Based on hedonism¹ and a mathematical equation, this philosophy is called utilitarianism² ³ and comes from the word “utility.”⁴ The utilitarian rationale was created as a guide for legislators making public policy by an 18th century British social reformer Jeremy Bentham,⁵ ⁶ whose mummified head is being preserved by the University College London, where a wax version is on public display.⁷ In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court used Bentham’s utilitarian rationale to rule in Jacobson v. Massachusetts that state legislatures had the power to enact mandatory smallpox vaccination laws.⁸

American Eugenicists, U.S. Supreme Court Embraces Utilitarianism

American eugenicists and social reformers embraced utilitarianism in the early 20th century.⁹ ¹⁰ They argued that government has the legal right to discriminate against a minority of citizens judged to be genetically defective or a threat to the health and welfare of society. In 1923, U.S. Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendall Holmes¹¹ gave the green light to the state of Virginia to forcibly sterilize a young woman, Carrie Buck, because doctors judged her to be mentally retarded just like her daughter and mother. Coldly, Holmes proclaimed: “three generations of imbeciles are enough” and said “The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the fallopian tubes.”¹² It turns out Carrie Buck was not mentally retarded and neither was her daughter or mother.¹³

Utilitarianism Pseudo-Ethic In Its Most Extreme Form

Doctors and public health officials in the Third Reich implemented utilitarianism in its most extreme form to justify conducting horrific scientific experiments on captive people.¹⁴ ¹⁵ The Nuremberg Tribunal justices presiding over The Doctors Trial after World War II declared utilitarianism to be a pseudo ethic. They issued the Nuremberg Code outlining the informed consent principle,¹⁶ ¹⁷ which has guided research on humans and the ethical practice of medicine ever since.¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰

Forced Vaccination Laws Sacrifice the Genetically Vulnerable

The Institute of Medicine has confirmed that some individuals have known and unknown genetic risk factors that make them more susceptible to vaccine injury and death.²¹ This means forced vaccination laws that fail to include flexible medical and non-medical exemptions become a utilitarian, de facto selection of the genetically vulnerable for sacrifice.²²

Is America really going to walk down that road? Are we going to punish citizens for the genes they were born with in the name of the public health? Are we going to slide down the slippery slope of utilitarianism and ignore the profound ethical and legal questions that remain: Who gets to decide what protects the public health? Which individuals should be sacrificed? And how many is too many?

References

² Merriam Webster Dictionary. Definition of utilitarianism: philosophy: the belief that a morally good action is one that helps the greatest number of people.
³ Kay CD. Notes on Utilitarianism: Wolford College Department of Philosophy 1997.
⁴ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Definition of utility: the quality or state of being useful; fitness for some purpose or worth to some end.
⁶ Bentham’s Head.
⁷ University College London. Bentham’s Head.
²¹ voir References #146-155.