

Good examples from History

Some general reflections

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What makes an example good?

Egotism vs altruism

Creating less pain/more pleasure for others

less slavery/more freedom for others

less false info/more correct info for others

Problem: Goals to some extent contradict each other

Efforts in one direction have unwanted bad effects

Are we interested in

Individuals who have created less pain/more pleasure or

Collectives who have done this

Who has created more pleasure?

All artists or only some

All good mothers, fathers, friends, sons,
daughters

(prostitutes?)

Who/what has created less pain?

Conventions on warfare

Peace treaties (or only some peace
treaties)

Founding Red Cross, Henri Dunant,
Florence Nightingale

Candidates

More freedom

- Modern education?
- Democracy
- Market liberalism

Less bondage/slavery

- Emancipation from serfdom
1862 Russia
- Freedom from slavery 1865,
USA

More correct info

- Ending censorship
(in most countries)
- Imposing stricter
standards on sources
and evidence

Less false info

Some candidates on a collective level

- Gandhi's struggle against the British
- Dalai-Lama's non-violent resistance against the Chinese
- ? American intervention in the 1:st and 2:nd world war
- All aid programs to less developed countries

A wider problem

- What sense of good do we have in mind?

Pain/pleasure can become abstract.

Possibilities of specifying goodness

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Culinary | - good food |
| Esthetical | - good art |
| Ethical | - good actions |
| Alethic | - good descriptions/explanations |
| Economic | - good costs |
| Political | - good society |
| Craft | - good craft work |
| Sustainability | - good sustainability |

Vad är gott?

- Kulinariskt
- Estetiskt Livskvalitet
- Etiskt
- Aletiskt För vem?
- Ekonomiskt För individ eller kollektiv
- Politiskt hela planeten
- Hantverksmässigt
- Hållbarhet

- Historisk variation
- Nationell, etnisk variation

Särdragsmatris

Individ Kollektiv Planet	Kulinariskt	Estetiskt	Etiskt	Hållbarhet	Aletiskt	Ekonomiskt	Politiskt	Hantverksmässigt
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Raises possibility of Matrix

Types of quality of life

Individual Collective	Culinary	Esthe- tical	Ethical	Alethic	Eco- nomic	Poli- tical	Craft	Sustain- ability
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Where is the example located?

- Culturally (space)
- Historically (time)

Concluding remark

Good examples from history bring a temporal dimension to the search for quality of life.

Intercultural variation (synchronic)

Historical variation (diachronic)

- the latter can be both inter/intracultural