



Lawrence Kohlberg

Bronxville, New York

October 23, 1927- Boston, Massachusetts 1987

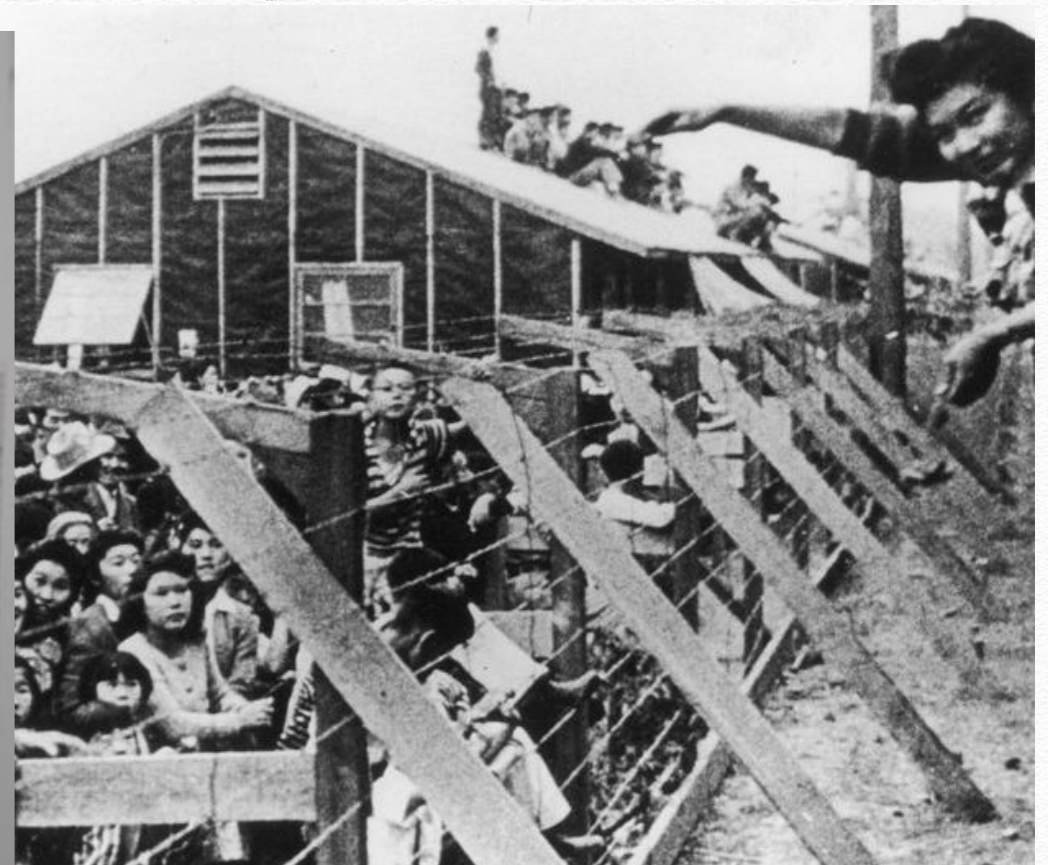
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Kohlberg's background

Lawrence Kohlberg was born in Bronxville, New York on October 23, 1927. He grew up in Massachusetts after his parents divorced. He attended Andover academy during his childhood. He later became a sailor during World War II. He enrolled into the University of Chicago in 1948. While he was there he became interested in Piaget's theory of development. He completed in graduate school research on children's reasoning during development dilemmas. Soon after he started studying moral reasoning in men. He became a professor at Harvard University in 1968. While he was at Harvard he founded the Center for Moral Education and the Cluster School. He died in Boston, Massachusetts in 1987. He mysteriously disappeared from the hospital and his body was discovered in a marsh. People believe he committed suicide.

Interesting facts

- ❖ He helped smuggle Jewish refugees through the British blockade
- ❖ He was imprisoned in a British interment camp in Cyprus
- ❖ After passing a number of exams with outstanding scores, Kohlberg enters The University of Chicago and completes his bachelor's degree in Psychology in one year.



6 Moral Development stages:

1. Pre- conventional level

Stage 1- Obedience and punishment

- Obeying the rules is important to avoid being punished

If I fight with other children my parents will ground me and take something from me.

Stage 2- Individualism and exchange

- Judge actions based on how they serve individual needs.

If I do my chores the right way my parents will pay me \$50.

Constitutional morality

- ❖ **Stage 3- interpersonal relationships**

- ❖ - often referred to as “ good boy-good girl.

- focused on living up to social expectations and roles.

- ❖ I sat next to the new girl at lunch because she was by herself and she smiled.

- ❖ **Stage 4- Maintaining social order**

- ❖ - The focus is on maintaining law and order by following rules, doing ones duty, and respecting authority.

- ❖ The rules say not to talk during shelter in place, so we all stayed quiet

- ❖ Instead of arguing I listen to my parents the first by saying yes ma'am, no ma'am, no sir and yes sir.

Level 3: Post-conventional

- ❖ Stage 5: social contract orientation- The general rights and standards of society are accounted for, but they may not be followed.
- ❖ I have to pay my bills or else I'll lose my property
- ❖ Stage 6: universal principle orientation- people make decisions based on their ethical principles. They have respect for justice and human rights.
- ❖ I tipped my waiter at a restaurant because not only did we get great service, it's the right thing to do.

Explanation

- ❖ Kohlberg's theory is about how children and people in general develop moral values and beliefs. They may form the values and beliefs through respect, love, attachment, attitudes, and by observing others.

Example

- ❖ If your child was very sick and the cure was very expensive would you steal the medicine even though you'll go to jail or let your child die because you can't afford it?

Application to life

- ❖ Parents should reward their children based off of the child's actions.
- ❖ They also should figure out what morally motivates a child to do what they are told.
- ❖ If parents reward a child's good behavior the child will be motivated to do the right thing and know right from wrong.

Resources

- <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~ncoverst/Kohlberg's%20Stages%20of%20Moral%20Development.htm>
- <http://kohlbergbioandtheory.blogspot.com>
- <http://psychology.about.com/od/developmentalpsychology/a/kohlberg.htm>