

You are in a state of Nature:

How do you respond?



The Age of Absolutism
1600 – 1715

Absolute Power or Constitutional
Monarchy?

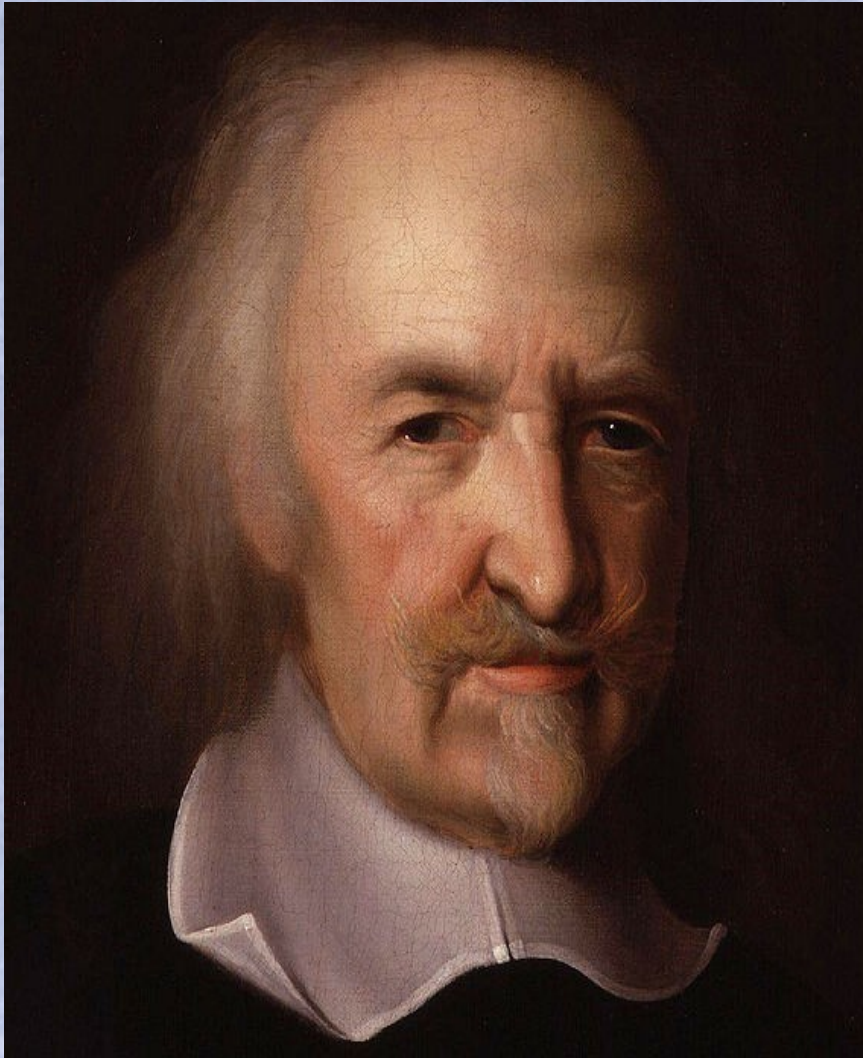
Political Philosophies

After the Reformation two different, contradictory approaches to politics emerged.

They were “state of nature” theories. They start with a point in time before any formal government system had evolved and make a theory about what would happen.

“State of Nature”

