

# John Locke (1632-1704) Britain

SN all are equal -  
Freedom except  
we can't harm  
others

born in Brighton, son of a Parliamentary captain in civil wars, studied medicine; personal physician and advisor to the Earl of Shaftesbury, Locke gave guidelines for how a limited government should operate; first (only?) philosopher to enjoy prestige as a philosopher - his political theory, published anonymously and circulated widely, was regarded as the justification for the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 in which powers of the king were significantly reduced

British  
Parliamentary  
democracy

- defended capitalism

profited from...  
Overthrow of James II  
by Parliament (1688-89)

no more absolute power

1776 July 4th Dec of Indep.

## In the State of Nature...

- we are all subject to the law of nature (liberty but not license); we have freedom but not arbitrarily; we are forbidden from harming others but have a right to restrain transgressors and punish others - executive law of nature.

- in a state of nature people have complete liberty and are equal
- law of nature - we cannot harm another being or yourself
- we all own ourselves so we have private property immediately
- individuals must be protected by the authority of the state so the authority must be limited

1. social contract - set up a society with liberty (but not license)
  2. contract of government - set up a government "in trust" that strives for the common good and legitimizes the right of revolution
- thus the powers of government are limited and revocable

## Labour Theory of Property:

- the earth is given to us all in common, but we own our own bodies and activities, so if we mix our labour with something, it becomes ours.
- we can't own so much that it spoils; we have to use all we own
- we can't deprive others; have limited property

BUT - limited property is unsatisfactory...

- sol'n - money - now can have unlimited property
- can legitimately buy other people's labour and own more private property
- money doesn't spoil
- accumulating wealth will not deprive other because you can employ them (he's describing a capitalist system)

BUT - may get war out of jealousy and protection of property  
sol'n- need a democratic government to ...

- set up laws
- use impartial judges to rule
- majority government

BUT - must have the right to rebel and have revolutions

- three types of necessary power
- parental - over children until they have reason
- political - over society for protection and preservation of property
- despotical - over individual when put in a state of war

Parliament  
was for people

gov

MAN OWN  
PROPERTY

BUT → illusion of a level playing field