

Liberalism Is Freedom, but also Responsibility

Lembo Tanning*, Toivo Tanning

Marcelius Trade Limited Liability Company, Tallinn, Estonia

Abstract

This ethical principle "*liberalism - freedom versus responsibility*" has been on the agenda since antiquity. This is directly related to the principles of *humanism* and *freedom*. The purpose of this publication is to analysis the observance of this principle and its impact today. Today it all comes down to ethical principles, which have been here in part discussed. How does principles, liberal values and respect to moral in Europe today? Liberalism brings freedom, but it is also responsibility. Governors' from managers responsibility for their subordinates, for their lives and well-being. Aim of this publication is the analysis of the humanism principle in the professional ethics in Europe. This section is focused on propriety conflict or inconsistency between personal conscience and social standards or interests of the corporation (office). Aims are at analysis the dominance of the humanism principle in today's economies of the new European Union (EU) Member States, the Baltic States, having at the basis the gross domestic product (GDP).

Keywords

Liberalism, Freedom, Responsibility, Humanism, Business Ethics, Research Ethics, Wild Capitalism, Global Ethics

Received: November 1, 2018 / Accepted: January 18, 2019 / Published online: February 14, 2019

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1. Introduction

On this topic has been much written and discussed over the centuries, including our previous publications. Here we will only look at the most selective key positions. Here are our subjective views as well absolute truth is not. We begin with the individual, let's move on to top manager, senior management responsibility, and to end the state (wars, natural disasters) responsibility for humanity.

Humanism is strongly related to ethical principles. Here - to *professional* and also *global ethics*. *Wild capitalism* versus ethics or propriety conflict is strikingly highlighted in the economy, science and politics. Professional ethics is divided into business, medical, sport, military, political, research ethics, and so forth. All of them have their own specific problems, but also common parts. *Global ethics* investigates problems regarding relations between nations, countries and religions.

Let's get started with Marcus Tullius *Cicero*, who was Roman

orator, philosopher, politician, political theorist, consul and constitutionalist, who was serving for the Republic's highest court and highest honour. Cicero was priority of liberal values in ancient world. While Cicero the humanist deeply influenced the culture of the Renaissance, Cicero the republican inspired the Founding Fathers of the USA and the revolutionaries of the French Revolution. Cicero's career as a statesman was marked by inconsistencies. [1-2] These principles of ethical behavior are dealt much earlier Aristoteles and Confucius. Even earlier it was in the Old Testament canon of the prophets [3, 4]. The Christian treatment in unethical behaviour is a sin-making. These principles are also other world religions [5].

Today it all comes down to ethical principles, which have been here in part discussed. How does principles of Cicero, liberal values and respect to moral in Europe today? Liberalism brings freedom, but it is also responsibility. How it is done and what related problems of liberal values versus responsibility in economy and science? How it is done and what related problems of? It will analysis also the example of

* Corresponding author

E-mail address: lembo.tanning@gmail.com (L. Tanning), toivo.tanning@gmail.com (T. Tanning)

Estonia. The liberal market economy we reviewed the previous work [6].

2. Methodology and Theoretical Bases

The methodology and the *theoretical* based is on the author's previous works [5 – 12].

Responsibility - it is a special relationship between the actions of the person (people, institutions), intentions and estimates of the effect of other people or society. Taken with respect to man as a rational agent acts, it is a conscious attitude of intellectual and physical readiness of the subject to refrain from selling or set of actions that may be required as a result of the implementation or, conversely, failure by this subject some other activities [13].

Responsibility in ethics – it is reliability, honesty in relation to themselves and others; this awareness and a willingness to accept that outcome (response) that you receive in the course of your actions, and is a consequence of your actions. Responsibility - it is not our fault, it is a certainty. Responsibility includes personal accountability and the ability to act within the framework of ethical standards for the benefit of themselves and others within the system or apparatus. [13].

The theoretical basis is briefly discussed below.

However, the theoretical basis dates back to the ancient times, to the Bible, the Old Testament times.

