



Political Philosophers

State of Nature



Man once lived without government

-state of anarchy = each rules himself

Even in a state of nature Man followed some self imposed rules (thou shall not kill, etc.)

- Not all humans followed these rules.

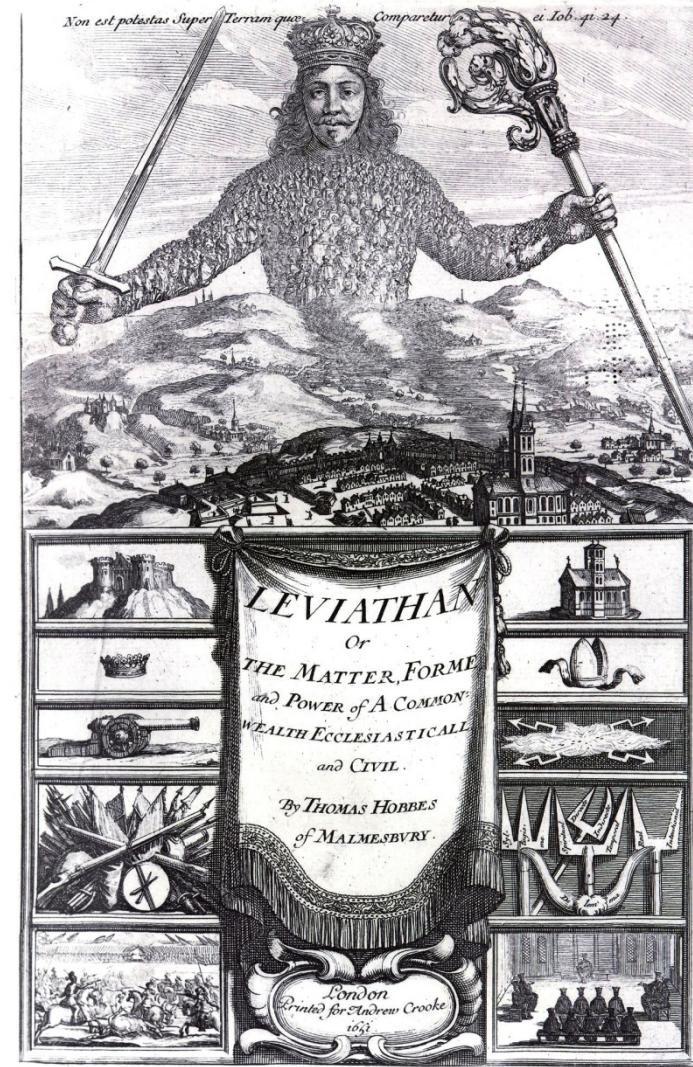
Social Contract Theory

Some form groups to protect each other:

- *They give up the right to function in nature in any way they chose & agree to rules.*

Eventually, these groups formed formal governments.

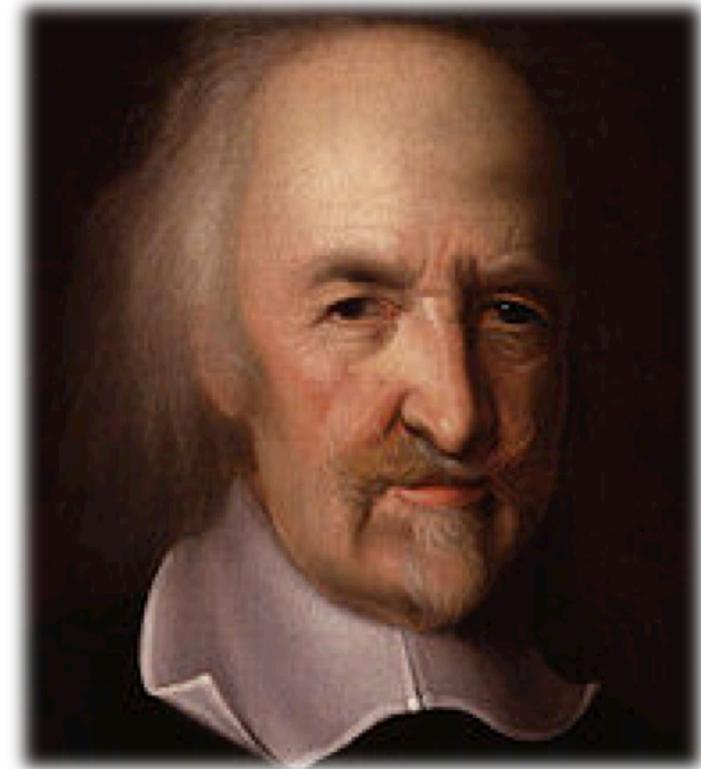
We call this arrangement a **Social Contract between the ruler and the ruled.**



Thomas Hobbes

1651 *Leviathan*

- Developed **social contract theory**
- Argued that a **strong, absolute ruler is needed**
 - **Monarchy is best**
 - **NO REBELLION is permitted**
- Believed that man unable to rule himself - they would constantly fight



