

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

*Please take Cornell notes on Slides with a * only. The rest of the info is found on the “Political and Economic Systems” matrix.*

3 ASTUTE QUESTIONS

Can people be trusted to govern themselves?

What is the goal of the political system?

How do the people running a government get the power to govern?

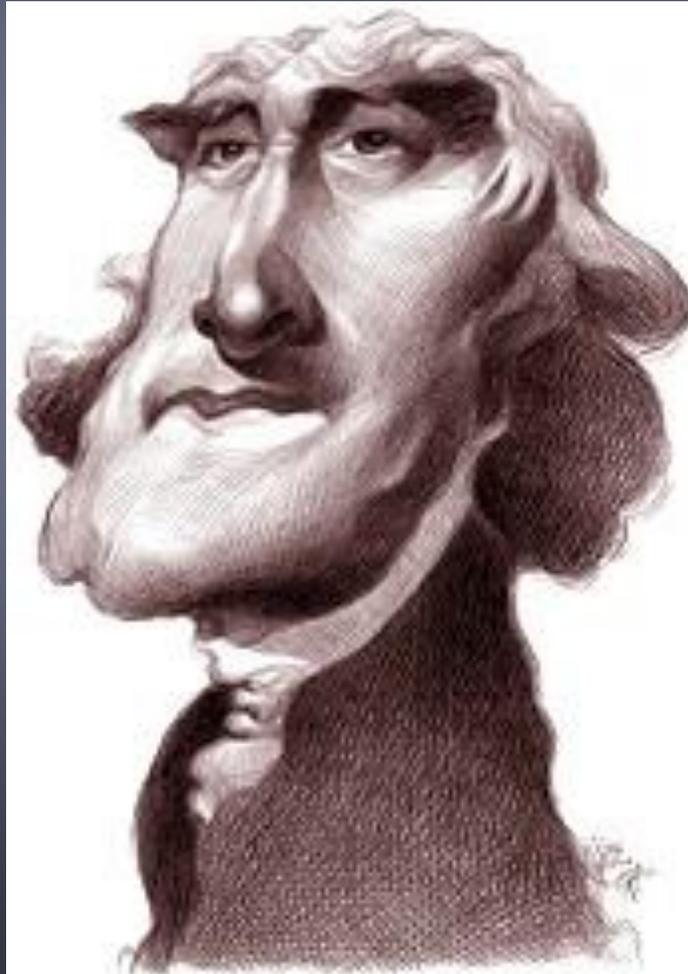


- ◆ Each individual has natural rights just because he/she is human and *these rights cannot be taken away by a government!* This is natural law.





In the Declaration of Independence these rights are called “unalienable” and are given by the Creator.





Natural Rights

◆ Other terms for *natural rights*:

Human rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpY9s1Agbsw>

Extension: Read the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/research/human-rights-basics/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

Civil liberties (1st Amendment)

Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, Petition



◆ “What is man like in a state of nature?” (without government)



“Look, life is nasty, brutish, and short, but you knew that when you became a caveman.”



They all agree that man does things out of his own **self-interest.**

They disagree whether this a good thing, or a bad thing.



Social Contract

- ◆ People enter into a “contract” when they form a government.
- ◆ They “willingly” give up certain rights in exchange for certain benefits/protections from the government.



Thomas Hobbes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eejsP>



◆ PHILOSOPHY:

Human nature is **bad and needs to be controlled by government.**

“Without government life is nasty, brutish, & short!
Arrgh!”

More Hobbes

- ◆ **PURPOSE of Gov't:** TOTALITARIAN CONTROL--order, efficiency, survival
- ◆ **POWER:** The gov't is superior to the individual because it protects the citizens and “forces” them to be good.



John Locke

◆ **PHILOSOPHY:** Man is good and free until he infringes on the rights of others.



◆ **PURPOSE of Gov't:**

Protection of individual rights (life, liberty and property).

More Locke

◆ Locke stressed life, liberty, and property.
(Does this sound a bit familiar?)

◆ He felt property was important.
Why?

Vital to human's livelihood/survival.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6J730PqBik>

This led to a RADICAL new idea!

