

# The Social Contract



Vol. XIV, No. 1

Fall 2003

## Highlights

Wayne Lutton discusses how mass immigration is spreading disease and bankrupting public health services.

Kevin Patterson, MD describes the impact of TB based on professional encounters.

Brenda Walker contends that the striving for political correctness is hampering public safety measures.

Robert Howard shows how the economic threats of SARS and TB to tourism and trade create denial and inaction.

Joe Guzzardi and Craig Nelsen discuss the financial costs of illegal aliens to the health care system.

Juan Mann labels the temporary worker plan as 'lunacy.'

Topical books are reviewed by:

John Attarian  
Kevin Lamb  
Miles Wolpin

## Mass Immigration: The Public Health Dimension



Garrett Hardin, Ph.D. (1915-2003)

*Memorial tributes for the consummate scholar and ethicist, Garrett Hardin, and his wife Jane.  
See page 5.*

## About THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

The English philosopher John Locke, whose thinking helped inspire the American revolution, said that society should be governed by an understood set of values he termed "the social contract." Under the social contract, governments have obligations to their citizens, and citizens have responsibilities to society.

Most public issues are basically moral and ethical ones. What is the right thing to do? How do we decide what we think is right? When "rights" collide, which ones take precedence? The concept of the social contract helps us sort out the difficult issues confronting American society today and helps us find balance.

Each quarter THE SOCIAL CONTRACT journal examines trends, events, and ideas that have an impact on America's delicate social fabric. Key topics addressed by this journal:

- *Human population issues, including absolute size, rate of growth, and distribution. Do cherished American ideals prosper or suffer through further population growth?*
- *Immigration issues. In order to best facilitate meeting the highest goals of the American people, (1) how many immigrants should we admit? (2) who should be admitted? and (3) how can we humanely enforce the rules?*
- *Language, assimilation, culture, and national unity considerations. What shared values are necessary to the maintenance of our social contract?*
- *The balance of individual rights and civic responsibilities. Since the previous issues are so often framed in terms of rights, what are the balancing obligations?*
- *Other nations' efforts at creating and guarding their own social contracts. What practical insight can be gained from observing the failures and successes in nation-building by other societies?*

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT explores these complex and interrelated issues with articles, essays and book reviews that vary greatly in outlook and philosophy. We encourage a wide spectrum of opinion as we publish contributions from many vantage points. The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.



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## A Note from the Editor

### Garrett and Jane Hardin: Teachers and Friends Remembered

*Noble intentions are a poor excuse for stupid action.  
Man is the only species that calls some suicidal  
actions "noble." The rest of creation knows better.*

—Garrett Hardin

The Editors of *The Social Contract* consider it a privilege to have known and worked with Garrett and Jane Hardin, who passed away at their home in Santa Barbara, California on September 14, 2003.

Garrett Hardin, emeritus professor of human ecology at the University of California at Santa Barbara, was best known for his 1968 essay, "The Tragedy of the Commons," and became perhaps the leading source of inspiration for three generations of ecologists, ethicists, and immigration reduction advocates.

His writings played a principal role in helping develop a scientific, intellectual, and political foundation for a sustainable population policy. As he remarked:

*I approach immigration problems from the scientific side. As modern science emerged in the seventeenth century, Galileo said 'the grand book of the universe is written in the language of mathematics' ...Time after time, a difficult question that does not obviously involve mathematics yields its secret once mathematical reasoning is introduced. Such successes lead some of us—I'm one—to believe that the discipline of ethics can also benefit from mathematical insights. We must pay attention to quantities...As far as ethics is concerned, perhaps the difference between one brother and two would not be enough to bother about. But suppose there are a million brothers. Ten million. In all realism, must I be "my brothers' keeper" when there are hundreds of millions of brothers out there crying to be cared for?*

Garrett Hardin's ethical insights have not grown stale with time. Thanks in large part to the emergence of the Internet, new generations of people doing research on immigration, population, resource conservation, and the challenge of "multiculturalism" can discover Professor Hardin's unique perspectives on these questions. Over a year ago, with the assistance of Garrett and Jane Hardin, the on-line Garrett Hardin Society was established to preserve and further disseminate his work ([www.GarrettHardinSociety.org](http://www.GarrettHardinSociety.org)).

The staff of this journal is honored to add to the tributes being assembled for the Hardins who worked as a team for over 62 years. We have all benefitted from their wisdom and graciousness.

WAYNE LUTTON, PH.D.