

# Political Autonomy

1. Objectives
2. Administritivia
3. You Asked...
4. Political Autonomy

Objectives:

By the end of this lecture you should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast Hobbes and Locke;
2. Differentiate between different conceptions of freedom.

# July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	Peer Review		11
12	13	14	15			18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	Capstone Paper Due		31	
Last Lecture						





Anything Else? Anyone?



1. What is the meaning of life?
2. What is your favourite card game?
3. Does your tattoo mean anything?

## Who Gets What and Why?

*Instructions: As a group, decide how you want to structure society. You will do this by deciding how to distribute 20 Social Units of Happiness between the four citizens below. (The more units you have, the better off you are.) The decision must be a group consensus. (You can dissent, but the majority wins.) Once you have distributed the Social Units of Happiness, flip the paper over and enter the data in the appropriate boxes. Once you are done, bring the sheet to the front for further instructions.*

<p><u>Citizen A</u></p> <p>Citizen A is the successful CEO of a company. They work 80+ hours a week. And they don't take vacation days.</p>  <p>Social Units of Happiness: _____</p>	<p><u>Citizen B</u></p> <p>Citizen B is a hard working professional. They are university educated and take their civic duties seriously.</p>  <p>Social Units of Happiness: _____</p>
<p><u>Citizen C</u></p> <p>Citizen C is a student and is working their way through university.</p>  <p>Social Units of Happiness: _____</p>	<p><u>Citizen D</u></p> <p>Citizen D is unemployed and has just lost their house to foreclosure.</p>  <p>Social Units of Happiness: _____</p>

Questions to answer:

1. Does the CEO deserve more Social Units of Happiness than the others in society?
2. Should society provide the unemployed with grants for retraining programs?
3. Should businesses be required to give equal pay for equal work?
4. Should education be provided only to the wealthy and powerful?



It's a card game with random hands. Not everyone has equal opportunity or plays the game the same way. It is hard to create fair rules. The same can be said of life.







This exercise tells us that even in a case with little impact...people are quick to complain





Everyone wants the bonuses of being on the top but no one realizes there has to be a bottom for there to be a top. And everyone complains when they are on the bottom but never when they are on the top. Yet being equal is also a sucker's game





This exercise shows us that it is easy enough to construct rules in an isolated environment, but another thing to accept and respect them in real life. We were not willing to accept the rules we suggested once they would be applied to ourselves.





When giving the ranks everyone thought they would be ranked the highest.

We are all dealt different cards in life.

We should be ready for the consequences





Fair rules are important so that each individual has the opportunity to make the most of their situation





This game was not fair! Even though we decided to be what we wanted to be. Because the CEO got to get the largest cards and the unemployed got to get the smallest cards. In this case, it was not fair already.

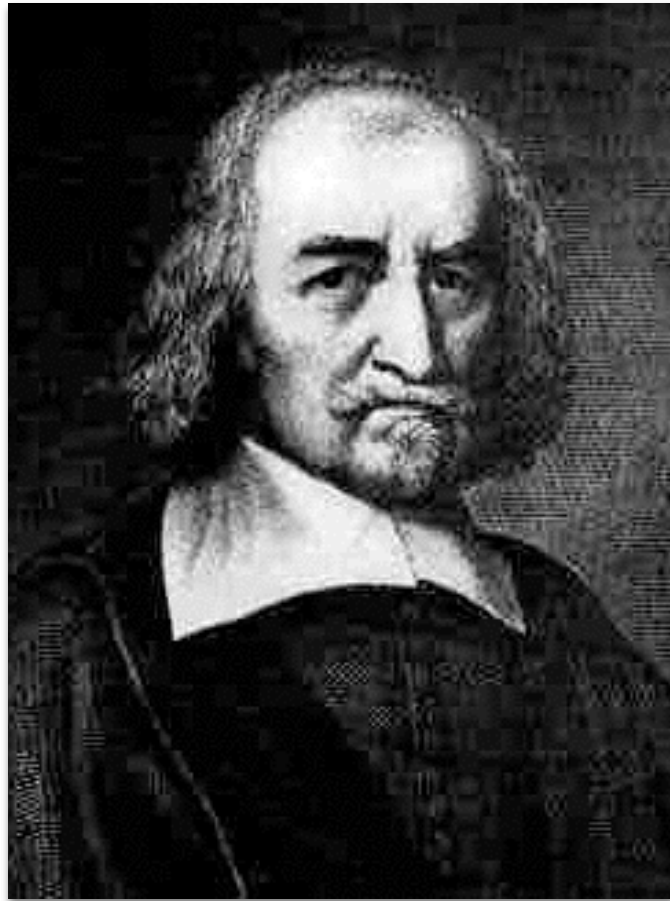
The importance of constructing the society is that everybody has an equal opportunity to vote or speak. Equality is the most important thing for all citizens.