John Locke

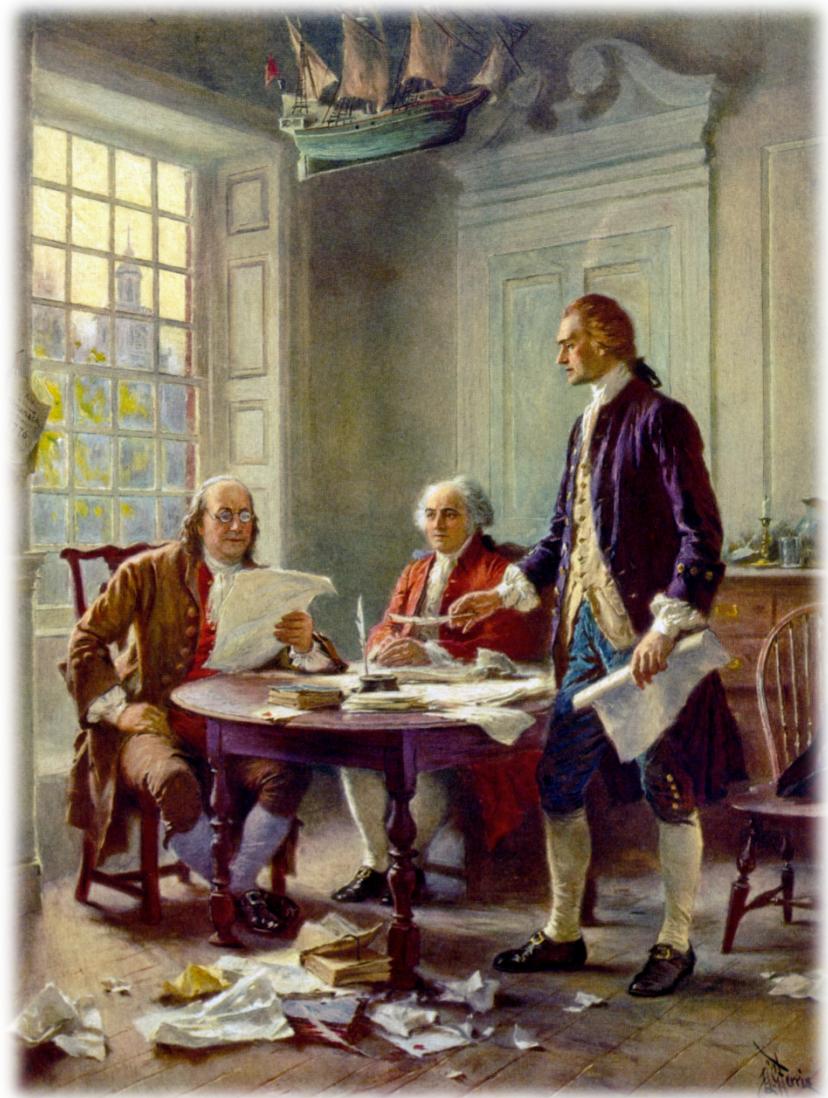
1690 *Two Treatises on Govt.*

- Man made contract with government, which **must safeguard rights**.
- Man has the **right to overthrow** the government if it violates the *contract*.
- Believed in the goodness of people - they can self-rule.
- **Natural rights: life, liberty, property**



John Locke (cont.)

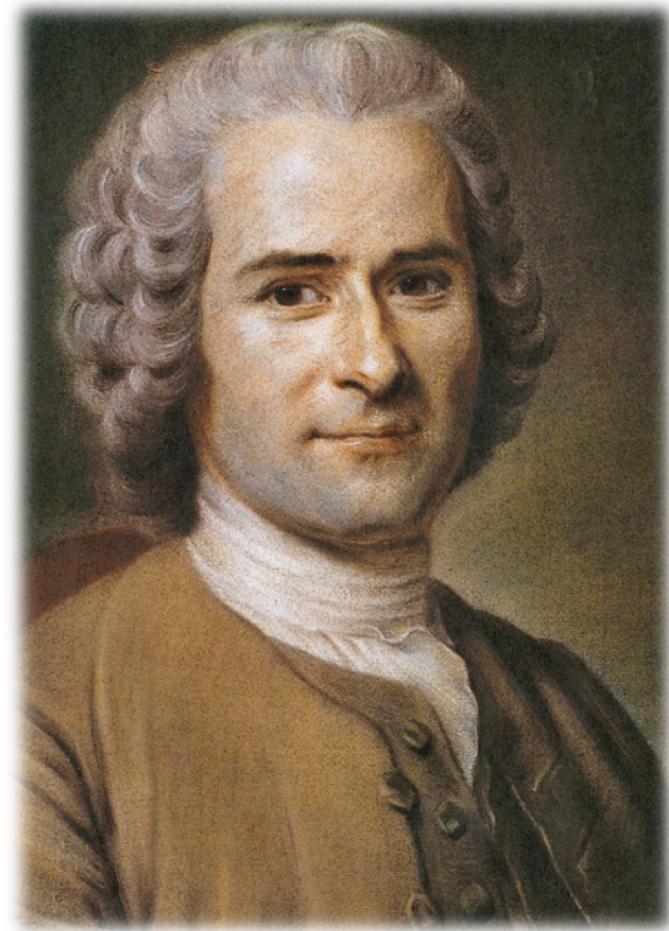
- Father of Modern Democracy
- Thomas Jefferson used his ideas in the *Declaration of Independence*.



Jean Jacques Rousseau

1762 – *The Social Contract*

- Restated Locke's ideas.
- **All people** have inalienable rights, not just men .
- Freedom of **religion**
- **No nobility – total equality for all**
- “*Man is born free and every where is in chains*”



Baron Charles DeMontesquieu

The Spirit of the Laws 1748

- Powers of the government must be **separated – three branches.**
- People who had power would abuse it unless the power was divided.
- **Checks and balances** – each branch would check and restrain the other.



Sir William Blackstone

1766 *Commentaries on the Laws of England*

- 18th century British jurist, judge and politician
- provided a complete overview of English law
- Influenced use of **common law (precedent)**
 - Cited in many Supreme Court decisions



Voltaire

- Argued for **religious toleration** and freedom of thought.
- Champion of **free speech**
- *“I do not agree with a word you say, but I will defend till death your right to say it.”*
- Favored a strong monarch but an “enlightened” one who protects rights of individuals.

