

VALUES NOT INVIOABLE & PERMANENT

Classical liberalism postulates that individual values (or preferences) are both constant and inviolable. The first conjunct is supposed to be a ^Tfactual statement, the 2nd a norm. But it is well known that we change our values in the course of our lives, both as part of the process of growing up and as a result of persuasion by the media. And if our values are impermanent, and vulnerable to external manipulation, then they can hardly be regarded as inviolable. Rather, we should realistically admit that values are changeable, that the process of education results in some value changes, that some values are irrational or anti-social and therefore ~~not~~ in need of reform, and that we must expect society to correct some of our preferences. The problem is how to make such corrections: whether in an

~~and~~ elitist and authoritarian, or a democratic fashion.