

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2020  
Reading questions #12  
Due Fri, Jun 19th

1) At the end of chapter 4 of *The Expanding Circle*, (in the section, "Expanding the circle of Ethics"), Singer argues that while historically, humans saw the extent of their 'us' circle as their own tribe or group, reason should drive us to expand this circle to all human beings regardless of race, nationality, etc. Is this correct? Does this show that there is something wrong with patriotism or putting the interests of your own nation first? What about a President of the United States who says that killing 1,000 people from another country will save 50 American lives so it is okay? Or passing a law that will economically hurt the average Chinese citizen but help the average America citizen. Is this actually okay?

2) Later in this same section, Singer suggests that the same kind of reasoning that led us to expand the circle to all humans should lead us to expand the circle to all sentient creatures (that is, those with the ability to feel pain). Is this right? Do we have obligations to some non-human animals too?

3) After reading the chapter, come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed. This could be something that the chapters forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapter.