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Lecture Notes, October 20

Finishing MacIntyre's defense of patriotism...

I. The story of our lives argument

We can only understand our lives in the context of these stories, see p 52.
Patriotism is the kind of virtue that arises from taking seriously our moral starting points.
The liberal conception ignores these facts, about family and community, when deciding moral questions.
(p 50)

Note that virtue ethics, thus, is a fundamentally irrational position.
We place our country, if not necessarily its current political leaders, beyond rational criticism.
(In some fundamental way of understanding the nation as a project)

II. Virtue ethics summary

Kant and Mill sever morality from self-interest.
Aristotle tries to derive morality from self-interest.
But the Ring of Gyges shows that this is fruitless.
So, MacIntyre says that shows that the Kant/Mill-style morality is wrong.

III. Quandaries handout