

Extraordinary Evil

- Defined?
 - Every human culture has some word for “evil”
 - No generally accepted definition
 - According to James Waller today “moral wrongness” substituted for “evil”
 - Ex. Sin
 - Concept nearly disappeared from vocabulary of social sciences
 - Practice still continues

- But why?

- Social scientists view evil as a relative term

- Collective avoidance arises from modern liberalism
 - Exception: Criticism of white, Christian males = OK

 - “No man calleth good or evil but that which is so in his own eyes.” Thomas Hobbes

 - Ex. First Gulf War

- Class definition: Human evil = “is the deliberate harming of humans by other humans”

- Focuses on how people act towards another
- Blocks any loop-hole
- Such conditions include:
 - Definition = brilliant (to me)
 - Evil = any human actions leading to deliberate harming of other humans
 - Flaws?
 - Gains in precision; loses in exclusions
 - Ex. Evil by conscious intentions

– Ex. Evil by motivation

– Class requirement: You have to come off sidelines