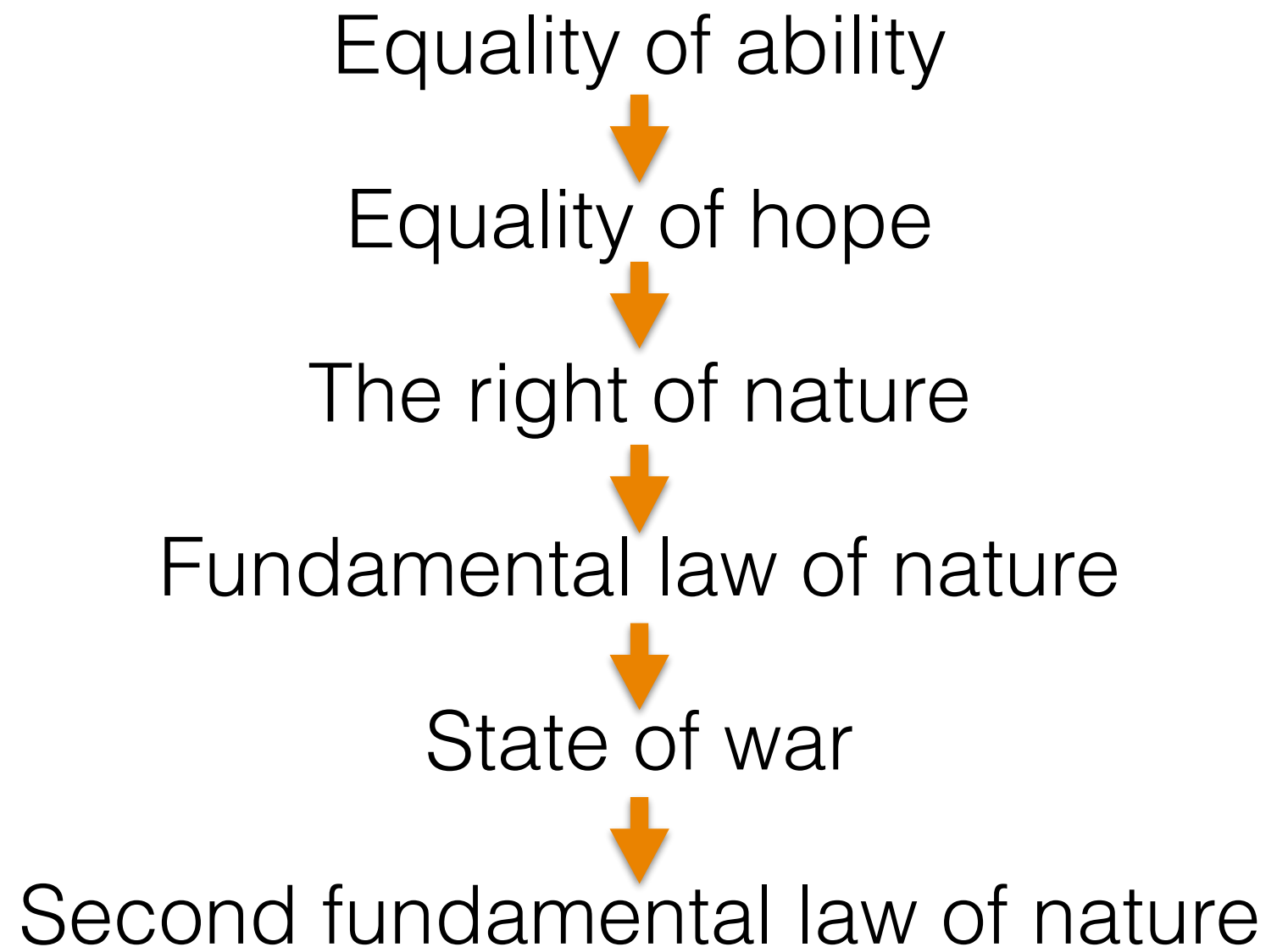
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I guess everyone should have equal opportunity regardless of their social standing.

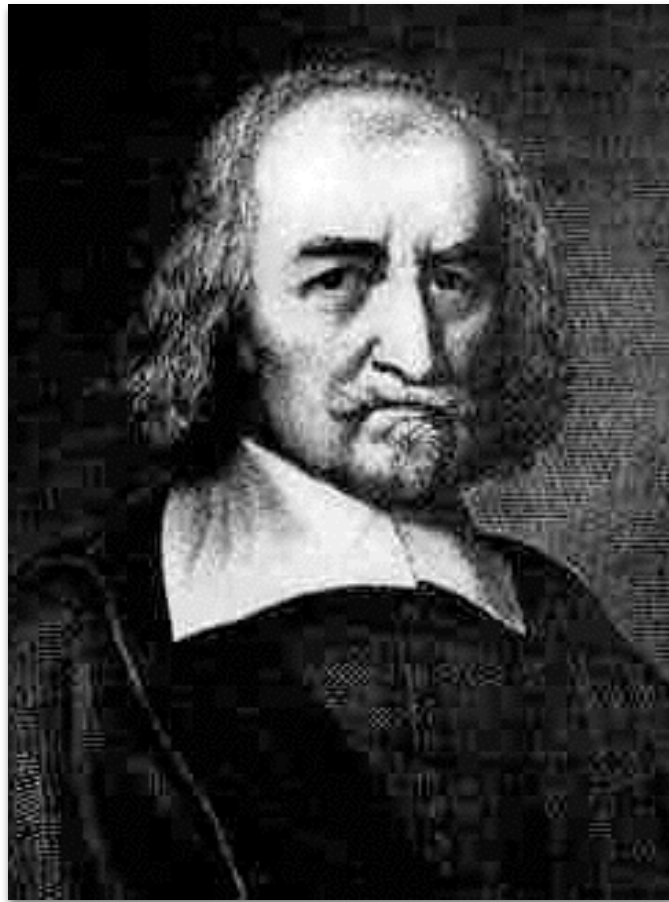
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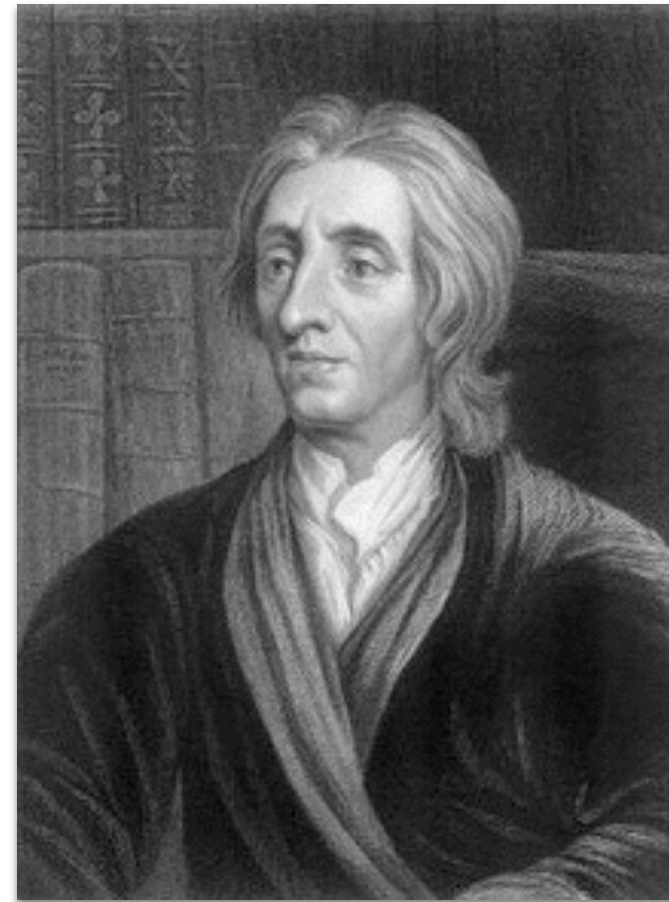
Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)