The European cultural worldview is *humanism*. This was the worldview of founders of the European Union. Humanism is a worldview that assumes high value of personality, protection of human dignity and freedom and seeks for a comprehensive personality development and conditions necessary for that. Honesty has always been an important part of international business and policy execution of the contracts [14]. In addition to written contracts, verbal agreements are also subject to international communication habits and customs. We often call these gentlemanly promises. It is well-known that humanism and ethics policy mainly come from the western world, from countries of the western culture, but nevertheless we can bring some positive examples of the Orient. In ethics there are many different schools of thought. Standard definitions of ethics have typically included such phrases as the science of the ideal human character or the science of moral duty.

Applied ethics is a philosophical discipline that makes an attempt to apply ethical theory to real-life situations and has many specialized fields. *Professional ethics*, or ethics aimed at improvement of professionalism. *Business ethics*, or

individually based morals aimed at improvement of ethics in a business environment. Business ethics, also includes corporate ethics as a form of applied ethics or professional ethics that studies ethical principles and moral or ethical problems arising in a business environment. It is applied to all aspects of business conduct and is relevant to the conduct of individuals, as well as the entire organizations [15]. *Business ethics* has normative and descriptive dimensions. As a corporate practice and a career specialization, the field is primarily normative. Academicians attempting to understand business behaviour employ descriptive methods. The range and quantity of business ethical issues reflects the interaction of profit-maximizing behaviour with non-economic concerns. Governments use laws and regulations to point business behaviour in what they perceive to be beneficial directions. Ethics implicitly regulates areas and details of behaviour that lie beyond the governmental control. The emergence of large corporations with limited relationships and sensitivity to the communities in which they operate has accelerated the development of formal ethics regimes [15-16].

Functional business areas are divided into: finance, finance paradigm, human resource management, trade unions, management strategy, sales and marketing (marketing ethics), production, property (private property and property rights), modern history of property rights, slaves as property, natural right, intellectual property (intellectual property and intellectual property rights) and other issues [15-17].

Fairness in trading practices, trading conditions, financial contracting, sales practices, consultancy services, tax payments, internal audit, external audit and executive compensation also fall under the umbrella of finance and accounting. Particular corporate ethical/legal abuses include: creative accounting, earnings management, misleading financial analysis, securities fraud, corruption, bribery and facilitation payments [15-16]. These examples can lead to serious detriments of all countries - some more and some less. Ethics as a moral philosophy is also the branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of proper and improper conduct [18]. As a branch of philosophy, ethics investigates the question: what is the best way for people to live? In practice, ethics seeks to resolve questions of human morality by defining concepts like good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime. As a field of intellectual activity, moral philosophy is also related to the fields of moral psychology, descriptive ethics, and the value theory [18]. The field of ethics or moral philosophy involves systematizing, defending and recommending concepts of proper and improper behaviour. Ethical theory is divided into three subject areas: meta-, normative, and applied ethics. Meta-ethics studies the origins of our ethical principles, as well as

their meaning. Normative ethics takes on more practical task – reaching moral standards that regulate proper and improper conduct. This may involve manifesting the good habits that we should acquire, the duties that we should follow, or the consequences of our behaviour in relation to others. Applied ethics involves studying specific controversial issues, such as environmental concerns, abortion, nuclear war, or... [19]. Aristotle's definition of the way of ethics assumes that its goal is raising the public virtue of a citizen. It would be good for us to revert to ancient ethical values from time to time [20]. Estonian professor Elmar Salumaa [21] referring to Hegel [22], in turn, distinguishes morals and ethics. Joint term is propriety or virtue or manners ... in German language it is *Sittlichkeit* and in Russian – *нравственность*. It is a form of social consciousness, a set of values and norms that define permissible (good) behaviour of each other, society or nature. Ethics is the science that deals with the ethos. Ethics is the pursuit of truth through the heart. The moral is the social standards of manners applied to a person; virtuous norms and values are established in the society. The entire life is a conflict between morality and ethos. Society requires us to act over and over again so that the conscience is not enough. When meet two opposite powers, there will

inevitably be a conflict, propriety conflict [21].

Professional ethics is the ethics of a profession assigned for utilization. Professional ethics is the ethics specialty aimed at disposal. Business ethics is the utilization of ethics in business. Some of the most important principles of business ethics are professional commitment and humanism.

