

Health, Development & Human Rights

Entitlement and Just Holdings

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Readings

- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*.

Questions

1. What is Robert Nozick's entitlement theory of justice? What are end-state and patterned theories of justice, and how is Nozick's theory different from both of these?
2. What is Nozick's "Wilt Chamberlain" example? What argument is it supposed to illustrate concerning patterned theories of justice?
3. Nozick sees similarities between his view and that of John Locke when it comes to providing the conditions for someone to be entitled to their property (i.e, for someone to have just holdings or property acquired justly). What puzzles does Nozick see with Locke's "mixing argument"? How does Nozick propose to justify the just acquisition of private property with something like the "Lockean proviso"?
4. Does Nozick's entitlement theory oblige us in the technologically and economically developed world to give to those in extreme poverty?