

# Determinism

1. All our actions are causally determined
2. Because of this, we are not free

## 1. All our actions are causally determined

Baron d'Holbach (18<sup>th</sup> Century)

- (a) human beings are purely physical
- (b) therefore they are wholly governed by physical laws
- (c) therefore they are governed by laws 'over which they have no control'

Determinism means 'everything has a cause' and 'same cause, same effect'. Is this true?

Leibniz argued 'we are **inclined** but not **necessitated**'.

Descartes said our minds are not governed by deterministic relationships.

Particle physics asserts that at the level of elementary particles, physics is not deterministic.

## 2. Because of this, we are not free

Holbach:

- I. our actions are caused by our wills
- II. our wills are caused by our motives
- III. our motives are caused by external factors over which we have no control

If we accept that our motives are caused by external factors over which we have no control, does that mean that we have no control over our motives? This is a very important point, and needs to be thought about very carefully!!

The future develops in accordance with fixed laws, according to calculable numbers. If these numbers are known, future events can be calculated with perfect certainty.

*Richard Wilhelm*

Just as a man still is what he always was, so he already is what he will become.

*Carl Gustav Jung - Collected Works XI, paragraph 390*