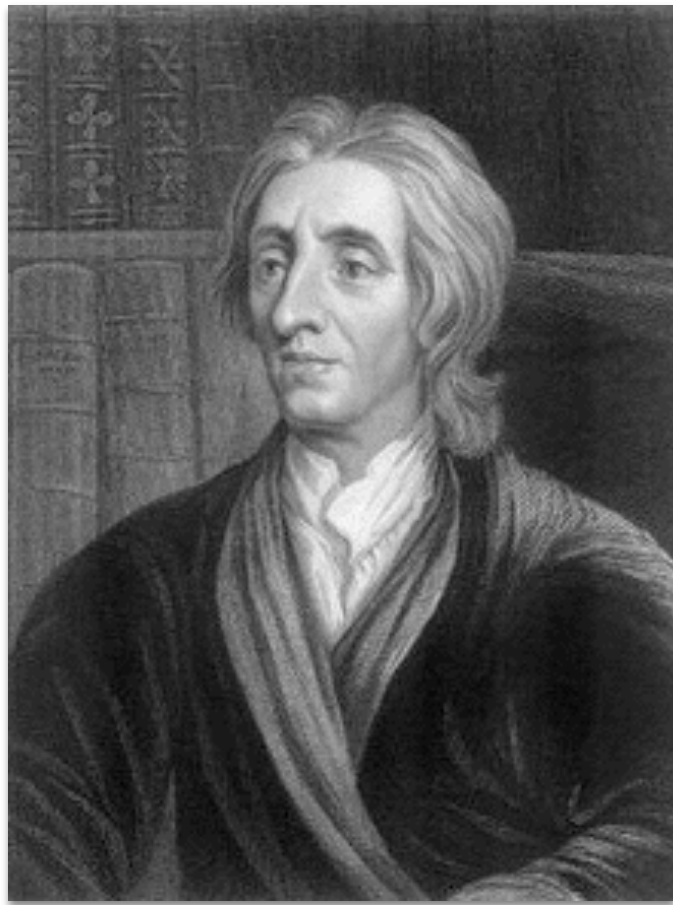




Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

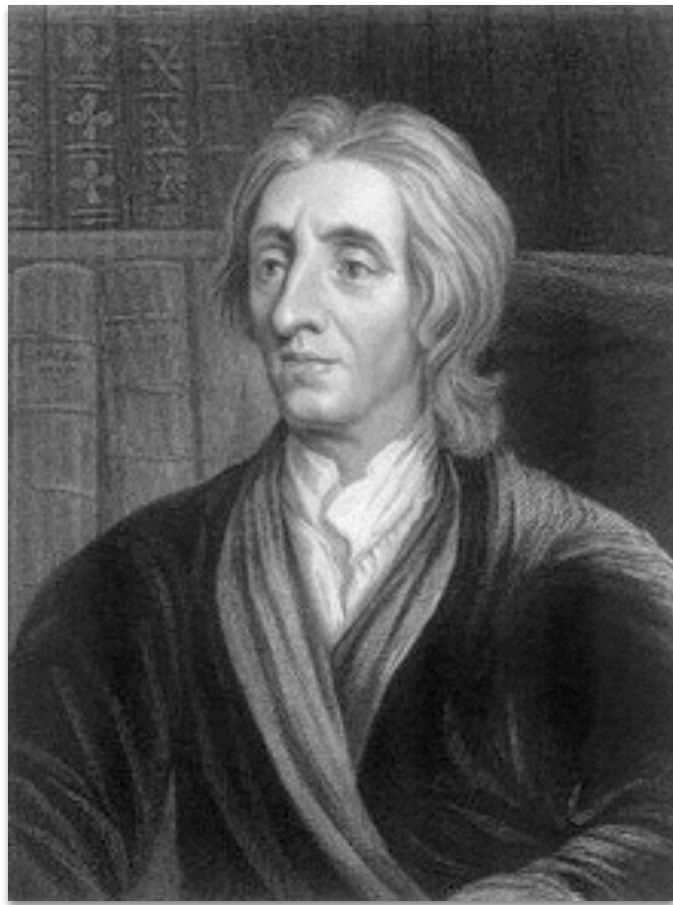


John Locke (1632-1704)



John Locke (1632-1704)

- British philosopher
- Oxford educated
- Studied medicine...known for his philosophical works
- Empiricist



John Locke (1632-1704)

“

...a State of perfect Freedom to order their Actions, and dispose of their Possessions, and Persons as they think fit, within the bounds of Law of Nature, without asking leave, or depending upon the Will of any other Man.

- Locke, Two Treatises (II.II.4)

”



# Poll

## Question

Whose version of the state of nature do you find more plausible?

