Worldviews
Mr. Myers

Ethics: Secular Humanist/Marxist Morality

1. Introduction

*The fundamental question of ethics is, who makes the rules? God or men? The theistic answer is that God makes them. The humanistic answer is that men make them. This distinction between theism and humanism is the fundamental division in moral theory.*  –Max Hocutt

1. Humanists’ view of ethics
	1. Foundation
		1. What is the origin of the world?
		2. What is the highest good in nature?
		3. What is man?
		4. What happens after death?
		5. What is the purpose of life?
	2. Ethical relativism: No absolute standard of right and wrong
	3. Opposition to Judeo-Christian morals
		1. Paul Kurtz: “The traditional supernaturalistic moral commandments are especially repressive of our human needs. They are immoral insofar as they foster illusions about human destiny and suppress vital inclinations.”
	4. Alternatives
		1. Each man on his own—no limits, no boundaries
		2. What’s good for the majority is what is right
		3. Marxism: Whatever brings about a classless society and economic equality is right
	5. Quotes by secular humanists:
		1. Corliss Lamont: As long as we pursue “activities that are healthy, socially useful, and in accordance with reason, pleasure will generally accompany us; and happiness, the supreme good, will be the eventual result.”
		2. British Humanist Association: “Humanists believe that man’s conduct should be based on humanity, insight, and reason. He must face his problems with his own moral and intellectual resources, without looking for supernatural aid.



