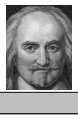
SOCIAL STUDIES 30-1

ASSIGNMENT 2.2: THE NATURE OF MAN

	Thomas Hobbes 	John Locke 	Jean-Jacques Rousseau 
Background Information			
Author of			
Time Period			
Description of Society at that Time (be specific… **context** is important)	Hobbes witnessed the destruction and brutality of the English Civil War from 1642 to 1651. The human cost of the wars was devastating. Up to 200,000 people lost their lives, or 4.5% of the population.	A bloodless revolution that removed King James II from England's throne. The event ultimately changed how England was governed, giving Parliament more power over the monarchy and planting seeds for the beginnings of a political democracy.	France was on the brink of bankruptcy and widespread inequalities of French society, along with the corruption of royal officials, despair owing to widespread economic hardship and a strict social hierarchy.
Ideology			
Views of Human Nature			
How should society organize itself?			
What should be the role of the individual in society?	**absolute monarchy/protoliberalism** believed in a social contract: people give up freedom to an absolute ruler in exchange for security. Though still authoritarian, Hobbes is the "reluctant grandfather" of liberalism because he shifted politics away from divine right toward human choice.	**foundation of classical liberalism** Advocated individual rights, private property, representative democracy, and the primacy of Parliament over monarchs.	**foundation of more modern liberalism** Advocated direct democracy and equality. A liberal who leans toward collectivism, Rousseau influenced both modern liberalism (freedom + equality) and early socialist thought.

1. **Name the essays written by the following:**

a. Thomas Hobbes:
b. John Locke:
c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau:

2. **Cite the specific time period each theories wrote their essays:**

a. Thomas Hobbes:

b. John Locke:

c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau:

3. **What is the purpose of government according to:**

a. Thomas Hobbes:

b. John Locke:

c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau:

4. Define the Social Contract:

5. How does the Social Contract differ amongst Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau? Be specific and thorough.

6. Which theorist's Social Contract do you most agree with and why?

7. "Whoever refuses to obey the general will be forced to do so by the whole society; he will be forced to be free." Do you agree or disagree with this premise and cite specific examples to validate your point of view.

8. Did you agree with Rousseau's premise and philosophy as you acted out the scenario with the man and dog in class? Explain why or why not.

9. What are your views on property? Do you lean toward Locke or Rousseau's view on property?

10. Dissent is necessary to John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Why? Why does Hobbes believe dissent is never justified? Explain your answer.

11. Read the handout on Confucius's and Machiavelli's view on human nature. Briefly summarize each philosophy.

12. Which view on human nature is more correct, Confucius' or Machiavelli's in your opinion. Explain and elaborate.

13. Now that you know a little about social contract theorists Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau and you are now able to juxtapose the philosophy of Confucius with Machiavelli, briefly summarize **your view on**:

Human nature:

Purpose of Government:

The Social Contract:

Representation:

View on Liberty:

14. How COVID-19 fits the thinkers

Hobbes: The pandemic highlighted fear, uncertainty, and the need for strong authority (lockdowns, mask mandates, vaccine requirements). Hobbes would argue: Without state power, society would descend into chaos — so a Leviathan is necessary.

Locke: He would emphasize individual rights — freedom to choose, limits on government power, protection of property (e.g., keeping businesses open). But COVID raised the question: Do rights have limits when they endanger others? This puts pressure on Locke's view.

Rousseau: His idea of the general will connects well — if people subordinated egoism for the common good (masking, vaccinating, limiting gatherings), society could protect freedom and equality. But Rousseau also warned how self-interest undermines collective safety.

a. *Did governments have a Hobbesian responsibility to impose order, or should Locke's individual rights have limited that power?*

b. *Was Rousseau correct that egoism and self-interest prevented us from achieving the common good during the pandemic?*

c. *How do we balance freedom and equality in times of crisis?*