- A Hobbes
- B Locke

Everyone is free to order their lives

Everyone is equal

Property is a moral fact about humans

Natural  
Resources

+

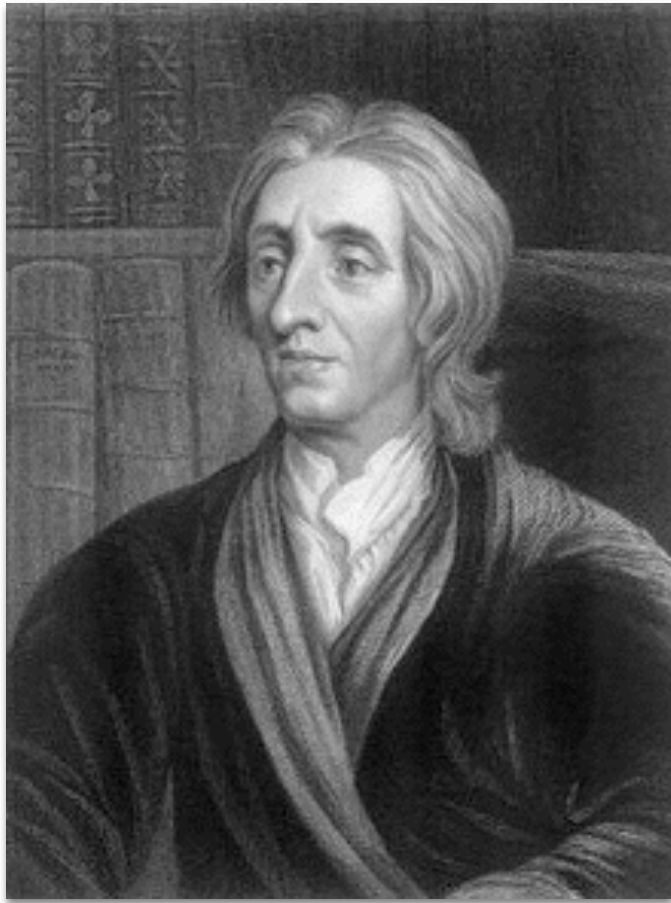
Labour



Private  
Property







John Locke (1632-1704)

“

But though this be a State of Liberty, yet it is not a State of Licence...

- Locke, Two Treatises (II.II.6)

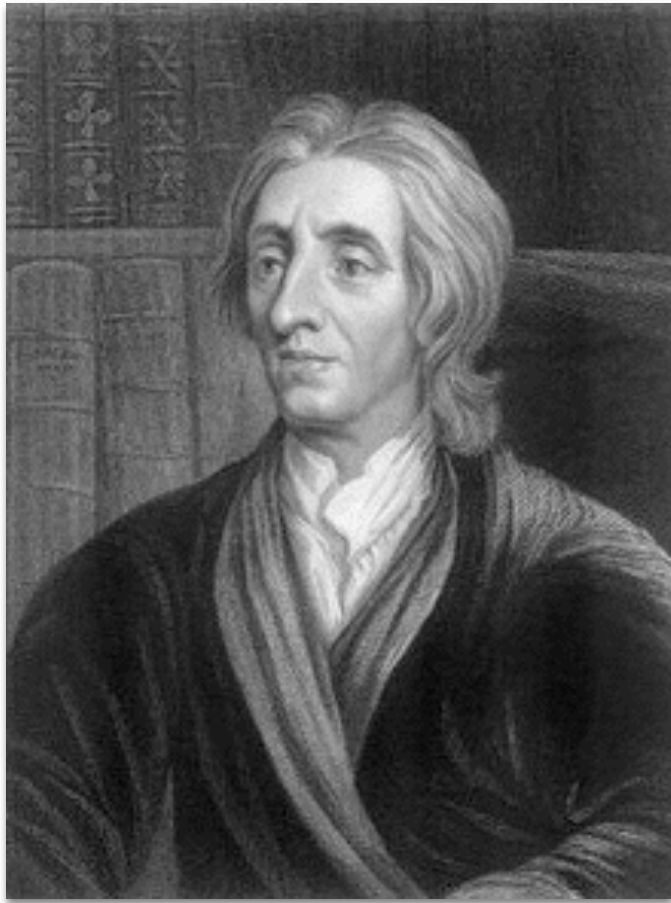
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There are constraints to our Liberty

We can't destroy ourselves

We don't have a claim on another person





John Locke (1632-1704)

“

The State of Nature has a Law of Nature to govern it, which obliges every one: And Reason, which is that Law, teaches all Mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his Life, Health, Liberty, or Possessions.

- Locke, Two Treatises (II.II.6)

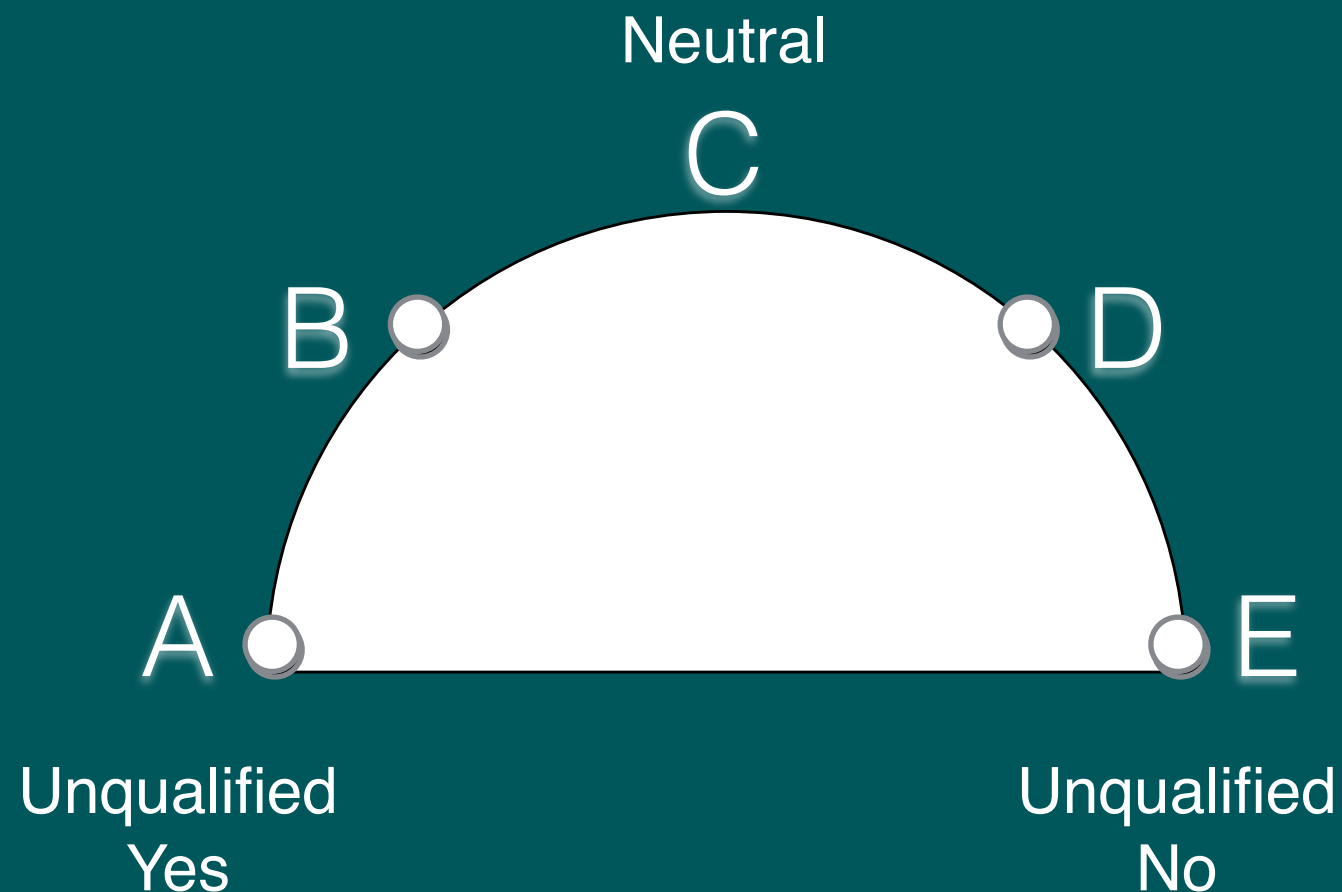
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# Poll

## Question

Does the phrase life, liberty, and security of the person mean anything to you?



**LEGAL RIGHTS**

Life, liberty and security of person

**7.** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

How is this law given to us?

Through reason

It is in our interest to follow the law. Why?

Because that is what preserves life

Violators in essence make themselves the exception to the rule (given by reason)

And violators must be punished



Everyone has the right to punish those who break the Law of Nature



The state of nature is unstable

A state of war ensues...

...a state of enmity and destruction





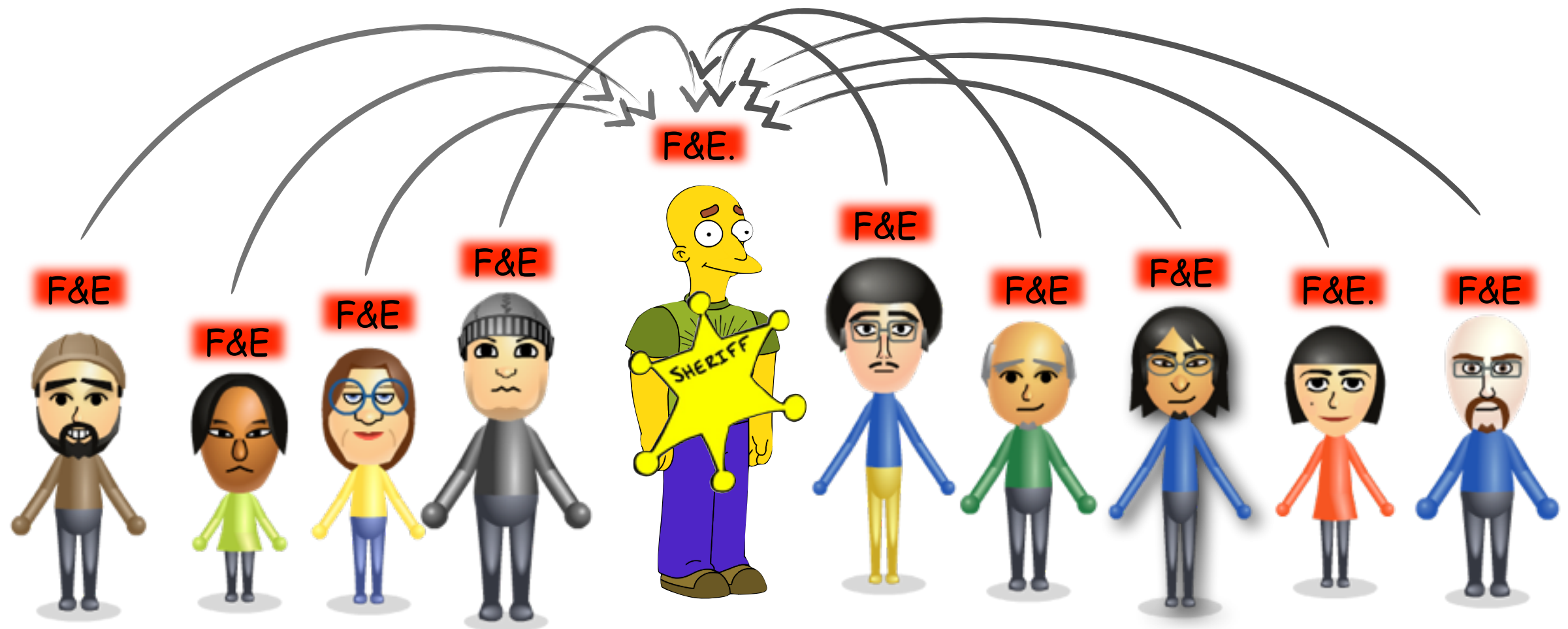
Our Life, Health, Liberty, and Possessions are threatened in a state of war

