

Social Studies 30-1

Unit Two: Ideologies and Me

Characteristics of Ideologies: Lecture 2.2: The Nature of Man

	Thomas Hobbes	John Locke	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
State of Nature	The state of nature is a state of war. No morality exists. Everyone lives in constant fear. Because of this fear, no one is really free. Without someone to rule us, life would be: "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."	We exist in the state of nature in perfect freedom to do what they want. The state of nature is not necessarily good or bad. We do give it up to secure the advantages of civilized society.	In a state of nature we are free and equal. Differed from Locke in that he thought property corrupted us. Civilization has robbed us of our natural freedom, and can corrupt us, but we need civilization to help reach our full potential.
Purpose of Government	To impose law and order to prevent the state of war. To protect us from ourselves. Hobbesianism is a departure from the medieval notion that governments exist to serve their own purpose or the whims of the Church, and it is a basic premise of classical liberalism.	To secure natural rights, namely man's property and liberty. Purpose of government is to protect life, liberty, and property.	To bring people into harmony. To unite them under the "General Will". Government should be fundamentally based on the rights and equality of everyone
The Social Contract (MUST KNOW!!!!) An implicit agreement by the governed on a set of rules by which they are governed.	free men establish political community i.e. civil society through a social contract in which each gains civil rights in return for wilfully subjecting himself to civil law or to political authority. Hobbes does make clear that once the contract is made, it cannot be changed, the sovereign cannot forfeit his power, no one may question him or accuse him of injustice, and that the sovereign has all power	argued that individuals would agree to form a state that would provide a "neutral judge", and that could therefore protect the lives, liberty, and property of those who lived within it. -if a govnt does respect freedom, it ceases to be legitimate. This is part of the social contract. -eg. Britain was subjecting the colony (the USA) with "taxation w/o representation", thus the American revolution was justified b/c the government had lost its legitimacy.	argues a citizen can be an egoist and decide that his personal interest should override the collective interest. However, as part of a collective body, the individual citizen puts aside his egoism to create a "general will". Rousseau argues a citizen cannot pursue his true interest by being an egoist but must instead subordinate himself to the law created by the citizenry acting as a collective... thus the "general will". -we should have BOTH freedom and equality. -critic of LOCKE and our own democracy. -liberty and equality must be twin goals for any govnt -Liberty cannot exist w/o equality -social contract is necessary for any sound govnt (agrees w/ Locke)

The Social Contract explains the origin of government and the obligations of subjects.	to make laws and administer the government. These provisions may, to some, reek of totalitarianism. But one must remember that their purpose is not to take away the liberty of the subjects but to give the sovereign the authority and power to do the job that he or she is supposed to do. And the sovereign's duty is to keep the people safe from their nature (and each other), thus setting them free?		-is Locke's freedom, which allows for economic inequality, the right kind of freedom? -One cannot be free, unless all are free. Moral freedom means we are in control ourselves. W/O it we are in bondage to our passions. -moral freedom requires social and economic equality. -moral freedom and obedience to the General Will requires the elimination of private property. Property corrupts. -Freedom and equality can only exist if private property is limited and is turned into public property. -the real enemy of a just society is the private interest of the selfish individual. -a society that APPEARS to achieve freedom at the expense of others will only result in enslavement of all. -the society will be enslaved by: GREED, DESIRE TO EXPLOIT THE WEAK. -his desire is to create a social contract that caters to the GENERAL WILL, which is essentially "one for all and one for all". The General Will and the analogy of the traffic light - our streets should be regulated to create order and safety and freedom TO AVOID chaos. -by following the rules and regulations of the traffic light, we are adhering to the GENERAL WILL. -we get a CONSENSUS that the traffic light is necessary.
Representation	Governments are designed to control, not necessarily represent. Absolutism is the best form of government. This might reek of totalitarianism, but one must remember that their purpose is not to take away the liberty of the subjects but to give the sovereign the authority and power to do the job that he or she is supposed to do." And the sovereign's duty is to keep the people safe from their nature (and each other), thus setting them free.	Representation ensures that governments are responsive to the people. Representation is a safeguard against oppression- representative democracy. -property is very important to Locke. We must ensure our property is protected (from the King). Parliament then protects the middle class' property from the arbitrary power and control from the monarch. -You can trust Parliament to protect individuals from the arbitrary power of the monarch b/c Parliament wants to protect its own property. This is freedom and liberty. -no one said what Locke wrote before. This is essentially pretty revolutionary stuff.	Representation is not enough. Citizens cannot delegate their civic duties. They must be actively involved. Rousseau favours a type of direct democracy to enact the general will. -in his essay <i>EMILE</i>, Rousseau states that the education system would teach the following moral principles to help citizens abide by the GENERAL WILL: cooperation, mutual aid, compassion, sympathy RATHER than greed, avarice, jealousy... -Emile is about EARLY childhood training/socialize them in a state mind toward the general will. -vast discrepancies of wealth (which currently exist in our system), we may preach democracy, but fail to practice it. -government should legislate collective interest ahead of egoism and self interest.

View on liberty	You are free because the government frees you from your nature.	We are free by nature -economic inequality is justifiable. No government power should try to change this. Rule of law and equality before the law is key, but he did not want a classless society. -economic equality does allow some to accumulate more property and thus liberty.	-liberty was possible only where there was direct rule by the people as a whole in lawmaking, where popular sovereignty was indivisible -"whoever refuses to obey the general will be forced to do so by the whole society; he will be forced to be free." This quote has led some to characterize Rousseau as a totalitarian. -what he really means is that individuals, by law, should be forced to obey the common good. They must do their share and not exploit others. If democracies are going to promote liberty and equality, then equal power must be given to all.
Ideology/ Spectrum standing	Authoritarian (absolute monarch) FYI: ● he does support an absolutist regime, but only for the benefit of the humans that recently left an abhorrent state of nature. ● the absolutist ruler provides stability where there previously was none, and allows the people to have a better chance of individual expression. ● Hobbes illuminates the path for future theorists to open up the ideas of classical liberalism that he begins.	Moderate Liberal (limited constitutional monarchy OR parliamentary/representative democracy)	Liberal, but leaning more toward collectivism (direct democracy)