Egoism & Altruism

Institution Affiliated

Date

Ethical egoism is an ethical theory that people ought to pursue their personal interests. In contrast, altruism is a direct opposite theory that people ought to advance the interests of others at their own expense. Rand argues that altruism is not true based on three ideas: that a person has one life to live, altruism requires people to be ready to sacrifice the only life they have to benefit others, and lastly, in this way, altruism does not recognize the value of human beings as individuals. Thus, the morality and applicability of the two theories lie in between; that people can do well if they think of others in their quest for self-interests.