This is what compels us to form into civil society





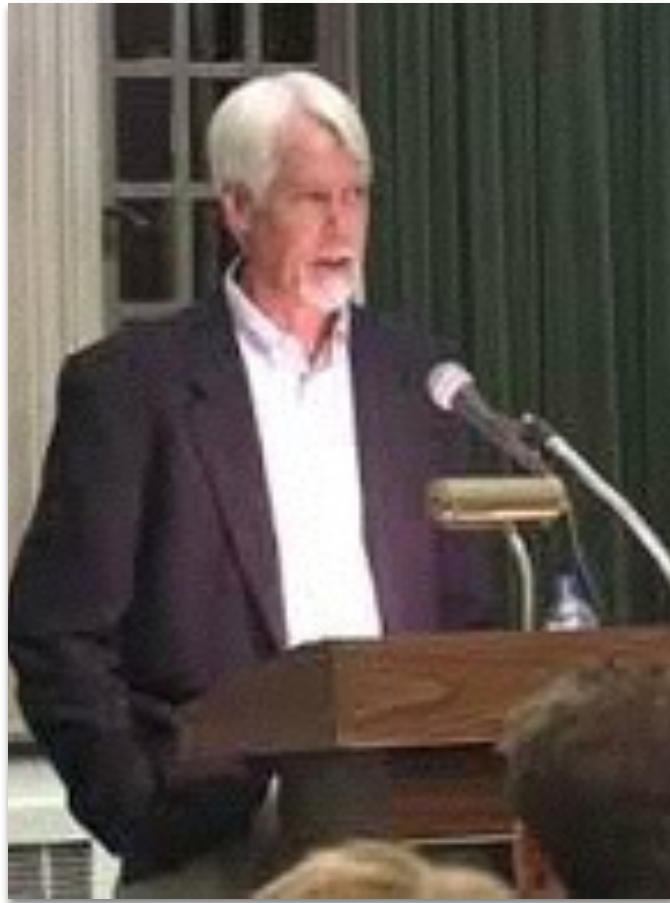
We give up the right to punish  
And confer it onto the state



We give up some freedom

But it is better than the alternative  
(we cannot be free in the state of war)

The state doesn't have any power  
apart from what we give it



A. John Simmons (?)

“

Political power is morally legitimate, and those subject to it are morally obligated to obey, only where the subjects have freely consented to the exercise of such power and only where that power continues to be exercised within the terms of the consent given.

- A. John Simmons, *Justification and Legitimacy*, 745

”

What is freedom for Hobbes?

What is freedom for Locke?



# Poll

## Question

Whose conception of freedom do you find more compelling?

- A Hobbes
- B Locke



1. Naive conception of freedom
2. Liberal conception of freedom

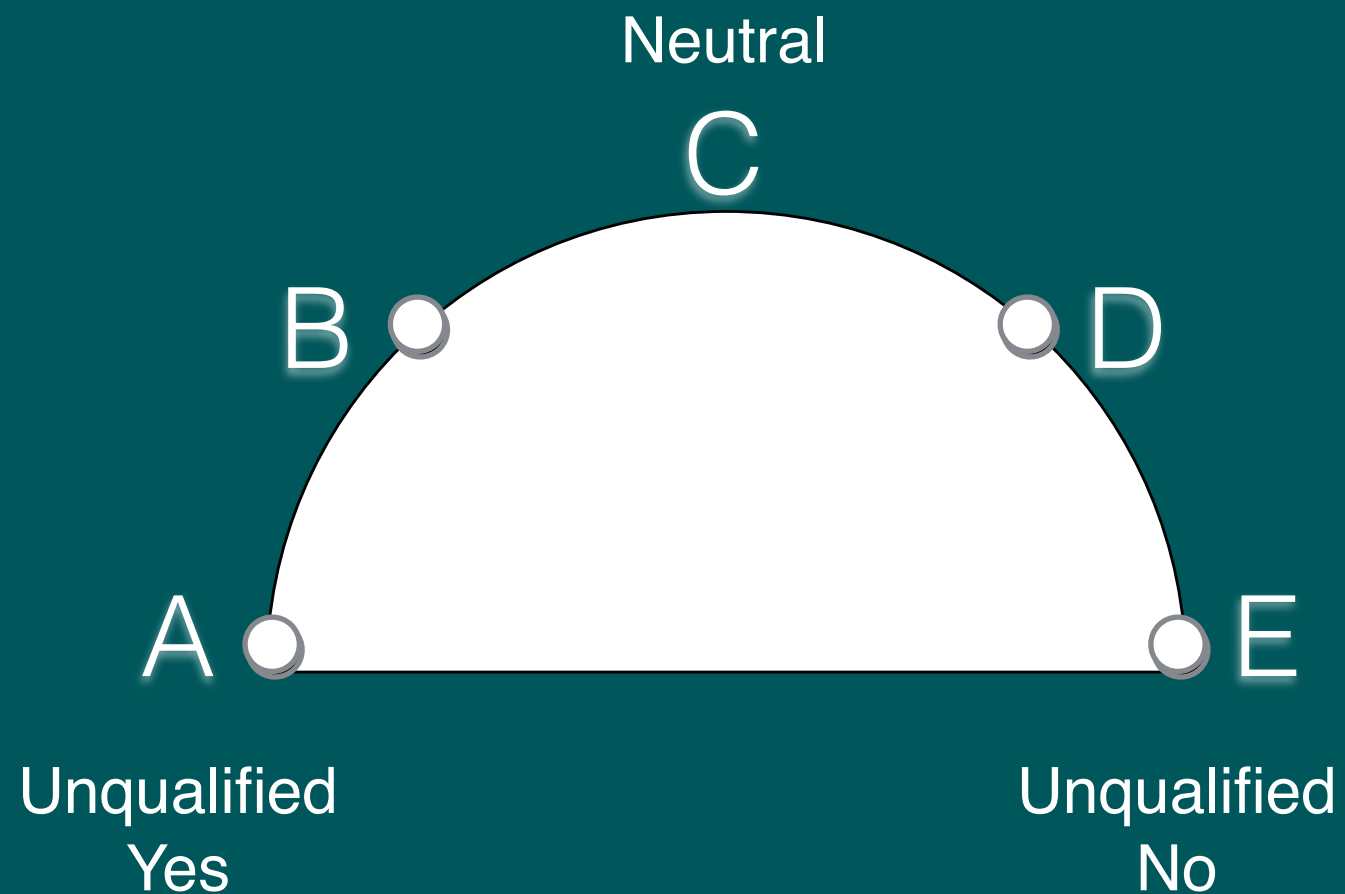
What other conceptions of freedom are there?



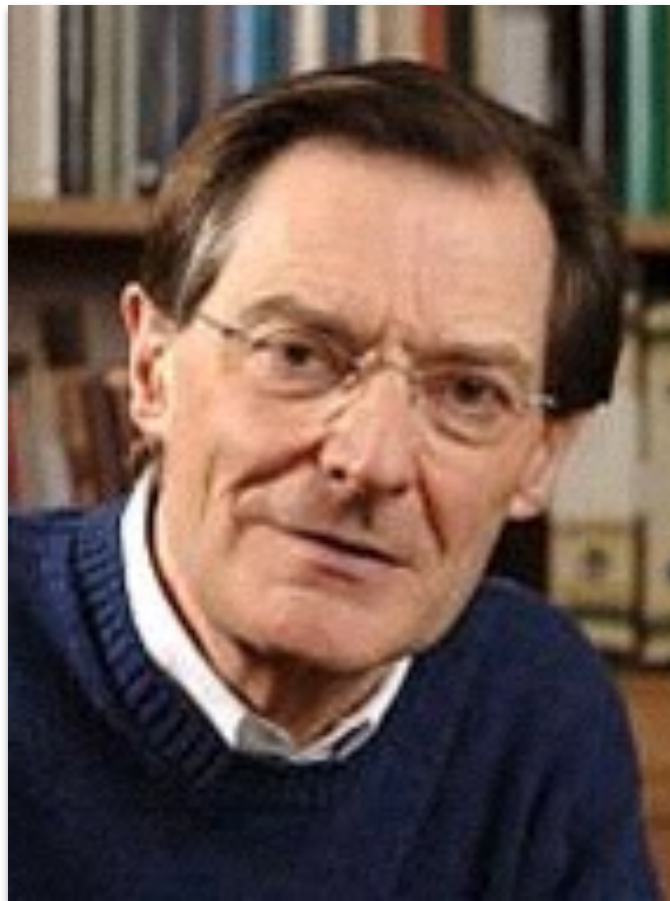
# Poll

## Question

Have you seen the movie *300*?







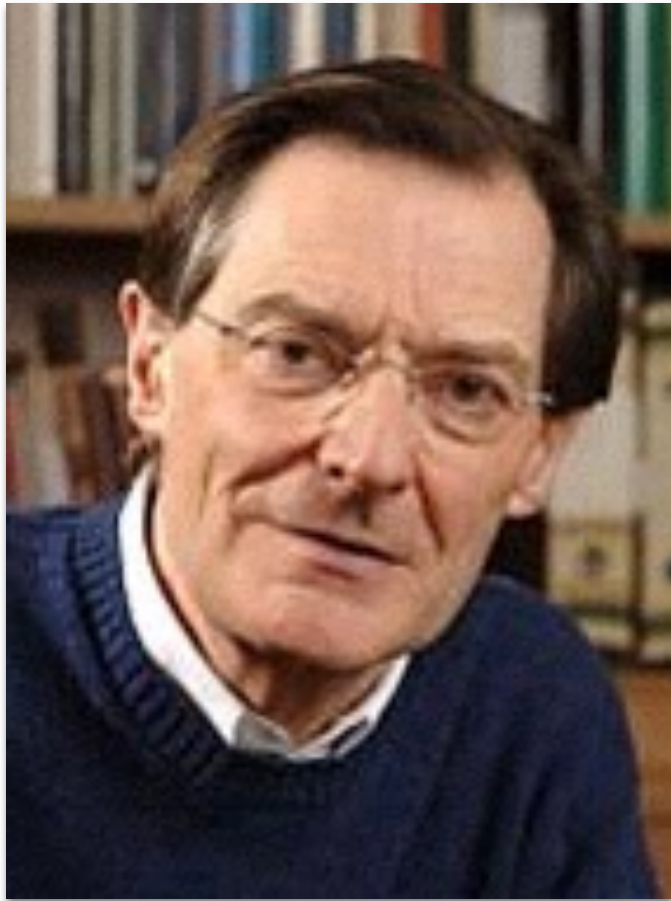
Quentin Skinner (1940 - )

“

...for individuals no less than for communities, there will always be two distinct routes by which freedom can be forfeited or undermined.

- Quentin Skinner, “Liberty before Liberalism.”

