

John Locke(1632)

Life and times

- Lived through the English civil war
- Common wealth and protectorate: replaced by military dictatorship
- Monarchy is restored in 1660: power is restored
- Wiggs= Scottish presbyterian force drives
 - Monarch granted monopoly to the elite (east india companies)
 - Then came a class that didn't like the monopoly and argued for free trade
 - Religious and economic conflict coincided
 - Rising class wanted to use the parliament to shift and to take down the monarchy and religious
 - John was one of the core members
- John belongs to the reformed bourgeoisie
 - His family is interested in free trade and new business opportunities
 - He went to school at oxford and became a physicians
 - Invested into the slave trade
- 1680:
 - Drafted the second treaty and didn't publish it at the time because the king had a bad habit of chopping peoples heads off if they tried to fight him
 - Second treaties were controversial at the time
 - Went into exile in Holland
 - The social contract was published in the Netherlands and smuggled it to the uk

Jonathan Swift

- "the wealth of the nation that used to be reckoned by the value of land, is now computed by the rise and fall of stocks"

Property rights and capital punishment:

- between 1660 and 1819 no less than 187 states of capital punishment were erected, mostly for property offenses and rarely for the protection of human life (attempted murder remained a misdemeanor until 1803)
- So much poverty that the prisons were over filling then

Thought: State of Nature, Politics and Property

- Life, health, liberty or possessions (paragraph 6): purpose of life is to enjoy property without interference by others
- State of nature: it is natural for us to not want to start conflict compared to Hobbes who thought that life was brutish
- Political power was right to create laws with the ability to commit people to death who tries to interfere. (3)
- John Locke needed to create a definition of what it is property and did so in three steps:
 - Property 1: own labour (27)
 - when you put your own labour into it belongs to you and gain surplus value
 - you can't take more than you need leaving others with nothing
 - though you couldn't just take everything you wanted you would have to sell to the poor first then the left overs could be bought out by the rich
 - Property 2: Servant Labour (28)
 - the labour you own that works for something is yours as well
 - Yellow metal:
 - Gold
 - you can acquire property by storing it in money
 - nothing to do with labour and commons
 - Constitutional Inequality:
 - everybody is equal but the inequality starts when some can own slaves then others
 - you can turn the spoils into gold
 - we have all agreed to this by seeing money

Thought 2: Civil society + government

- Social contract(95)
- Wants government participation in prisons and protection but not to the point that the government the poor are arbitrarily taxing them
 - A common wealth of persons and possessions
- Limited powers:
 - Hobbs was obsessed instability he feared for life not property
 - Wants a strong government not above the law but controlled by the law
 - He wants limited government to ensure that
- Legislative majority(140)
 - Majority would be representative of whoever is in government
 - John was afraid that the old money would just taxes the crap out of him and his buddies
- Representation by property:
 - Wants true representation by the assistance that you give to the government
 - The more money you give to the government the more representation you get
 - The majority will be the majority of tax payers
- John Locke assumes that all land owners and group will have the same issues and concerns

Evaluation

- Constitutional government and divided powers
- property and class society by consent
- Grand ideology of liberal capitalism?
 - we have to also except the punishment that comes with liberty