

The background is a dark blue gradient with several faint, light blue circular patterns. On the left side, there is a large circular scale with numerical markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. The scale is partially obscured by other circular elements. There are also several smaller circles, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction, scattered across the background.

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CONTEXT

- Rousseau was active at the height of the French Enlightenment.
- He was one of the editors of Encyclopedia, the crowning glory of the Enlightenment, which was meant to serve as a record of all human knowledge.
- Influenced by both the Conservatives (Hobbes) and Liberals (Locke).
- Published Social Contract in 1762.

ROUSSEAU'S PHILOSOPHY

- According to Rousseau, the State of Nature was a peaceful and quixotic time. People lived solitary, uncomplicated lives.
- Their few needs were easily satisfied by nature, so, competition was non-existent.
- He also believed that humans are naturally compassionate, and therefore were not inclined to bring harm to one another.

- The invention of private property, which constituted the pivotal moment in humanity's evolution out of a simple, pure state into one characterized by greed, competition, vanity, inequality and vice.
- Eventually, those who have property notice that it would be in their interests to create a government that would protect private property from those who do not have it.

- So, government gets established, through a social contract, which purports to guarantee equality and protection for all, even though its true purpose is to fossilize the very inequalities has produced.
- this, then, is the source of conflict in Rousseau's son.

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

- “Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.”
- In other words, society has a tendency to repress some while benefitting others.
- A social contract must be made among all people. The sovereign is the popular will of the collective whole of which all individuals are a part.
- Legitimate political authority resides in the people.

- People come together to set the general will, the common good, and agree to abide by what it says.
- but “ that whoever refuses to obey the general will shall be compelled to do so by the whole body. This means nothing less than that he will be forced to be free; for this is the condition which, by giving each citizen to his country, secured him against all personal dependence.

SYNTHESIS

- Hobbes
 - HN : Evil
 - SON : Brutal
 - SC : Leviathan
- Locke
 - HN : Good
 - SON : Perfect freedom
 - SC

Civil Government

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