”



Quentin Skinner (1940 - )

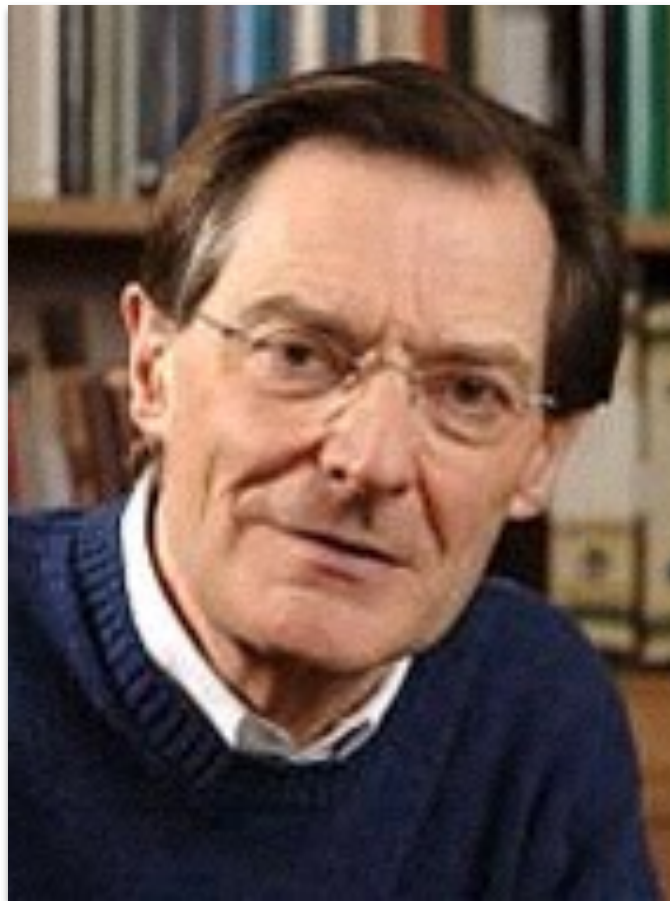
“

First of all, you will of course be deprived of your liberty if the power of the state is used to force or coerce you into performing (or forbearing from performing) any action neither enjoined nor forbidden by law...

- Quentin Skinner, “Liberty before Liberalism.”

”





Quentin Skinner (1940 - )

“

You will also be rendered unfree if you merely fall into a condition of political subjection or dependence, thereby leaving yourself open to the danger of being forcibly or coercively deprived by your government of your life, liberty, or estates.

- Quentin Skinner, “Liberty before Liberalism.”

”

Describe a situation in which you are free (in Locke's sense) but unfree (in the neo-roman sense)

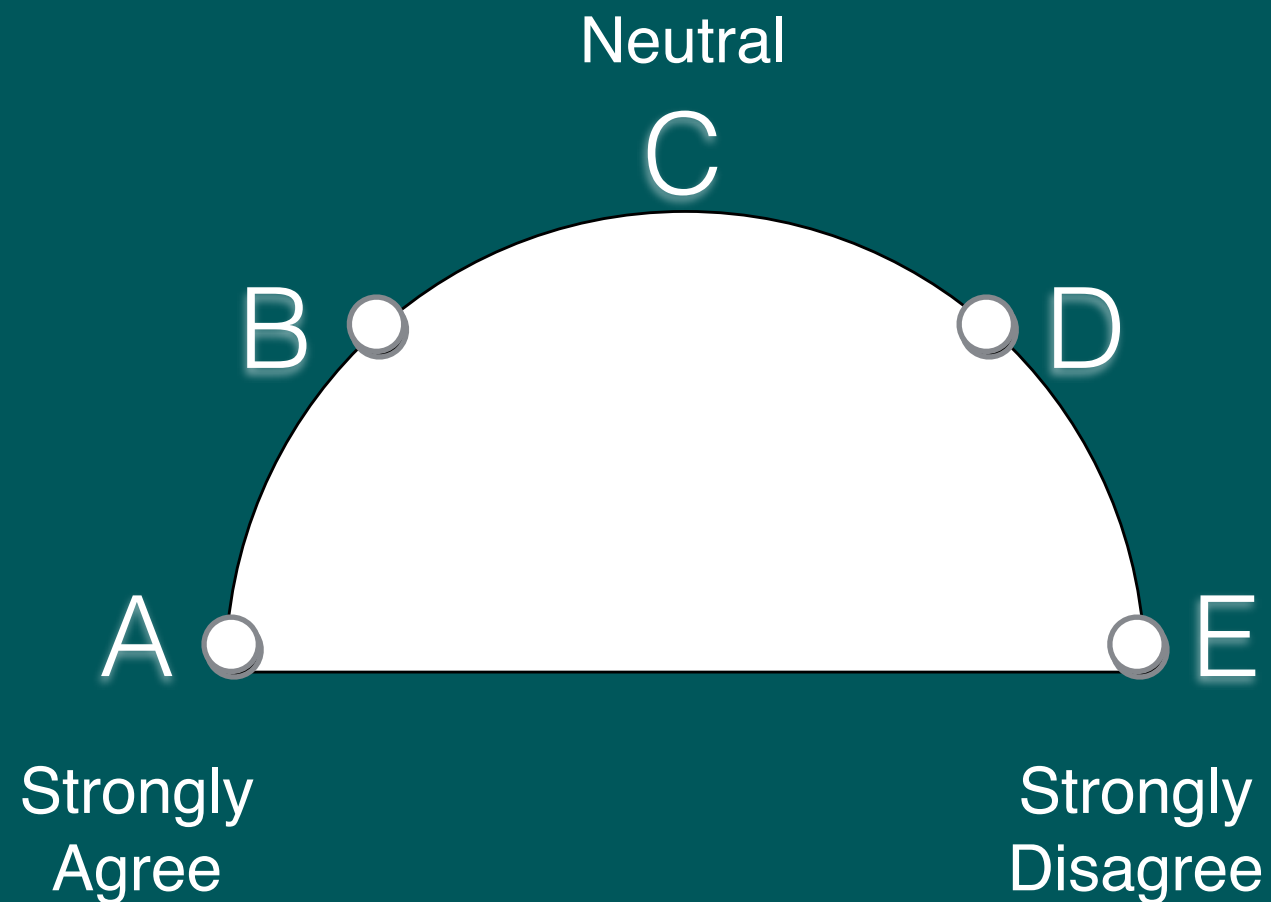




# Poll

## Question

Are you free to use your iclickers?





# Poll

## Question

Is this fair?