◆ **POWER:** If the gov't does not protect their rights, the citizens have the right to overthrow and replace it.

How much of these do we give up in order to “secure liberties?”

◆ Life

◆ Liberty

◆ Property

What do we give up?

In serving in the military... **Life**

In putting felons in jail...

In paying taxes...

What must we give up?

What do we give up:?

In serving in the military...

In putting felons in jail... **Liberty**

In paying taxes...

What must we give up?

What do we give up?

In serving in the military...

In putting felons in jail...

In paying taxes... **Property**

What must we give up?

What do we give up?

In serving in the military... **Life**

In putting felons in jail... **Liberty**

In paying taxes... **Property**

What must we give up?

Jean Jacques Rousseau

◆ PHILOSOPHY:



Man is **good**; government is **bad**.

- He said that man is born free, but then he is enslaved by government.

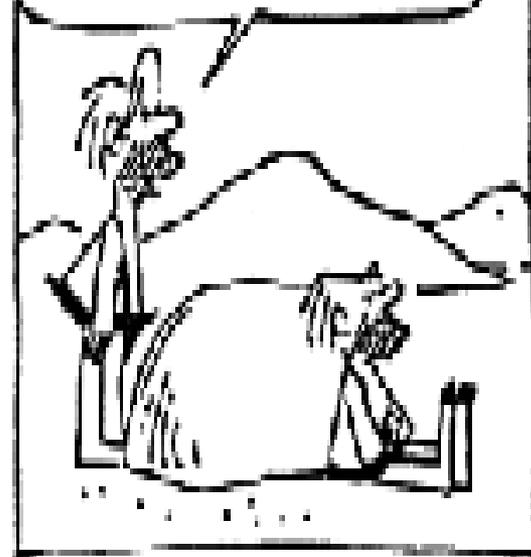
CAN YOU STAND THE THOUGHT
OF FUTURE GENERATIONS
HAVING IT AS GOOD AS THIS ?



NO.



GOOD! -- LET'S FORM A
GOVERNMENT.



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More Rousseau

- ◆ **PURPOSE of Gov't:** The needs of the majority are superior to individual rights.

More Rousseau

◆ **POWER:**

◆ Citizens govern themselves

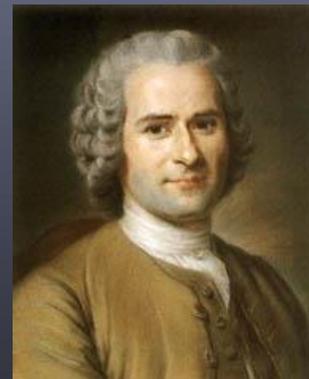
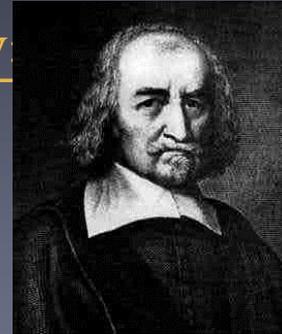
◆ Majority rules

◆ Individuals are responsible to each other, NOT the gov't

◆ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttu8va9_x1g

LET'S REVIEW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuNjVc>



◆ Hobbes—Totalitarian

◆ Locke—Constitutional
Republic

◆ Rousseau—Direct

Democracy



HOBBS' SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY (Totalitarian)

- ◆ Citizens give up freedom and give their complete loyalty and obedience to the government. In return, they get safety and security from the government.



LOCKE'S SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY (Constitutional Republic)

- ◆ Citizens obey gov't as long as gov't protects their rights.
- ◆ There should be just enough government to protect basic rights, and no more



ROUSSEAU'S SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

(Direct Democracy)

- ◆ People agree among themselves to give up some freedom in order to promote what's best for the group (promote the *common welfare*).

4-5 Sentence Reflection

Here are some prompts to get you thinking. Be sure to use personal examples or examples from current events or history to defend your answer.\

- ◆ Do you think people can be trusted to government themselves? Why or why not?
- ◆ What are three things you believe government should do to better protect your individual/property rights?
- ◆ With which of the three political philosophers do you most/least agree and why?