

"man is born free yet everywhere he is in chains"

feeling vs reason

5

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

dropped out at 12.

- born in Switzerland the son of a watchmaker; mother was an aristocrat but father was middle class; mother died and father left; had to work as a journeyman, travelled around and lived mainly in France; at 37 wrote an essay for a contest, won and became famous; at 42 wrote a discourse: man is naturally good, becomes evil through institutions and society; his work was condemned and he spent the remainder of his life in misery; was paranoid - mainly feared the R.C. Inquisition (many being killed or banished for heresy); had five children raised by others;

man is good → made bad via society

- "true" democracy - each vote on everything

Votes (without representation)

The Paradox of Learning

- ancient politicians spoke of morals and virtues; ours speak only of money; money cannot buy morals
- if everyone is allowed to pursue their own thoughts, there will be differences of opinion and deep skepticism will emerge; a stable society is based on a set of opinions which the majority accepts as the rule; society is kept binded by faith, not knowledge

In the State of Nature..

→ (like in Germany with good & true culture (unspoilt))

- people were motivated by a natural sentiment which inclines every animal to watch over their own preservation which produces humanity and virtue
- evil is found in the later stages of people's development in society
- BUT - as man develops a social contracts, he develops vices and becomes motivated by an artificial sentiment which leads every individual to make more of him/herself than any other
- SO, we must have total alienation of each associate together with all his rights to the whole community
- through social contract, people lose their natural liberty and gain civil liberty; people must follow the "general will" which is for the good of all

- people attack only if provoked; our wants are few only if not corrupted by civilization
- trying to improve our lot leads to loss of paradise (possessiveness) - the Earth belongs to all and none
- need democracy without representation (true democracy) - because humans are good by nature, can be trusted to rule selves; but must leave personal wishes and ambitions behind when voting (representation makes a mockery of democracy)
- all opinions together form a general will which can't be wrong
- if you're in the minority, then you must be wrong - moral correctness determined by votes
- thinking makes us selfish - strive towards natural world

↓ assumes intelligence

BUT - no recourse to civil disobedience

- unattainable idea - majority represses minority

~~corrupt~~

Kalibari Society - no votes for that