

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

PART I: The General Problem

1. Introduction 3
2. Three Kinds of Acts 10
3. Sacrifice and Heroism 14
4. The Zone of Indifference 20
5. General Obligations 25
6. Other Presuppositions 39
7. The Implications of Scale 46

PART II: Applications

8. Minimal Altruism 63
9. The Famine Relief Argument 70
10. Collective Responsibility 80
11. Triviality and Indifference 87
12. What If Everyone Did That? 97
13. The Moral Microscope 103
14. Lyons's Argument 111
15. Thresholds and Triviality 119
16. Kantian Generalization 131
17. When Everyone Actually Does the Same 139
18. The Overload of Obligations 145

PART III: Conclusion

19. The Central Dilemma 153

Appendix: Utilitarianism and Cooperation 173

Index 177