

IDENTIFY AND SKETCH COUNTERARGUMENTS

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Thesis

The creation of Leviathan requires a “covenant made by every man with every man”, yet African American people were deemed outsiders, excluded from the creation of the U.S. Constitution, hence no such covenant has been made, and we are still in constant war with each other.

1 Potential counterargument #1

The human can be brutal to foreigners. It is a biological urge deeply rooted in our nature, and no social engineering can eliminate that.

Evidence against the counterargument

1. Hobbes argues that both passion and reason are contributing factors for the human to end the State of Nature. By extension, the reason finds three *lex naturalis* that prevent future destructive behavior.

One distinction between humans and animals is that humans are united by shared abstract concepts, like money, religion, or social contract. Perhaps, in the beginning, people are inclined to follow their instinct, but eventually, it's the idea that triumphs.

2. At the beginning of his defense, Dr. King states that African Americans are not outsiders: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.”

Yes, sometimes a group of people tear the other side apart as if they were not humans. But as Dr. King mentioned, the African Americans are not outsiders but Americans.

2 Potential counterargument #2

Even though we managed to reach an agreement, such a covenant is doomed to be a bad one, for no single arrangement can satisfy the needs of everyone, and often, policy makers only make policies advantageous to powerful people.

Evidence against the counterargument

1. "...when all is reckoned together the difference between man and man is not so considerable..." (Chapter 13, Hobbes)

No man is powerful enough to subdue everyone, this diffidence is the source of our confidence that we can come up with a good agreement.

2. "These rules of property and of good, evil, lawful, and unlawful in the actions of subjects are the civil laws..." (Chapter 18, Hobbes)

The goal of the covenant is to restore order, not to be completely impartial.

3. "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." (King)

If we don't fight for it, we get nothing.

3 Potential counterargument #3

There are already enough constitutional rights for all African Americans. We are at war because Black people are violent in nature.

Evidence against the counterargument

1. "All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality... A law is unjust if it is inflicted on a minority that, as a result of being denied the right to vote, had no part in enacting or devising the law." (King)

All segregation orders are unjust. A law made with robbery of franchise is unjust. Thus the established laws are not good enough.

2. "So that in the nature of man, we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, competition; secondly, diffidence; thirdly, glory... The passions that incline men to peace are: fear of death; desire of such things as are necessary to commodious living; and a hope by their industry to obtain them." (Hobbes)

People are at war not because they love violence, but for competing for limited resources, self-defense, and glory.

3. Dr. King believes in Gandhi's idea of nonviolence. He argues that the demonstration will not precipitate violence, instead, it bring to light "the

hidden tension that is already alive". Moreover, "present tension...is a necessary phase of transition from an obnoxious negative peace...to a substantive and positive peace."

The undergoing turmoil is due to the inhuman treatment, not our nature.

4. Dr.King says that there were two forces, those who "do nothingism" and those who were despair, "close to advocating violence".

None of them implies a natural tendency towards violence.