

JOHN DEWEY'S THEORY OF VALUATION

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Abstract

Dewey's arguments against absolutism and subjectivism in value-theory are reviewed and restated in more cogent form. His views that ends and means are closely connected and that there are no isolated or context-free "intrinsic values" or "ends-in-themselves" are also explained and assessed. It is pointed out that too much emphasis on the analysis of conditions and consequences of value-objects prevents Dewey from recognizing the common characteristics and inclinations of human beings which make intelligent valuation possible. It is further pointed out that Dewey tends to neglect the fact that there are ultimately non-cognitive factors involved in conflicts and disputes concerning value-judgments which cannot be resolved by the method of intelligence.