

Video Three – Philosophers Checking for understanding

Read through these questions – can you answer them quickly? If you can, then you understand the key concepts in this video. If not, go back and watch it again. Don't forget to check your answers with the answer key (don't peek – the whole point of this is to see if YOU understand the key ideas).

1. Try to fill in as much of the following chart as possible. You may have to make some inferences, as the ideas are not necessarily explicit.

	Nature of human beings	Role of the individual in society	Role of the government in society	Individualist or collectivist?
Hobbes	Evil	To serve 1 leader	Absolute rule	Collectivist
Locke	Rational	To serve Self	Do not intervene	Individualist
Rousseau	SO/50 G:B	Aid Community	To enforce the will of society	Collectivist
Marx	both had made good	To Aid in common efforts	Set values	Collectivist
Voltaire	Decent	To share thought/ideas	To protect individual rights	Individualist
Montesquieu	Rational	Hold the gov. accountable	Gov. self interest of the people	Individualist
Smith	Rational	work for prosperity	To establish fair grounds for trade	Individualist
Mill	Rational	To work hard & help others	To maintain equality & to help the poor	SO / 50

2. What role did these philosophers play in creating the society we live in today?

- Idea of Situational control
- Thought of Individualist thinking
- A SO/50 win for others & our selves
- Coop to make things "fair"
- Individual / Personal rights
- Collective opinion
- Self fulfilling economic pursuit
- fair trade & even playing field

Answer key

Try to fill in as much of the following chart as possible. You may have to make some inferences as the ideas are not necessarily explicit.

	Nature of human beings	Role of the individual in society	Role of the government in society	Individualist or collectivist?
Hobbes	Selfish, mean	To follow the rules in order to make society safe	To make the key decisions in order to protect society	He is not an individualist as he does not believe in individual rights, but he also does not support the ideas of equality. He is more collectivist because he wants individuals to sacrifice for the common good.
Locke	Reasonable, rational	To govern themselves in a way that benefits society	To protect individual rights	Individualist!! He is the philosopher that is the basis of individualist ideas
Rousseau	Great instincts, but those are dulled by rules and morals	To work with the community to promote both individual and community goals	To enforce the general will of the society	He is an individualist in that he believes members of the society should participate in the decision making, but more of a collectivist in that the society should accept common norms and collective responsibility
Marx	Have been taught to be selfish, but can be taught to be selfless	To work with the community to establish communal goals	To establish a society based on collective values, then step back and allow the people to govern themselves	Collectivist!! He is the philosopher most commonly associated with collectivist ideas (as those ideas are the basis of communism)
Voltaire	Reasonable, rational	To share ideas and listen to others in order to gain knowledge	To protect individual rights like freedom of speech	Individualist as he supports individual rights
Montesquieu	Reasonable, rational	To hold the government accountable	To govern in the best interests of the people, not themselves	Individualist as he supports rule of law
Smith	Reasonable, rational	To work hard to establish their own economic needs	To create an environment that makes it easy to trade	Individualist (he is the philosopher most commonly referred to when discussing individualist economic ideas)
Mill	Reasonable, rational	To pursue individual wants while also considering the needs of others	To promote individual rights and freedoms, while also protecting the less fortunate/powerful	Individualist – while he supports some collectivist ideas like sacrificing some freedoms for the good of others, he is mainly in support of individualist ideas

What role did these philosophers play in creating the society we live in today?

- Hobbes started to think about the role of the individual in society – while his ideas are against individual rights, the idea that people need to be controlled is accepted by modern-day Canadians in cases like the use of the War Measures Act.
- Locke is the basis of liberal (individualist) societies today.
- Rousseau got us thinking about how we can create a society that benefits the individual as well as the group
- Marx introduced ideas of how we can cooperate to create a more equal society. We use these ideas in areas like universal health care
- Voltaire – “freedom of speech” is usually the first right Canadians list
- Montesquieu’s ideas are the backbone of our parliamentary democracy

- Smith's capitalist ideas are embraced by all private businesses
- Mill helped us to see that while competition can be a good thing, there must be a level playing field that allows everyone to compete.