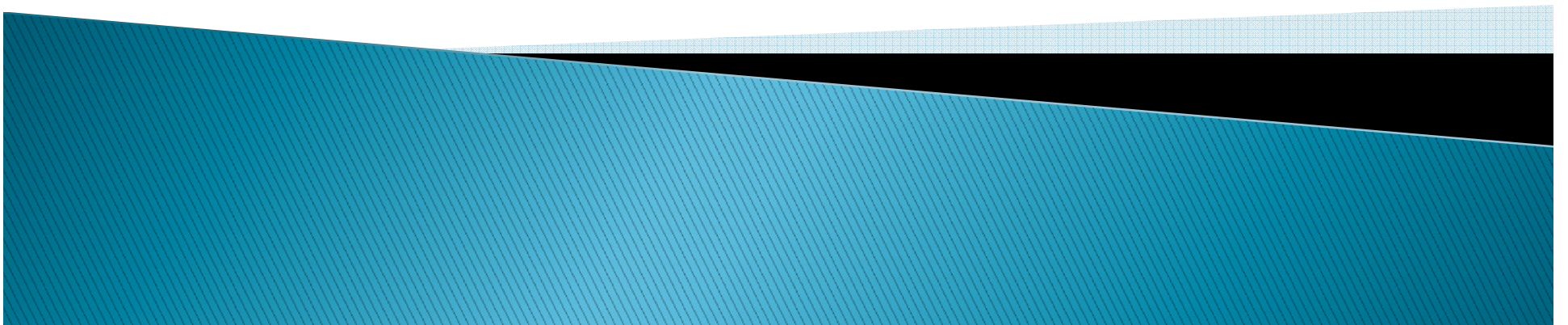



Jean-Jacques Rousseau

An Overview

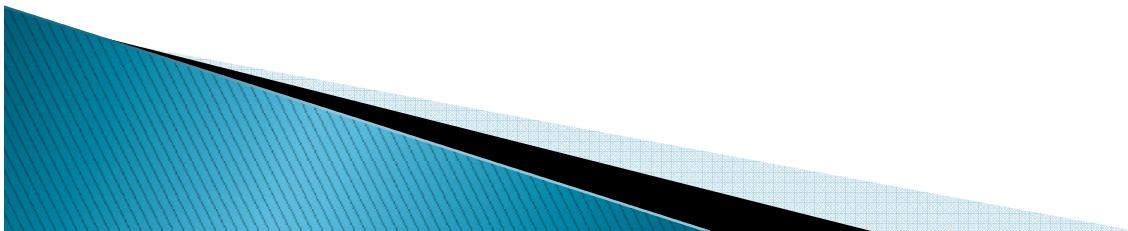


Highlights

- ▶ *Whatever rights and responsibilities the rulers and citizens have in a state are derived from some agreement; no social right is derived from nature*
 - ▶ *In a state of nature men live to preserve themselves; to make cooperation possible and to assure common security, states are instituted by social contracts*
 - ▶ *According to the social contract, when a man places himself under the control of a sovereign, he is placing himself under the control of himself and his fellow citizens, for a sovereign exists in order to safeguard the citizens*
 - ▶ *The sovereign is limited to making general laws; he cannot pass judgment upon individuals*
 - ▶ *As a result of the joining of wills by the social contract, a general will, distinguishable from a collection of individual wills, comes into being*
 - ▶ *The ideal government is a small, elected group; and the ideal state is small enough to allow the citizens to know one another*
- 