The business assumes economic benefits for the requested action. Thus, ethical business is honest business. There are different definitions of professional ethics in different countries and cultures with their own established practices, customs and possibly laws. Ethics is the teaching of conscience. Thus, ethical business is the activity in which we face the conflict with our conscience. As the companies have an ethical background and very different understanding of people, the *code of ethics* is usually compiled by the company on the basis of the specific good practices and manners in dealing with customers and the company's employees. Is it possible today to become a millionaire having fair business? In conclusion, here the author offers the basic relationship between economic growth of countries and the ethical level growth.

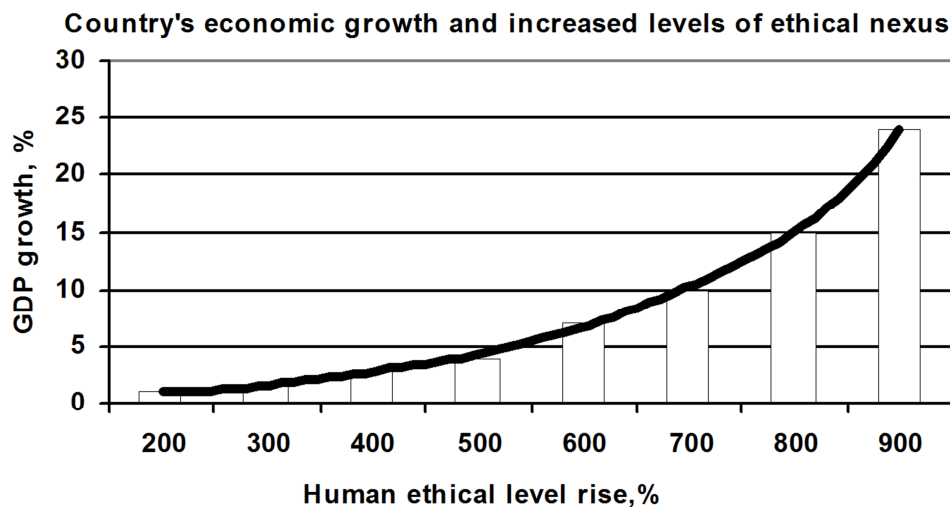


Figure 1. Correlation between the country's economic growth and ethical level growth [Authors].

This is affects convictions of wild capitalism:

1. Underground or black economy;
2. Tax evasion;
3. Unfair competition;
4. Incompetence;
5. Insane lust for career;
6. People's unwillingness to raise the level of ethics;
7. Many other ethical factors.

Thus, raising the ethical level of people also increases the EU

competitiveness. Actual and interesting subject is the ethics of care and education. This comes from a thorough discussion by American researcher Nel Noddings. Her key word is caring, a feminine approach to ethics & moral education. Ethics should be based on natural caring. Her approach is grounded on the longing for goodness rather than moral reasoning [23].

From here the subject of research ethics can be derived. Plagiarism - it should not exist. Here we can discuss a conflict of interest between the university lecturers, between young and old. Is the principle of fair competition always applied here? The solution would be the alternatives. Here

the GISAP project is the best with its Doctoral scientific and analytical (creative) programs of the IASHE. [32]

New quality in research and scholarly activities should be achieved both in teaching entrepreneurship and economics as a whole, which was proven by the economic crisis. We should reduce formalities and unnecessary research related bureaucracy, if possible, and increase the efficiency of research and teaching activities instead. We should improve the academic quality and the efficiency of working arrangements, which in addition to the quality of teaching involve motivating the students and increasing their intellectual and decision-making skills, encouraging more intensive communication between the students and academic staff (similar to the communication between the managers and their subordinates in a production or an information company), promoting their interest in academic jobs etc. Improvement of the research ethical level also increases the EU competitiveness.

Global ethics investigates problems regarding relations between nations, countries and religions, as well as direct human relations in a globalized world [24]. Global ethics is based on the idea that there can be no peace between nations without religions; there can be no peace between religions without a dialogue between religions; there can be no dialogue between religions, if one does not learn the fundamentals of religions. The main topics of global ethics are globalization, global justice, cultural differences and conflicts, war and peace ethics, global terrorism [24].

