Jeremy Banthon’s “Of the Principle of Utility”

**Definition of utility:** III. “By utility is meant that property in any object, whereby it tends to produce benefit, advantage, pleasure, good, or happiness, (all this in the present case comes to the same thing) or (what comes again to the same thing) to prevent the happening of mischief, pain, evil, or unhappiness to the party whose interest is considered: if that party be the community in general, then the happiness of the community: if a particular individual, then the happiness of that individual.”

**Principle on which it is based:** Individual interest: To add to the sum total of one’s pleasures

To diminish the sum total of one’s pains

* An action is comfortable to the principle of utility when the tendency to augment the happiness of the community is greater than any it has to diminish it.

**The way in which utility can affect policies:** An measure of government is utilitarian when its tendency to augment the happiness of the community is greater than any which it has to diminish it.