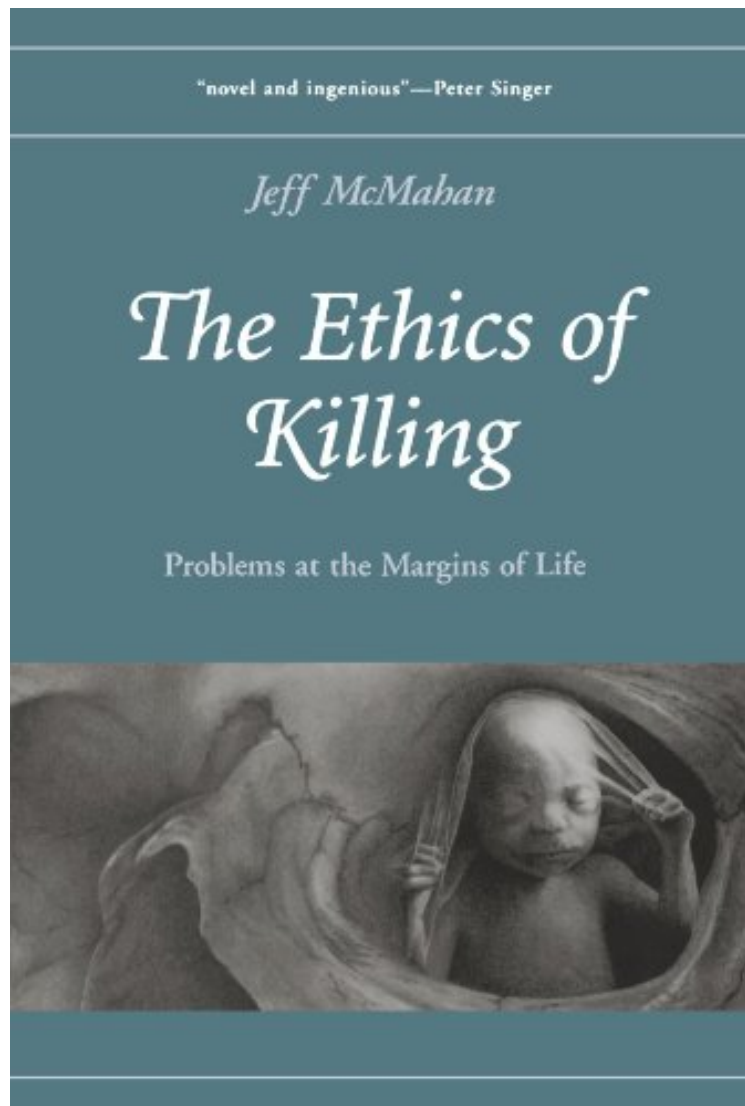


[FREE] The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life (Oxford Ethics Series)

The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life (Oxford Ethics Series)

Jeff McMahan

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Jeff McMahan : The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life (Oxford Ethics Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life (Oxford Ethics Series):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best on the subjectBy NCThis is simply the best and most comprehensive book on the topic of killing within applied ethics. The work is well written and covers a tremendous

amount of ground on the different arguments related to the ethics of killing both historically and in the contemporary literature. Philosophical issues associated with abortion, euthanasia, theories of death, the soul, harm, are all covered. McMahan gives clear expositions of arguments that have been so far advocated from all sides of the issue in philosophy and medical ethics on when and why killing is wrong and proceeds to offer his own analysis and conclusions. Even if you do not agree with McMahan on his conclusions, you will likely find where the contemporary and historical philosophical setting takes place. I especially thought impressive McMahan's breadth of knowledge in relevant philosophical and medical topics associated with the main topics such as personal identity, the philosophy of mind, human biological development, moral responsibility, the physiology of death and many other relevant topics. For example, before we know if a killing of a person is wrong, we need to know what a person is to analyse when killings of persons occur. This topic is an issue for personal identity. What are persons? Are they biological organisms? Their brains? Some immaterial soul substance? The book explores in detail all such related topics in depth. Another cool aspect of this book is that just about all the chapters can be read independently of each other. They all deal with separate topics and McMahan's argumentation do not presuppose knowledge of arguments or information given in previous chapters. The book's subtitle, "Problems at the Margins of Life" hints that the book covers the ethical issues of these kinds of killing: abortion, of animals, and euthanasia. The book is meant to be the first of a series on killing, later books will cover the ethics of killing in war and in self-defense. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well Written, Even For Those That May Disagree By SZ Spoiler: The Ethics of Killing does find some abortion to be acceptable. This is probably the basis of most mainstream (i.e. simple) criticism of this work. However, even for someone that disagrees with some of Jeff McMahan's positions, the Ethics of Killing is well written, and helps the reader, both professionals as well as students, gain a deeper, physical and metaphysical conception of what is wrong with killing. The writing style uses many examples that appeal to intuition, both positively and negatively, and appeals to which are used by McMahan to make sensible arguments. This work, intended as the first part of a two part series on Killing, attempts to find exactly what is morally wrong with killing. One answer that is dealt with is what exactly is morally wrong with ending a life. McMahan attempts to resolve such fundamental questions by starting with a notable focus on identity. In identifying what is essentially 'us' as embodied minds, and not something simply biological, McMahan opens new considerations by which to explore the ethical issues in killing. Ultimately, McMahan succeeds in providing a well written examination, that, while can be questioned, must be taken seriously. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Read By JCI purchased this book for an independent study this summer, and it blew me away. By far, McMahan has the most fair and reasonable approach regarding this topic relative to similar authors.

