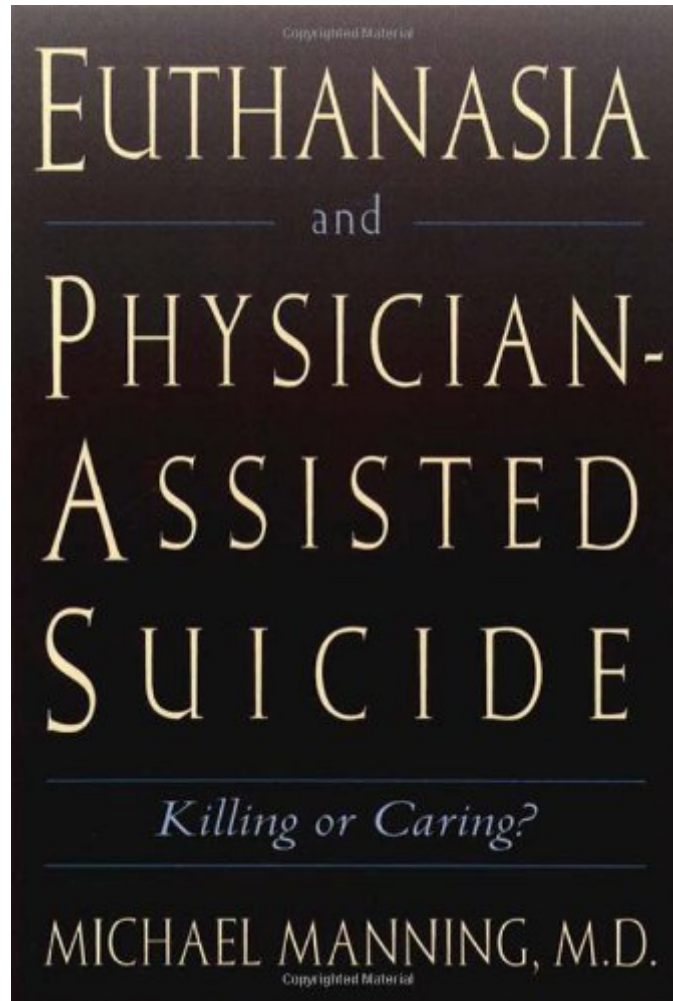


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Euthanasia And Physician-Assisted Suicide



Synopsis

A concise overview of the history and arguments surrounding euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Manning seems unable to differentiate between compassionate end-of-life assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia and the murderous genocidal regime perpetrated by the Nazis during World War 2. Almost every chapter includes a reference to the Third Reich and an attempt to dishonestly conflate murder with compassion and choice. He vilifies the concept of informed consent by trying to redefine it. According to Manning, the "consent" obtained by the Nazis by torturing and starving their prisoners is on the same level as a free, uncoerced choice by an adult at the end of life. Such utter nonsense does not belong in rational discourse..Manning begins his book with the Catholic teaching on euthanasia. According to the catechism, euthanasia includes any action or omission whose primary intent is to end life for compassionate reasons. This obviously includes withdrawing ventilators, ceasing dialysis or artificial nutrition and hydration. Yet Manning and the RCC contradict themselves when they accept that not all life-saving measures must be taken. The only way they

can evade this obvious contradiction is to concoct a non-existent difference between "ending a patient's life and letting nature take its course." To put it another way, assisted suicide is perfectly fine and dandy, but ONLY if you need a respirator or dialysis to live. Everyone else must suffer until a "natural" death. Did you break your neck but can breathe unaided? Too bad! You can't die unless you are in a country that allows you to refuse food and fluids. So much for compassionate conservatism. Yes, this is vitalism, but it is also the only reasonable conclusion of their position. The slippery slope is brought up again, as is often the case in these debates.

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