In Europe the most topical issues now are the war in Ukraine and global terrorism in the world. A great goal, however, is to improve relations between the Islamic and Western civilizations, make peoples and nations of the world cultural area closer. In the global context, that would be a brotherly cooperation of nations of the European cultural space with Asians, Arabs and others, or more generally – the cooperation of Christians and Muslims and the people with other beliefs. Let's think about the fact that without hatred and wars between nations, no military expenditures are needed. What a good thing could the human life have been! There is the Golden Rule in many ethical traditions. It is more known as the Sermon on the Mount from Jesus Christ: "...whatever you want people to do for you, do the same for them..." [25] The Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–479 BC): "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself" [26].

This article is the doctrine of conscience, namely how to train an honest conscience of businessmen or businesswomen. I urge you to think about life and the eternal values over, let's have a dispute and find the best solutions together for how to move your life course to the better way... What are the

criteria? I do not know, but we can try to find them together.

We can try to look at humanity's thousands of years of experience and wisdom, and find something new, better, more specifically suiting the most to us. Something that would make our life beautiful, happy and valuable. Just as an athlete does not train to become an Olympic champion by himself, all of these issues cannot be solved in our one small article. The conscience also needs to train. Some people have it already existing in the genes as an innate feature, some have acquired it being a child at home. Is today the day they are interested in living with a clean conscience? How to fit the ethics and morals in the world of today? Is ethics topical today? The rapid economic development of Eastern European countries has led to the social imbalance. The balance between production and consumption, material and spiritual values, the development of capital (centre) and the periphery, the economy and education, law and ethics is unstable. Just as during early capitalist times we still sacrifice honour, conscience, friends, family and other basic values of humanity for the sake of getting profits. The ethical crisis seems to be leading to the development of a stronger brake.

3. Analysis

Theme of liability, or the lack of responsibility or lack thereof, we constantly come into contact. The management of the information society will be example for much of top athletes the preparation, because there is goal the maximum score. [28] Responsibility can be guaranteed by law. This non-compliance is punishable. However, responsibility can be your *conscience*. Then there is case of the ethics problems, in economy of this Code.

The responsibility is good to analysis by position in society and type of activity. Because there are many, here mainly focus on economy, and science-related responsibilities.

Level of responsibility: Head of State, state leader, company manager, chief engineer, manager, university teacher, researcher...

Level of responsibility can look by superiors seen to subordinates and vice versa. Here is the effect of bilateral interdependent. It is essential to creating conditions. Simplified example can bring of top sport. If not for the successful occurrence of the conditions set up, will not come also as a rule high result. The goal is to achieve maximum results.

Hence question, how motivate company manager (psychologically) subordinates achieving high results? An example is richest man before the War John Rockefeller [29] and not only the motivation of its employees. The same question also to teachers, how university lecturers

(psychologically) motivate students to achieve high performance, arouses great interest in the substance to be learned? In this respect is inevitable dialectical contradiction. The boss sees a rule that subordinate can be more responsibility and controllable that he was not motivated enough or created (ideal) conditions. There is also the problem, whether it is worth creating ideal conditions for economically exploited? Is not this too expensive?

Responsibility in business. Responsibility in the economy

With economy of entire area of life is described, in which the human goods and services exchanged in order to satisfy its economic needs. In this field, the life-world, there are a variety of roles, taking different people, so there are also very different types of responsibility. These questions are addressed in the *business philosophy* and *business ethics* and discussed with different ideological perspectives.

In terms of individual companies, the issue of liability is discussed under the heading of Corporate Social Responsibility. The responsibility of companies is frequently discussed on the interests of those affected by the activity of the company, the stakeholders. To this end, in addition to the owners include employees, customers and suppliers, the citizens of the local communities in which the company operates, the state as a receiver of taxes and the environment, if and insofar as it is affected by the activity of the company. For all of these stakeholders, the company has a specific part of responsibility that goes beyond mere compliance with legal requirements. A difficult part of the responsibility is to take into account the different needs in a balanced appropriately. The enforcement of any liability often depends on the legal status and the size of the company.