This magisterial work is the first comprehensive study of the ethics of killing, where the moral status of the individual killed is uncertain. Drawing on philosophical notions of personal identity and the immorality of killing, McMahan looks carefully at a host of practical issues, including abortion, infanticide, the killing of animals, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

"In this exceptional new book, Jeff McMahan offers nuanced and illuminating accounts of personal identity, human nature, the badness of death, the wrongness of killing, the rights of animals, abortion, and euthanasia. This book is a major contribution to both moral theory and applied ethics, and makes a strong case for the relevance of the former to the latter. It is also beautifully written and a joy to read. This is a long, dense book, overflowing with examples, arguments, and counterarguments. [It] is a tour de force of contemporary naturalistic ethics. Defenders of the naturalistic project will cite it as the best evidence yet that the project is on the right track, yielding insights into a wide range of pressing topical issues... No-one on either side can afford to ignore this book." --Tim Mulgan, Canadian Journal of Philosophy "This is a book that aims to answer practical questions (such as whether and when abortion and euthanasia are permissible and how we should treat animals and the retarded) by answering such theoretical questions as what we are, when we begin and cease to exist, when it is worth caring about the continuation of our lives, and who is entitled to respect. McMahan provides detailed, rigorously argued, comprehensive, and often unconventional answers to both the theoretical and practical questions. The book is an enormous achievement and required reading for anyone concerned with questions of personal identity, issues of life and death, and the morality governing relations with animals." --Frances Kamm, Philosophical "This book is an important contribution to moral philosophy. With respect to the interest of its ideas, and the strength of its arguments, the level of quality is consistently high. Readers will struggle to follow the twists and turns of the discussion, not because it is badly presented or unnecessarily complex, but because it is difficult for us to think as deeply into the issues as McMahan himself does.... [A] complex, and rewarding book." --Dennis McKerlie, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research "Jeff McMahan is one of America's leading contemporary moral philosophers and perhaps one of its most courageous. McMahan's long awaited and widely acclaimed book, The Ethics of Killing, advances a groundbreaking theory of the morality of killing and letting die. ... [Its] arguments are numerous, subtle, and detailed... one of the most comprehensive, rigorous, and illuminating discussions of the morality of ending marginal lives, brimming with thought-provoking observations and

arguments that will shape the course of future debate."--Caroline West, *The Drawing Board: An Australian of Public Affairs*"Masterful...admirably thorough and sensitive...The thoroughness and comprehensiveness with which [McMahan] has worked out [his] ideas is deeply impressive. The presentation is throughout so lucid that non-specialists should be able to profit greatly from the book...There could be no better proof of the paradoxical vitality of the subject of death and killing than this monumental book."-- Ingmar Persson, *The Times Literary Supplement*"The Ethics of Killing is detailed, careful, comprehensive, and innovative...[It] is an example of philosophy at the highest level. It is a genuine pleasure to have the opportunity to read such a probing, careful, analytical, honest, and utterly wonderful book. I recommend it highly. It would not be unreasonable to make it required reading for any graduate student (or anyone else) who needs to understand the nature of first-class philosophical thought."--Don Marquis, *Ethics*"McMahan formulates a ground-breaking general theory of the ethics of killing and letting die. The Ethics of Killing is a long book, jammed with interesting and provocative arguments. [It is] an exceptionally argumentatively rich book, the essential starting point for all future discussions of the killing of individuals at the margins of life."-- Nicholas Agar, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*"McMahan is one of America's finest contemporary moral theorists...[His] long-awaited book...combines a close attention to real-life moral issues with a solid insight into foundational matters of metaphysics and ethical theory. ..It is always well-argued, sophisticated and very interesting...The Ethics of Killing...is an excellent book and deserves close study."--Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, *Sats: Nordic Journal of Philosophy*"With a careful application of metaphysics to ethics, McMahan has developed a field of argument that has been insufficiently explored, and in so doing, created a whole new structure for the debates surrounding abortion and euthanasia. This makes this a novel and, at times, exciting book."--Michael Lacewing, *Notre Dame Philosophical s*"McMahan's book is outstanding within the present literature in virtue of its breadth, succinctness, and argumentative erudition...The two dominant qualities of the book are, first, an extraordinary care for argumentative fairness and balance, and second, a new interest in bringing applied ethics into helpful contact with its so far neglected philosophical foundations."--Anton Leist, *Deutsche Zeitschrift fr Philosophie*"The Ethics of Killing is a dense though fresh and rigorously argued account of the circumstances under which it may be allowable, and in some cases even preferable, to terminate "marginal" lives (e.g., fetuses, severely handicapped babies, terminal patients). The book is full of fine distinctions, rich case studies, and helpful, innovative terminology. It dismantles many of the current arguments for and against the permissibility of killing human beings whose metaphysical and moral status is contentious. It represents one of the most comprehensive and meticulous books in the field of bioethics to date. McMahan's analyses are consistently innovative and razor sharp. This is analytic philosophy par excellence, one that works the mind as an arduous mountain climb works the body."--Journal of the American Academy of Religion"Overflowing with arguments, painstakingly dissecting a wide range of alternative views. Whatever your own views about these important issues, they will be thoroughly challenged here. The Ethics of Killing is a remarkable book.-- Shelly Kagan, Yale University"This book sets out from central issues in moral theory and brings us in the end to some of the hardest moral problems of modern life. It is a book of deep, intricate, concentrated and continuous argument, presented in the clearest language. At the beginning of the new century, it will form the cornerstone of the moral philosophy of killing."--John Broome, Oxford University"The Ethics of Killing is a terrific book that addresses fundamental issues in a detailed, sophisticated way. It is full of new ideas and insights. Anyone who is interested in thinking deeply about abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia, could not do better than to start with McMahan's discussion."--James Rachels, Late Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama, Birmingham

About the Author
Jeff McMahan is Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University.