

GV150 Week 19 The Social Contract Questions

Lecture:

1. How can we reconcile Rousseau's dismissal of property as problematic, and his view that the social contract will protect it?
2. What is the relationship between the General Will and government after Rousseau's social contract has been entered?
3. What are the different external forces that drive positive outcomes according to Locke and Rousseau, and how does the affect the extent to which the thinkers are opposed?

Reading:

4. How did Hobbes and Locke legitimate government?
5. When do humans legitimately leave the state of nature to form a government?
6. What does it take for a government to be legitimate?
7. Why must we all be equal in the social compact?
8. What do we gain, and at what price, by leaving the state of nature and joining in a General Will?
9. What's the difference between the "will of all" and the General Will?
10. Why is Rousseau so sure that recognizing the General Will as Sovereign will not harm the individual?
11. How does Rousseau reconcile the idea of the Lawgiver with the idea that legislation must be made by the General Will?
12. What sort of laws will the General Will make?
13. How does Rousseau ensure that our votes on the General Will will really reflect the generality?
14. How "free" was savage man?
15. Why does Rousseau connect freedom and equality so strongly?
16. Who do we obey when submitting to the sovereignty of the General Will?
17. What is the "moral" freedom we get from being in a state?
18. What natural characteristics of man, outlined in the Discourse, might be turned towards helping us become more morally free?