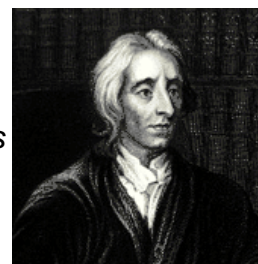


HistoryWiz Primary Source John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

John Locke, 1632-1704, was an important English philosopher, whose political views have been profoundly influential. His views on government were expressed in his work *Two Treatises of Government*. He asserted that government rests on the consent of the governed and that revolution is permissible when government subverts the natural rights (life, liberty and property) of the people.



Excerpt

<p>Political power, then, I take to be a right of making laws, with penalties of death, and consequently all less penalties for the regulating and preserving of property, and of employing the force of the community in the execution of such laws, and in the defense of the commonwealth from foreign injury, and all this only for the public good.</p>	<p>What does John Locke say is the meaning of Political power?</p>
<p>Chapter II: Of the State of Nature</p> <p>To understand political power aright, and derive it from its original, we must consider what estate all men are naturally in, and that is, a state of perfect freedom to order their actions, and dispose of their possessions and persons as they think fit, within the bounds of the law of Nature, without asking leave or depending upon the will of any other man.</p>	<p>What is the natural state of Men?</p>
<p>A state also of equality, wherein all the power and jurisdiction is reciprocal, no one having more than another, there being nothing more evident than that creatures of the same species and rank, promiscuously born to all the same advantages of Nature, and the use of the same faculties, should also be equal one amongst another, without subordination or subjection, unless the lord and master of them all should, by any manifest declaration of his will, set one above another, and confer on him, by an evident and clear appointment, an undoubted right to dominion and sovereignty. . . .</p>	<p>What is the relationship between all people?</p>

<p>But though this be a state of liberty, yet it is not a state of license; though man in that state have an uncontrollable liberty to dispose of his person or possessions, yet he has not liberty to destroy himself, or so much as any creature in his possession, but where some nobler use than its bare preservation calls for it. The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it, which obliges every one, and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions; for men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent and infinitely wise Maker; all the servants of one sovereign Master, sent into the world by His order and about His business; they are His property, whose workmanship they are made to last during His, not one another's pleasure...</p>	<p>What is the difference between liberty and license? Why can't people mistreat others or themselves?</p>
<p>And that all men may be restrained from invading others' rights, and from doing hurt to one another, and the law of Nature be observed, which willeth the peace and preservation of all mankind, the execution of the law of Nature is in that state put into every man's hands, whereby everyone has a right to punish the transgressors of that law to such a degree as may hinder its violation. ...</p>	<p>When could one harm another?</p>
<p>And thus, in the state of Nature, one man comes by a power over another, but yet no absolute or arbitrary power. . . .</p>	<p>In the State of Nature how is hierarchy formed?</p>