sport

allows readers to use critical thinking to create informed opinions on where they stand on the issue of reproductive technology

we all share a desire for self improvement whether through education work parenthood or adhering to religious or ethical codes each of us seeks to become a better human in a variety of ways and for some people more consumerist pursuits hold the key to self improvement working out in the gym wearing makeup buying new clothes or indulging in a spot of cosmetic surgery but now a new set of possibilities is opening up advances in biotechnology neuroscience computing and nanotechnology mean that we are in the early stages of a period of huge technological potential within the next 30 years it may become commonplace to alter the genetic make up of our children to insert artificial implants into our bodies or to radically extend life expectancy this collection of essays by

leading scientists and commentators explores the implications of human enhancement technologies and asks how citizens and policy makers should respond

this volume contains work by the very best young scholars working in applied ethics gathering a range of new perspectives and thoughts on highly relevant topics such as the environment animals computers freedom of speech human enhancement war and poverty for researchers and students working in or around this fascinating area of the discipline the volume will provide a unique snapshot of where the cutting edge work in the field is currently engaged and where it s headed

in samuel johnson and the making of modern england nicholas hudson argues that johnson not only came to personify english cultural identity but did much to shape it hudson examines his contribution to the creation of the modern english identity approaching johnson s writing and conversation from scarcely explored directions of cultural criticism class politics feminism party politics the public sphere nationalism and imperialism hudson charts the career of an author who rose from obscurity to fame during precisely the period that england became the dominant force in the western world in exploring the relations between johnson s career and the development of england s modern national identity hudson develops new and provocative arguments concerning both johnson s literary achievement and the nature of english nationhood book jacket

the seventh edition continues the successful format that has made this casebook one of the most successful in its field

a thorough definitive account of dewey s ethics

few areas of public policy have been fraught with as much controversy as bioethics each novel development in biomedical technology seems to spark rancorous disputes those averse to new technologies often express the concern that the new technology is unnatural or requires us to play god slogans such as frankenfoods and sanctity of life substitute for reasoned argument this is an ambitious book that seeks to reframe the debates surrounding current controversies in bioethics carefully examining and dissecting claims made by many policy makers and ethicists on topics such as assistance in dying

genetic engineering and embryonic stem cell research bioethicist ronald a lindsay shows that all too often these claims are based on instinctive reactions beliefs that lack factual support and religious or ideological dogma after describing in detail the proper way to approach and resolve a dispute in bioethics lindsay proceeds to analyse several different cutting edge issues through his insightful analysis lindsay demonstrates how to achieve pragmatic progressive solutions to these controversies an antidote for misguided thinking future bioethics illuminates the way forward to bioethics policies appropriate for the 21st century

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