By rules are set as conditions of the economic system through the policy, also arises here a responsibility country's economic activity. Here, public debt issues and the responsibility towards future generations, the economic policy, the aspects of sustainability and environmental protection play a role, as the consumer protection. An independent responsibility comes to consumers in their purchasing behaviour, as this the actors on the supply side are given substantial impetus. Here for example is the issue of sustainability in conflict with the throwaway society.

Next look company's managers, but also responsibility the people working there. As a rule, private owner has a greater responsibility as an employee. Private owner responsibility for society - honestly pay state taxes. Frame selection and placement. Principles of public and private companies are different. The problem is the incompetence of hierarchical superiors. Economic crises clean the market of inefficient enterprises (managers). For example, the crisis reduced number as the manager of 3.1% of total persons employed

and increased number top-specificity +4.7% of Estonia [8].

It is contradictions between the bureaucracy and corruption.

Liberalism gives great freedom, but increases corruption. Bureaucracy is reduced. Control weakened. Where are the limits of liberalism? Where begins liberalism abuse?

Liberalism requires more responsibility. How nurture people's sense of responsibility?

Liberalism requires more accountability. How cultivate people's sense of responsibility?

What could be the ideal of liberalism? Ethical people, an ethical society!

How we know how we want to use, and also obtained the freedom of liberalism?

The original sense of *responsibility in science* is largely congruent with the professional ethics of a scientist who vouch for the accuracy of its findings, ensuring the safety of the people directly affected by his research and is responsible for a sensible use of the resources made available to him. The consequences of the research, what happened after the publication of its findings with these results, is not its responsibility according to the traditional understanding. Here is of the *internal responsibility* of the scientist. [30]

An extended responsibility of the scientist for the consequences of research is, if the findings are likely to have significant negative consequences for people who are only indirectly affected by the application. This includes the possible misuse of research results (dual use). Topics of this kind are research in the field of nuclear technology, pharmacology, medicine, climate research, marine biology and many others. The tasks of the scientist are not only to draw attention to problems of research findings into the public's attention, but also shaped frame such research results, through which the new technologies are also manageable or clearly acknowledge the limits of controllability. But even if the issue of controllability does not arise immediately, modern science has progressed so far that potential research is sometimes at odds with the values of society, as the debate on embryo research, but also the development of new plants by genetic manipulation in show genetic engineering. The responsibility of the sciences is to provide in such cases for proper information as possible of the company, even if they may then decide not to carry out the research. [31]

What is the responsibility of science and higher education towards society?

How build society based on the knowledge economy?

The economic crisis has left without work lot of managers. Some of them came to institutions of higher education

teaching force. They were larger or smaller practical work experience. It is said, enterprise go bankrupt that studying more than some kind of theoretical courses. This view is confirmed many in world successful business owner today's success stories. If, however, it is ineffective in their old company management experiences, learn from the mistakes without being, it is harmful. However, these were experiences in a very narrow field, and as the crisis showed - the invalid or ineffective experience.

Level of knowledge and requirements can not increase exponentially. Also, for beginner athletes do not demand that he immediately of setting world records! For this purpose, must create a solid base. Higher education students' knowledge, learning attitude and conscientiousness base creates in gymnasium and primary schools. From there begins the base of the quality. If universities are an important indicator of the number of graduates and students appreciate the work of the teaching staff (generally low level of students), then the question arises whether: it is right for society to let off the low-skilled specialists?

However, much will depend on level students' knowledge of their sense of responsibility. It later passed over the attitude to work. How to increase students' attitudes to learning, whether whip, or sugar? If are diligent student? If are conscientious later an engineer, an economist, a specialist? What is their ethical level? How to increase it? It is lighter to condemn. Is the school leadership interested of quality is lecture?

