



METADATA

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Abstract

The text is a thematic-historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Values. Values are an enigmatic yet crucial phenomenon and topic. As early as the 15th century in late medieval economic thought (which echoed relative nuggets of ideas already in Aristotle's economic thought), and from the mid-19th century in philosophy, values were thematized as a central phenomenon worthy of investigation. Especially the neo-Kantians and the phenomenologists, but also Anglo-American philosophers who took over the baton of this theme from the neo-Kantians, attempted to elucidate the phenomenon of values. Values, in one way or another, in one version or another (e.g., moral value, aesthetic value, use value, exchange value, etc.) seem to constitute answers to the practical questions of "to what end?" (to use here densely the stigma of Nietzsche's approach). In other words, values constitute the basic patterns of making sense of human existence

and orienting action. They constitute, in short, as a value system, the backbone or skeleton of a culture. In times of crisis and threatened nihilism, such as ours, this becomes particularly evident. Every problem, whether social, economic or institutional, begins to be understood as a problem deeply rooted in the value system of our civilisation. The Introduction undertakes to illuminate - in representative and indicative chapters - the generally obscure and opaque origins of this theme from ancient Greek thought (Plato and Aristotle with a passage from the Stoics), its more recent emergence (Hume, Kant, and Lotze), and its modern culmination and impasse (Brentano, Nietzsche, and Scheler). Obviously, a number of philosophers and schools, such as the Neo-Kantians, Logical Empiricism, Pragmatism, etc, has an approach to the question of values. In the Introduction, however, we attempt an overview of the most basic milestones.