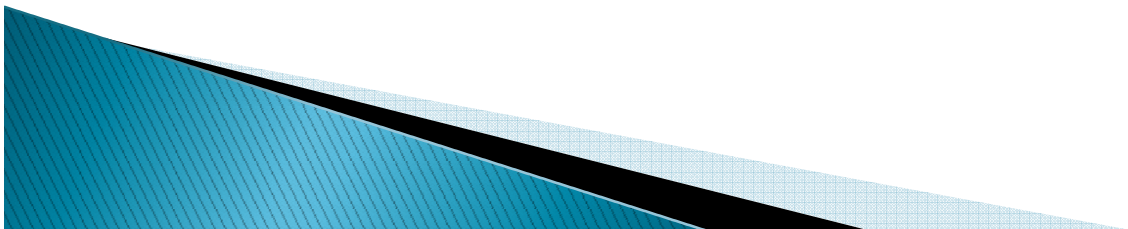
Monarchy Rule

- ▶ Rousseau is writing at a time when Absolute Monarchy was the general Rule But that form of government was seen as a failure since Louis XV AND XVI bankrupted France
- ▶ Masses lived in ignorance and poverty



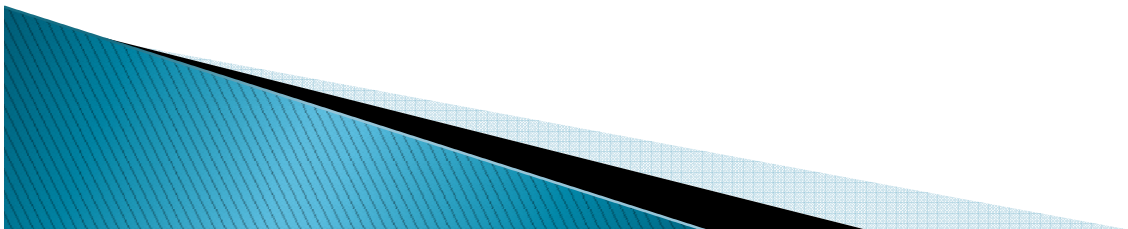
The Age of Enlightenment

- ▶ Romanticism: yearning for simpler, less complicated times the common people (farmers) were the font of all wisdom civilization had corrupted man's natural instincts
- ▶ Great Britain--a DEMOCRACY--was the up and coming power in Europe
- ▶ Rousseau saw that in the farm country--far removed from the reaches of the King--life was simple, stable, equitable, organized in a communal fashion
- ▶ what was the difference between that and the chaos of the urban areas?
EDUCATION!!
- ▶ Therefore, education--or civilization--must have somehow corrupted man's natural goodness



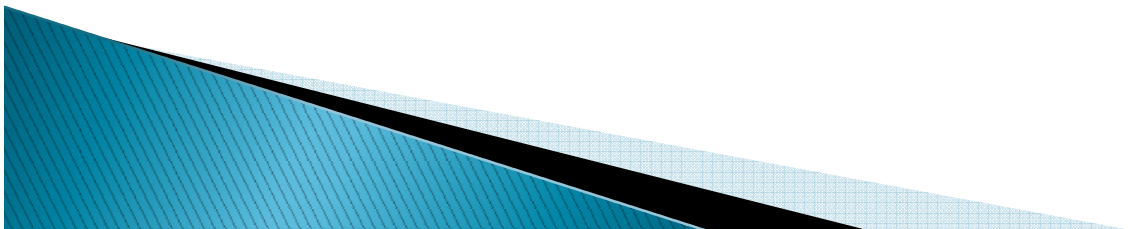
Is Monarchy The Ideal Form Of Government?

- ▶ Does MIGHT make RIGHT? NO!!
- ▶ Any LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY must involve COOPERATION and the CONSENT of the GOVERNED



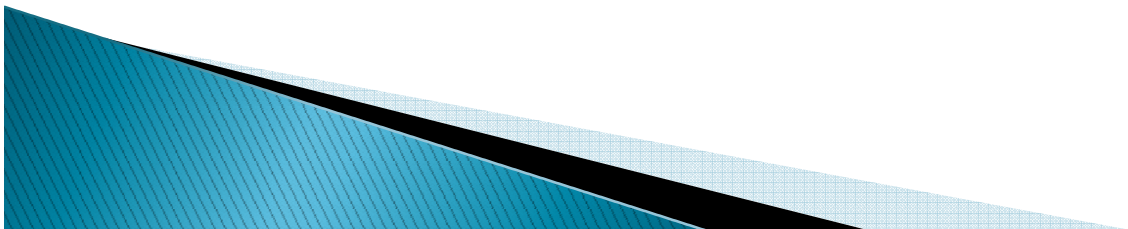
Human State of Nature

- ▶ MAN in a STATE of NATURE is FREE
He has the right to LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY
RIGHTS came from GOD
He is the Ultimate POWER
- ▶ No man is stronger than God