The knowledge level of teaching is often out of date. We bring again an example of top sport. Once achieved very high results, but now has been lost for complacency (made little training). This also applies to academic staff and scientists. Today, the world will change very quickly. For example, the economic boom, the crisis and the subsequent period. Economic laws are changing, there is no absolute truth that is always true, and very in various world regions. How to assess the level of scientists? As rule international peer-reviewed publications and citations. More objective it would be when they are published in various regions of the world and in many different journals. In elite sport, the situation is simpler, more specific: several you are in the world.

Problems: strong corruption and negative conflict of interest. How do we assess it? If any scientist is decades old outdated achievements become a boss. Young successful scientists have direct competitors.

An example is small country doctoral thesis defense problems. Now it was the best solution objective according to the project of the GISAP [32].

There will be negative conflict of interest of scientists.

Research Ethics! Have this boss conscience allows him to maintain objectivity young, but subject to successful evaluation of the achievements? Again, it is very different people, and such decisions in black-and-white style does is not have correct to evaluate. Subjective moment here is inevitable.

Contradictions: tax fraud versus excessive bureaucracy.

The smaller part of the population will behave responsibly, but majority are needed for compulsion. It is estimated, that to grow one gentleman, or honorable man or honest businessman, it is necessary 100 years, from at least three generations. From post-communist society, unfortunately, come from understanding, that public assets can be stolen. It later was transferred to the capitalist society. Of owner items robbing was considered also business. This is also reflected in mentality tax evasion - country or society may well steal!

Public officials are taking bribes are same as that state or the society behind the robberies. Estonian cases were, unfortunately, these scandals as rail, maritime shipping and the management of the capital, not to mention the small companies and governments [7-8].

Now also a conflict of interest. SME owners and government officials. For SMEs owners seen by is excessive bureaucracy. The owner SMEs often is not enough time for this, or even knowledge. For example, in previous year introduced Estonian thousand euros reporting requirement or one-man business use of office cars. Where ending business official of one man's journey and begins family breakup?

Based on the conflict of interest is lot of corruption and injustice in the science. In words all favour it, but it really is much more problems. In the information society is most important the know-how, which means education and experience [29, 33]. This the correctness confirms in the world the richest countries practice.

Which to assess success of researchers? Their academic output merits. How to evaluate the success economists? Is it sufficient to international peer-reviewed publications and citations? There is much more of problems.

Liberalism brings freedom, but it is also *responsibility*.

In order to increase competitiveness of European or countries should be analyzed in conjunction with businesses and economic problems of education. Between them is a close direct relationship. Knowledge economy.

The liberal market economy is efficient, but is also fairly problems. Some of these are objective, others subjective.

Objective is that it is particularly of active and high knowhow people society. The goal is not redistribution of wealth, but of wealth for creation of necessary conditions.

Subjective is the decision-makers (government officials, government, parliament) must have a high knowhow and high ethical level. This is not the stupid and lazy society. People's mental capabilities and desire to work is not the same.

Liberalism gives great freedom, but increases corruption. Bureaucracy is reduced. Control weakened. Responsibility is often abused.

As a rule, the responsibility and the competence of owner of the company (CEO's) is more than wage workers and head of the state enterprise (manager).

Liberalism gives great freedom, but increases corruption.

Contradictions between the bureaucracy and corruption.

Contradictions: tax fraud versus excessive bureaucracy.

Liberalism requires more responsibility. How nurture people's sense of responsibility?

Liberalism requires more accountability. How cultivate people's sense of responsibility?

What could be the ideal of liberalism? Ethical people, an ethical society!

How we know how we want to use, and also obtained the freedom of liberalism?

The responsibility of the scientist is at present very high.

Complement of liberal market economy theory, could be adding that successful functioning of essential knowhow.

What could be done and what could not? What is good and what is evil or criminal? What has put in place the laws of countries, as well as the corresponding cultural space of people, with their traditions and customs, practices and good morals? It is our conscience, which says what is right and what is wrong.

4. Conclusions & Discussion

In conclusion, I think that both the ethics and morals fit and must be suitable for the modern culture and society. In any case, however, it must be based on cultural differences. The most important is, however, obedience to own conscience, so that you can live your own life, so that nothing impedes your normal life.

The wild capitalism without ethics of civilization cannot be a lesson for us. The normal market economy having the aim of increasing the welfare of people is the option for us.

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