

Topic: John Locke vs Jean-Jacques Rousseau

MAIN

During the revolutionary period there were a lot of ideas being thrown around based on “enlightened ideals” which basically say “when the government violates the social contract and does something not cool and good, the people have the right to take appropriate action against the government.”

There were tens if not hundreds of influential writers who wrote about this, these people include Locke and Rousseau.

COMPARISON BETWEEN LOCKE AND ROUS.

Both agree that by default human beings are born “free and equal”.

Locke essentially states that no political control can be exerted on someone without their consent and that it is the duty of people to respect the natural law (enforced by common sense) and overthrow a malicious government.

Rous. agrees with this but furthers the idea that as a result of natural law, the people/masses who are being governed ultimately have the power. Rous. also furthers that some natural rights can be given up for safety and whatnot, but it's up to the masses to decide and have sovereignty over what rights those are.

Hobbes

Both also agree that there are certain natural rights granted to all human beings and that government officials are to work in the best interest of the people.

Locke = “overthrow when the social contract has been broken”

Rous. = “Locke + the people are the ones to create the social contract” + natural rights are different than gov't rights.