

---

# Contents

Preface	ix
<b>1. The Altered Nature of Human Action</b>	<b>1</b>
I. The Example of Antiquity	2
II. Characteristics of Previous Ethics	4
III. New Dimensions of Responsibility	6
IV. Technology as the "Calling" of Mankind	9
V. Old and New Imperatives	10
VI. Earlier Forms of "Future-oriented" Ethics	12
VII. Man as an Object of Technology	17
VIII. The "Utopian" Dynamics of Technical Progress and the Excessive Magnitude of Responsibility	21
IX. The Ethical Vacuum	22
<b>2. On Principles and Method</b>	<b>25</b>
I. Ideal and Real Knowledge in the "Ethic of the Future"	25
II. Prevalence of the Bad over the Good Prognosis	31
III. The Element of Wager in Human Action	34
IV. The Duty to Ensure a Future	38
V. Being and Ought-to-Be	46
<b>3. Concerning Ends and Their Status in Reality</b>	<b>51</b>
I. The Hammer	52
II. The Court of Law	53
III. Walking	56
IV. The Digestive Organ	65
V. From Reality to Validity: From the Problem of Pur- pose to the Problem of Value	75
<b>4. The Good, the "Ought," and Being: A Theory of     Responsibility</b>	<b>79</b>
I. Being and Ought-to-Be	79

II. Theory of Responsibility: First Distinctions	90
III. Theory of Responsibility: Parent and Statesman as Eminent Paradigms	98
IV. Theory of Responsibility: The Horizon of the Future	108
V. How Far Does Political Responsibility Extend into the Future?	117
VI. Why "Responsibility" Was Not Central in Former Ethical Theory	123
VII. Parent-Child Relation: The Archetype of Responsibility	130
<b>5. Responsibility Today: Endangered Future and the Idea of Progress</b>	136
I. The Future of Mankind and the Future of Nature	136
II. The Ominous Side of the Baconian Ideal	140
III. Is Marxism or Capitalism Better Fitted to Counter the Danger?	142
IV. Examining the Abstract Chances in the Concrete	151
V. The Utopia of the Coming "True Man"	157
VI. Utopia and the Idea of Progress	160
<b>6. A Critique of Utopia and the Ethic of Responsibility</b>	178
I. The Wretched of the Earth and World Revolution	180
II. Critique of Marxist Utopianism	186
III. From the Critique of Utopia to the Ethics of Responsibility	201
<b>Appendix: Impotence or Power of Subjectivity</b>	205
I. The Incompatibility Argument	207
II. The Epiphenomenalist Argument	209
III. "Epiphenomenalism" Voided by the Voiding of "Incompatibility"	216
IV. Quantum-Mechanical Review of the Proposed Solution	222
Notes	233
Index	247