



Two Views of Society

Nozick: the Minimal State

- The night watchman state
 - Protect from violence
 - Enforce contracts
 - That's it!



You can't force people to:

Censure

Pay for schools or roads
or retirement etc.

Hire people of different
race or ethnicity

FOR USE BY WHITE PERSONS

THESE PUBLIC PREMISES AND THE AMENITIES
THEREOF HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR THE
EXCLUSIVE USE OF WHITE PERSONS.

By Order Provincial Secretary

VOOR GEBRUIK DEUR BLANKES

HIERDIE OPENBARE PERSEEL EN DIE GERIEWE
DAARVAN IS VIR DIE UITSLUITLIKE GEBRUIK
VAN BLANKES AANGEWYS.

Op Las Provinsiale Sekretaris

Does this seem unfair?

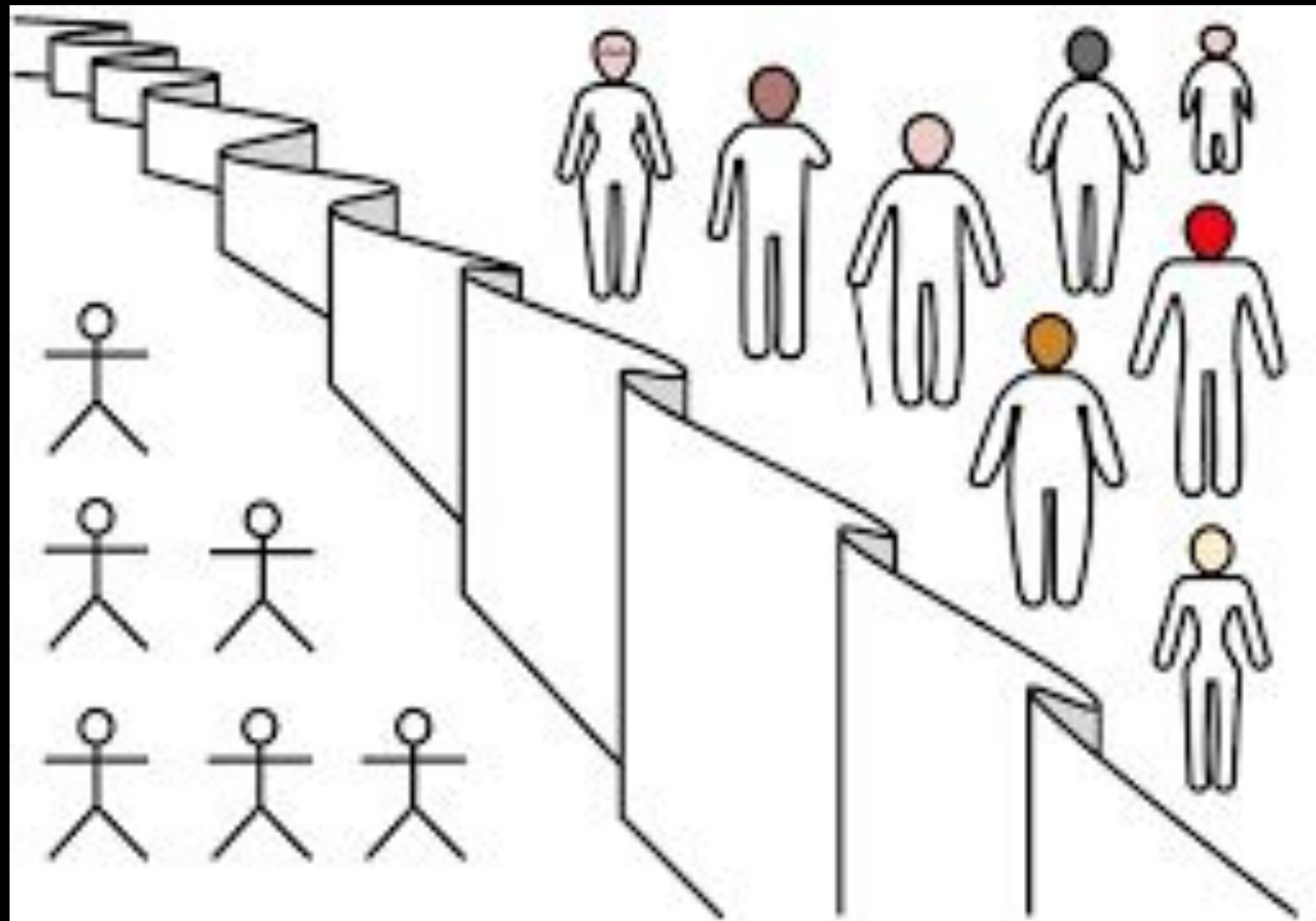
Why?



Rawls:

The Veil of Ignorance

Devise the rules of society while not knowing who will be rich or poor.



Equality Principle

The greatest personal freedom
without impinging on other's
freedom

Difference Principle

Doctors get paid more than labourers,
but doctors benefit society more, and

High salaries offset long years of
medical school.

Medical School is open to all,
theoretically.

The two views of Justice compared:

Justice = Fairness says Rawls (Taxes & Civil Rights
even the playing field.)

Justice = Entitlement (to honest gains) says Nozick

Back to our Grading Game:

- Why wouldn't you take the teacher's grades?
- If you are behind a "Veil of Ignorance" you will pick a principle of distribution that gives the most desirable distribution.
- But is your method JUST?

- My grading system would be the JUST method (according to Nozick), right? Assuming I'm perfectly competent and impartial...
- You are ENTITLED to the grades you earned.
- It is unjust to deny an A to someone who earned it.

- So the Veil of Ignorance causes us to choose the system that minimizes our risk, not choose the just system (Nozick's definition.)
- Is this a flaw in the Veil of Ignorance model?
- Maybe the Veil is only meant for Society as a whole, not smaller groupings like a classroom
- It is in society's best interest for students to earn their 'A's?

But what does it mean to “earn” something?

- Is it just hard work?
- Or is opportunity a factor?