The Philosophers

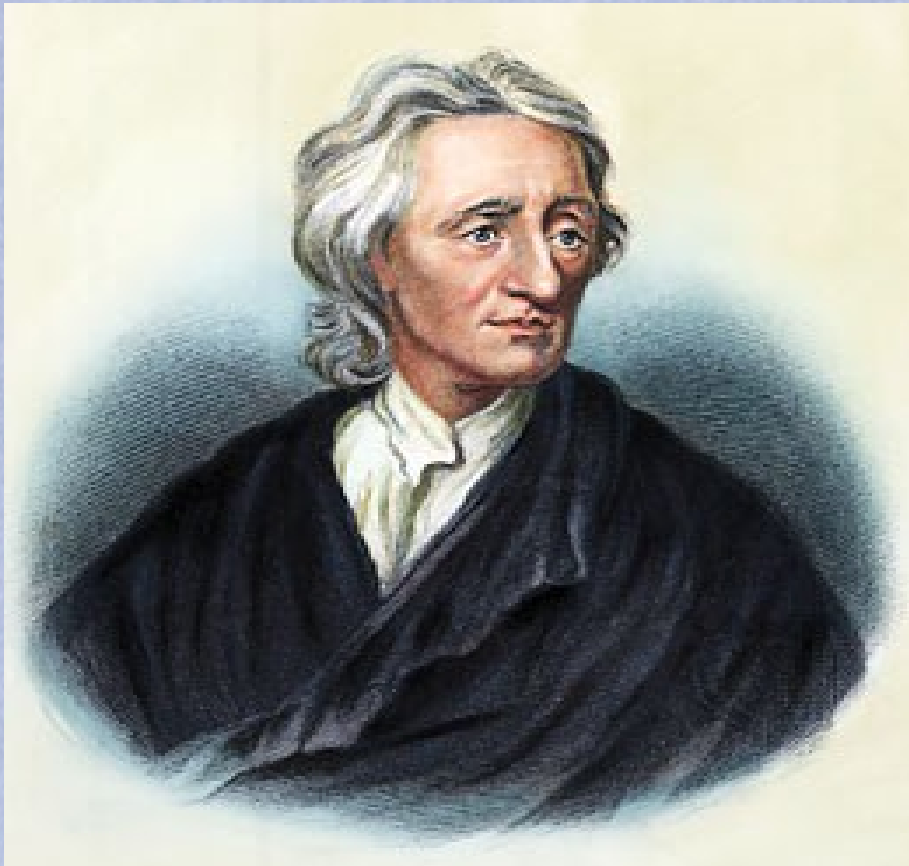


Thomas Hobbes
(1588 - 1679)

- English
Philosopher
- *Leviathan* –
written during
the English Civil
War

- “human beings were by nature selfish and aggressive, and left to their own resources would be in a state of chaos”
- Everyone has to survive and they will do what is necessary to do so.
- Human beings would draw a social contract which gave authority to one person, a single ruler and in exchange they would get a level of security
- Ahhhhhh...the Absolute Monarch is Justified!!!!

John Locke 1632 - 1704



John Locke

(1632 - 1704)

- Influential,
Enlightened,
English,
Philosopher

- Natural Law – use of reasons to analyze human behaviour
- Social Contract - people overtime would willingly join together to form societies. People would exchange some of their freedom to live in a free society
- Right to life, liberty and property – natural rights
- Government should protect a person's natural right
- His liberal theory is reflected in the American Declaration of Independence

Summary

- **Hobbes - “Man against Man”**

Divine Right of Kings – Certain kings ruled because they were chosen by God to be Kings. Monarchy ruled by absolute control.

- **Locke - “Reason”**

- **Natural Law Political Thinkers – there are natural laws which should govern states and people**

1. Natural Law Political Thinkers – there are natural laws which should govern states and people
2. Divine Right of Kings – Certain kings ruled because they were chosen by God to be Kings. Monarchy ruled by absolute control.

Current Examples

- In a small group find
 - 1 current example of a state of nature
 - 1 current example of a liberal state or pure democracy
 - 1 current example of absolute control

Appensell – Landsgemeinden “Democratic Assemblies”



The End of the Reformation

The Thirty Years War and
Treaty of Westphalia

See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B18zwAVO4q0>
for a funny summary. Prezi for my summary.

Introducing the Absolute Monarchs..... In France.....

- The Sun King
 - Louis XIV of France (House of Bourbon)
 - (b. 1638) 1643 – 1715
 - Strong military, nationhood, central government, bribery, approval of all laws
 - Most famous for building Versailles – a symbol of absolutism and the ancien regime



In Russia....



- Peter The Great
 - Russia (1672 – 1725)
 - Westernized and expanded Russian Empire
 - Filled important posts based on merit
 - Controlled every part of life, centralized gov't, reduced nobility power

In England...Absolutism didn't go so well...



- James I
 - Inherited throne from Elizabeth I
 - Golden Age continued and invested in Arts
 - Sold titles, lavish spending
 - Constant conflict with Parliament over his policies
 - Religious Conflict

England – Charles I (R. 1625 - 1649)

- Son of James I
- Suspended Parliament for over 10 years– close to absolute rule
- Forced to recall to fund war with Ireland
- Civil War 1643 – 49 between Royalists and Parliament
- Charles lost and was beheaded in 1649 (Charles II followed and country was a de facto republic ruled by Oliver Cromwell)



- Glorious Revolution – Dutch William of Orange and Wife Mary took over James II (Charles I second son) ruled and passed Bill of Rights -making sure Parliament would not be suspended again

Conclusions