



The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays

By Hilary Putnam

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam

If philosophy has any business in the world, it is the clarification of our thinking and the clearing away of ideas that cloud the mind. In this book, one of the world's preeminent philosophers takes issue with an idea that has found an all-too-prominent place in popular culture and philosophical thought: the idea that while factual claims can be rationally established or refuted, claims about value are wholly subjective, not capable of being rationally argued for or against. Although it is on occasion important and useful to distinguish between factual claims and value judgments, the distinction becomes, Hilary Putnam argues, positively harmful when identified with a dichotomy between the objective and the purely "subjective."

Putnam explores the arguments that led so much of the analytic philosophy of language, metaphysics, and epistemology to become openly hostile to the idea that talk of value and human flourishing can be right or wrong, rational or irrational; and by which, following philosophy, social sciences such as economics have fallen victim to the bankrupt metaphysics of Logical Positivism. Tracing the problem back to Hume's conception of a "matter of fact" as well as to Kant's distinction between "analytic" and "synthetic" judgments, Putnam identifies a path forward in the work of Amartya Sen. Lively, concise, and wise, his book prepares the way for a renewed mutual fruition of philosophy and the social sciences.

 [Download The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Oth ...pdf](#)

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays

By Hilary Putnam

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam

If philosophy has any business in the world, it is the clarification of our thinking and the clearing away of ideas that cloud the mind. In this book, one of the world's preeminent philosophers takes issue with an idea that has found an all-too-prominent place in popular culture and philosophical thought: the idea that while factual claims can be rationally established or refuted, claims about value are wholly subjective, not capable of being rationally argued for or against. Although it is on occasion important and useful to distinguish between factual claims and value judgments, the distinction becomes, Hilary Putnam argues, positively harmful when identified with a dichotomy between the objective and the purely "subjective."

Putnam explores the arguments that led so much of the analytic philosophy of language, metaphysics, and epistemology to become openly hostile to the idea that talk of value and human flourishing can be right or wrong, rational or irrational; and by which, following philosophy, social sciences such as economics have fallen victim to the bankrupt metaphysics of Logical Positivism. Tracing the problem back to Hume's conception of a "matter of fact" as well as to Kant's distinction between "analytic" and "synthetic" judgments, Putnam identifies a path forward in the work of Amartya Sen. Lively, concise, and wise, his book prepares the way for a renewed mutual fruition of philosophy and the social sciences.

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #700944 in Books
- Published on: 2004-03-30
- Released on: 2004-02-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .47" w x 5.51" l, .43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

 [Download The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Oth ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Hume's and much 20th-century moral philosophy contrasted moral with factual judgments and led people to conclude that the former, unlike the latter, are subjective in the sense of not being rationally supportable. Putnam (philosophy, emeritus, Harvard) believes that the contrast is ill conceived and that the conclusion is both unwarranted and false. He acknowledges the usefulness of the fact/value distinction but denies that anything metaphysical follows from it. Indeed, he goes so far as to assert that knowledge of facts presupposes knowledge of values. He grounds his argument in Amartya Sen's discussions of non-self interested human motives and of "capabilities" people rationally value and enjoy freely exercising. Putnam covers such matters as imperative logic, economics vis-à-vis ethics, and preference theory and such thinkers as V. Walsh, L. Robbins, and R.M. Hare. A fine philosophical workout for attentive readers.

Robert Hoffman, York Coll. of CUNY

Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Hume's and much 20th-century moral philosophy contrasted moral with factual judgments and led people to conclude that the former, unlike the latter, are subjective in the sense of not being rationally supportable. Putnam...believes that the contrast is ill conceived and that the conclusion is both unwarranted and false. He acknowledges the usefulness of the fact/ value distinction but denies that anything metaphysical follows from it...Putnam covers such matters as imperative logic, economics vis-à-vis ethics, and preference theory and such thinkers as V. Walsh, L. Robbins, and R. M. Hare. A fine philosophical workout. (Robert Hoffman *Library Journal* 2002-12-01)

In this bold, energetic, and extensive work, Putnam undertakes a revitalization of philosophy. He wants to put philosophy back in touch with the 'human issues which it has always been philosophy's highest goal to articulate'...This is exciting and engaging stuff, and anyone with an interest in philosophy, at whatever level, will enjoy it and learn from it. (Martha Nussbaum, The University of Chicago)

This is an excellent collection on a very important issue...These are also very useful contributions, because they guide the reader, particularly the general reader, who is not an expert in either philosophy or science or economics, around the issue, so that one sees its contours, what connects with what, how it ramifies out through different disciplines. The collection as a whole thus fulfils two rather different functions: (a) bringing new and original arguments to bear against the erroneous thesis that there is a dichotomy between fact and value, and (b) guiding the reader around the contours of the issue and pointing to interesting relevant arguments developed elsewhere by others. (Charles Taylor, Professor of Philosophy at McGill University)

About the Author

Hilary Putnam is Cogan University Professor, Emeritus, at Harvard University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lynn Gowen:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book titled The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

Diana Castillo:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Walter Reeves:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book than can satisfy your short time to read it because all of this time you only find publication that need more time to be read. The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays can be your answer as it can be read by you actually who have those short spare time problems.

Robert Armistead:

The book untitled The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your ex idea with easy means. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

**Download and Read Online The Collapse of the Fact/Value
Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam #5ROLMI2AB3Q**

Read The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam for online ebook

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam books to read online.

Online The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam ebook PDF download

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam Doc

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam Mobipocket

The Collapse of the Fact/Value Dichotomy and Other Essays By Hilary Putnam EPub