

# Second Treatise of Government

John Locke

# Chapter 1

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## Obsolete Sources of Political Power

1. Adam's Private Dominion and Paternal Jurisdiction
  - a. Divine Right of Kids
2. Force

# Chapter 1

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Argument Against Divine Right of Kings (p. 286)

1. Adam did not have authority over his children
2. (Even if he did) Heirs had no right to this authority
3. (Even if they did) There was no law of succession
4. (Even if there were) It is impossible to track it

Therefore, God cannot be a source of political power

# Chapter 1

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## John Locke's Goal

1. Find a legitimate source of political power
  - a. Political Power
    - i. Right of making laws and punishments
      1. Goal: regulating and preserving property
    - ii. Employing the force of community
      1. Execution of laws
      2. Defense
  - iii. All this: PUBLIC GOOD

# Chapter 2: Understanding Political Power

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## 1. State of Nature

### a. State of Perfect Freedom

#### i. Order their actions and possessions

##### a. Within bounds of Laws of Nature

#### ii. Not state of license

### b. State of Equality

#### i. Same advantages

#### ii. Same faculties

#### iii. No subordination

##### 1. Mutual Love → Duties to one another: Justice and Charity

# Chapter 2: Understanding Political Power

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## 1. State of Liberty

### a. Not of Licence

- i. No liberty to destroy himself
- ii. No liberty to destroy any creature in his possession

### b. LAW OF NATURE

- i. “No one ought to harm another in his life, liberty and possessions”
  - 1. Creatures→ God’s
  - 2. Equality→ no subordination
- ii. Execution: every man’s hands
  - 1. Reparation and Restraint
    - a. Rights: Punishment and Reparation

# Chapter 2: Understanding Political Power

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## 1. Goal of Human Beings

- a. Self-Preservation
- b. Preservation of mankind
  - i. Except when preservation is at stake
  - ii. Harm to others → when justice to offender
    - 1. Execution: every man's hands
      - a. Reparation and Restraint
        - i. Rights: Punishment and Reparation
          - 1. Renounced reason → war against mankind

# Chapter 2: Objections

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1. State of Nature: Men with Executive Power
  - a. Judges in their own case
    - i. Partial to themselves
  - b. Revenge
    - i. Answer: Civil Government is the Remedy
      - i. Goal: Solve Inconveniencies of State of Nature
        1. Objection: Absolute Monarchies not civil government (p. 289-290)
          - a. Absolute Monarchs=Men
            - i. Does not solve the problem

# Chapter 2: Understanding Political Power

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## 1. State of Nature

- a. Currently: among governments
- b. End of State of Nature
  - i. Contract
    - 1. “Agreeing together mutually to enter into one community, and make one body politic”
      - a. All other contracts can be made in State of Nature
        - i. Nature of Men: truth and truth keeping

# Ch. 2: State of Nature Summary

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## 1. State of Nature

- a. Freedom
- b. Moral Duties
  - i. Justice and Charity
- c. Law of Nature
- d. Human beings
  - i. Equality
  - ii. Truth keeping
    - 1. Can make contracts
  - iii. Fellowship
  - iv. Goal: Self-Preservation and Preservation of Mankind
  - v. Right to Execute the Law of Nature
    - 1. Brings inconveniences

# Ch.3

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## 1. State of War

- a. State of Enmity
- b. State of Destruction
  - i. Design upon another's life
    - 1. Law of Nature
      - a. Right to destroy that which threatens me
        - i. Breaking laws → outside ties of reason
          - 1. Rule: Force and violence
            - a. Treated as beasts

# Ch. 3

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## 1. State of Nature

- a. Men living according to reason
- b. No common power
  - i. Want of common judge**

## 2. State of War

- a. Force or declaration of force upon another
- b. No common power
  - i. Force without right**
    - 1. Avoid it: Civil Society

# Ch. 5

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## 1. State of Nature

### a. Property

#### i. Man: property in is own person

#### 1. Labor: property of man

#### a. Acquisition of property → input labor

#### i. labor=value

## 2. Limits of Property

### a. As long as it is not spoiled

### b. Leave enough for the rest

# Ch. 7: Civil Society

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## 1. Political Society needs:

- a. Power to preserve property
- b. Punish offences

## 2. Formation

- a. Members quit natural powers (Quit Executive Power)
  - 1. Reason: Comfortable, Safe and Peaceable living
  - ii. Preserve property (life, liberty, estate)
  - iii. Judge and punish
- b. Resign them into the hands of **community**
  - i. Therefore: Community is the umpire
    - 1. Settles rules
    - 2. Impartial

# Ch. 7: Civil Society

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## 1. Civil Society

### a. One body politic

- i. Common established law
- ii. Authority to decide controversies
- iii. Authority to punish

#### **1. Goal of Commonwealth: Preservation of Property**

### a. Judgement of Commonwealth=Judgment of citizen

- i. Men authorize government to execute their power

### b. Out of state of Nature

- i. Judge to determine a the controversies and redress injury
  - 1. Therefore: Absolute Monarchy is Inconsistent (p. 310)

# Ch.9: OF the Ends of Political Society and Government

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1. Why do human beings limit their freedom?
  - i. State of nature
    1. Humans: no strict observers of justice
      - a. Uncertain enjoyment of right
      - b. Exposed to invasion of others
        - i. Limited enjoyment of property
  - b. Civil Society
    - i. Mutual preservation of lives, liberties and estates
      1. GOAL of Union: Preservation of Property

# Ch.9: OF the Ends of Political Society and Government

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## State of Nature Lacks

1. Established, settled and known Law
2. Known and indifferent judge
3. Power to back and support sentence
4. Man's Powers
  - a. Protect himself and community (Civil society: regulated by law)
  - b. Punish crimes (Civil society: men assist the executive power of society)

## **Solution: Civil Society**

1. Everyone gives up right to punish
  - a. Authorization from community to makes laws and punish
    - i. Origin of Executive and Legislative power
      1. Extent of Power: Common Good
        - a. Peace, safety and public good

# Ch. 17 and 18: Tyranny and Usurpation

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# Ch. 19: Dissolution of Government

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