**Key Terms**

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Richard Burnor and Yvonne Raley

Chapter 8: Consequentialism - Rule Utilitarianism

**alternate dilemma principle** Requires that when a situation places rules in conflict, the right act obeys the rule that creates the greatest overall utility; an alternative to the Dilemma principle.

**collapse problem** The worry that if rule utilitarianism fine-tunes its rules too much, it becomes essentially equivalent to act utilitarianism.

**dilemma principle** A defining principle that says that when a situation brings two or more rules into conflict, the morally right act is that act that will produce the greatest overall utility.

**dilemmas problem** The objection to rule utilitarianism that claims it can encounter circumstances in which its moral rules conflict.

**fine-tuning** Introducing qualifications to a rule or practice that makes it more limited and precise; fine-tuning is intended to generate more utility.

**inconsistency problem** The objection to rule utilitarianism that claims it can prescribe an act that will not promote the greatest overall utility so that it does not always maximize utility.

**principle of acts** One of the foundational principles defining rule utilitarianism, this maintains that a morally right act obeys a morally right rule or practice.

**principle of rules** One of the foundational principles defining rule utilitarianism, this establishes the practices, rules, and principles that normally hold in general.

**rule utilitarianism** A consequentialist theory that establishes practices, rules, and principles to follow.