**Key Terms**

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Chapter 18: Obligations to Future Generations

**actual people** People living in the past, present, or future who exist in their time just like we exist in ours.

**diminishing obligations** The “further” we are from someone, the weaker our obligations—especially when compared to someone much “nearer”—in both space and time.

**indeterminate people** People whose particular individuality—their makeup in body, mind, and character—has not yet been made definite (by conception).

**merely possible people** People who could come into existence but never in fact do; they are distinguished from actual people.

**moral community** Each within the community can affect each other’s interests in similar ways.

**non-existent people** Anyone who does not exist at present.

**principle of obligation** Whenever person A’s free choices can significantly affect important interests of person B, A can come under one or more moral obligations toward B.