

CRES 10
Day 5 Notes

Elijah Hantman

Misc Announcements

Violating university policy can be treated as an arrestable offense due to Ronald Reagan's time as California state governor.

John Locke

- Property is the combination of labor with land. He was an early proponent of freedom being about owning property.
Knowledge is not innate, a proponent of the blank slate model of human learning.
- Improvement of the land.
- Disagreed with Thomas Hobbes
- Human rights come from property rights, all humans are the property of god, and to violate the another is an affront to god.

How does John Locke's whiteness affect his philosophy?

What is the relationship between freedom, property, and race?

Recap

- Racism is both the outcome and a process itself
- Racism is the intermediate, it is a tool which is produced and used to create outcomes
- One thing Racism does is flatten the diversity of humanity into simple groups
- The process of flattening people into a single category requires both physical and cultural violence.

Weird Q&A

- When I talk to my friends about this class, they say that the perspective it provides is a liberal one. Is that the same Liberalism you're talking about?

No! This class offers perspectives that are largely critical of Liberalism. But the liberalism it critiques is not the same as American Liberalism.

In the US, Liberal has been associated with the Democrat Party, but historically in political philosophy, liberalism applies to both Democrats and Republicans.

- Liberalism is often thought of as oppositional to conservatism, but liberalism encompasses both?

Liberalism is a supremacist ideology. It thinks of itself as the most free. It places a unique value on individual freedom and individualism. Liberalism therefore has difficulty critiquing itself. Why would a philosophy obsessed with freedom produce so many kinds of unfreedom. Why would a philosophy obsessed with justice produce so much injustice.

One example is the nonsensical explanations for 9/11. A Liberal government said that they just hated us and our freedom, it cannot look at itself and understand 9/11 as a response to US extraction, exploitation, and violence.

- One example of Liberalisms other faults is the focus on individualism. When talking about climate change, liberals will often focus on individual actions rather than systemic or group actions.

In addition, Liberalism is inextricable from capitalism and so thoughts are filtered through individualist and capitalist lenses to present market solutions like Medicare, rather than more systemic solutions like the NHS.

- Liberal stories can't help but make itself the ideology of the good guys. Capitalists are good individuals except for the few bad apples who cheated the system, and the the current system is good and there are only a few tweaks to fix everything.
- What do progressive and libertarian mean in this context?

Libertarian ideology is similar to classical liberalism. Progressiveism usually means that we need good institutions to save liberalism from itself.

- Is liberalism separable from capitalism?

Capitalism can operate outside of liberalism, in authoritarian or non-liberal spaces. Liberalism may be confined to capitalism due to its fetishization of property.

- Okay, Liberalism, back in the day, but isn't the solution just to commit to freedom for everyone?

Does unfreedom only happen in the past? Does liberalism primarily produce freedom, or does it produce unfreedom by design? Is poverty unfreedom, what about prisons, what about the massive military? What about all the ways liberalism continues to support and employ colonialist tactics.

- I think I'm still struggling with what liberalism is?

Liberalism understands freedom as the right to privately own property. Liberalism views rights as property, and the role of a state is to enforce property rights.

The thing that makes people equal is that every human can individually own property.

- Why would a non-slave owner support slavery?

The existence of slavery pushes the price of all goods down. It allows space for the non-slaves to gain access to goods which were otherwise impractical to obtain. It produces enough labor to allow for global capitalism.

A definition of freedom that is based off of not being in bondage.

A product of identity being sold to allow for the psychological and social uplift of Whites.

- Okay, isn't the solution just to make everyone free?

Given the history, why should we trust liberalism? What kinds of freedom does liberalism even produce, is it something that is the "best"?

- Liberalism sees freedom as property, what does that have to do with race?

Private ownership of land is one of the most important parts of liberal freedom, and settler colonialism is inextricable from US land ownership. The seizure of the commons for private ownership is a racializing process.

Land and common property is seized and the previous inhabitants are racialized in order to establish the private property system.

The crux of settler colonialism is about establishing governance, and to establish a private property system you need to establish a system of governance which is friendly to private property.

Settler governance allows for the accumulation of wealth. Wealth is the economic power and social power which is greater than that of what an individual can produce. Wealth is about many generations of gaining more than you could produce, and one of the best ways to do that is to enslave someone and extract their labor and value.