

Why government?

Slide 1:

1. Thomas Hobbes was an English scholar and philosopher
2. Wrote on many topics including math and government
3. Asks the question: Why do we have government?

Slide 2:

1. Hobbes say humans as quick to fight / naturally selfish
2. State of nature: Everyone has the right to everything
3. People constantly at war with others

Slide 3:

1. Social contract: Between people and their government
2. Hobbes thought people agreed to give up some rights and power in exchange for protection
3. He believed that once the people agreed to hand over power in exchange for protection, they lost the right to overthrow, replace, or even question the government.

Slide 4:

1. Hobbes wrote Leviathan to explain how he thought governments should work.
2. Believed a strong central authority was the only way to avoid the evils of war
3. Believed a single sovereign, or ruler, should have total authority over the people
4. Monarchy with a single ruler was best

Slide 5:

1. John Locke is another philosopher

Slide 6:

1. An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, took over 18 years to write
2. Tabula rasa: which means a blank slate or page.
3. As you go through life and experience things the pages fill up

Slide 7:

1. Natural rights: Life, liberty, and property
2. Believed the purpose of government is to end the state of nature and give people certain protections.

Slide 8:

1. Government is only valid based upon social contract that is agreed upon by both sides
2. The people agree to give up some freedoms, if the government agrees to protect everyone's rights.
3. If the government fails to deliver, the people have the right to revolt