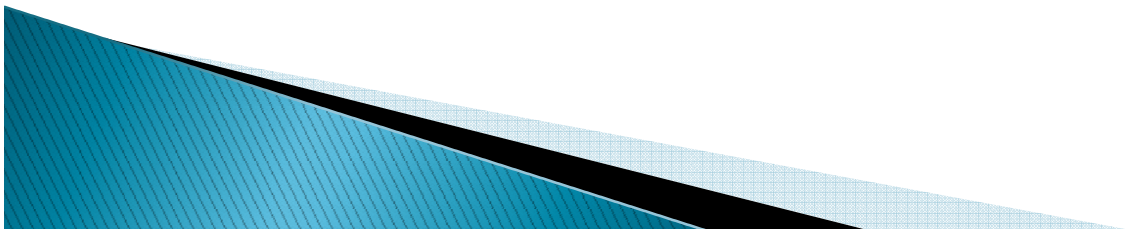
Human Rights

- ▶ Therefore these RIGHTS are INALIENABLE like opinions:
(you will not really change your opinion with a gun pointed to your head, you will simply not state the truth)
- ▶ Example: your PROPERTY can be taken, but not your RIGHT to PROPERTY



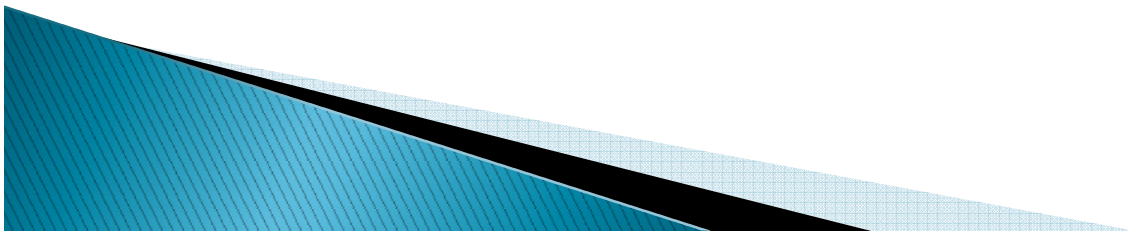
Natural Rights

- ▶ If Natural Rights are simply a correlation of the amount of force you control Right Here, Right Now (As Hobbes states) they are only temporary, and not inalienable
- ▶ Such human construed “so-called rights” cannot be the RIGHTS that GOD intended us to enjoy!!



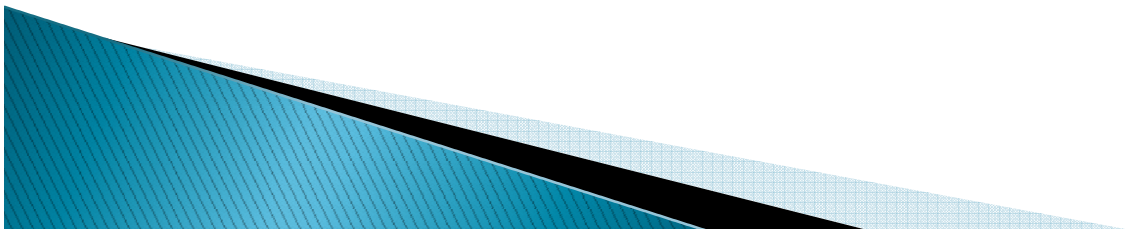
Animal Rights

- ▶ To take this further, Animals do not have rights and Man does What is the difference?
- ▶ Man is not simply an animal,
- ▶ Man does not rely on INSTINCT alone
- ▶ Man has REASON



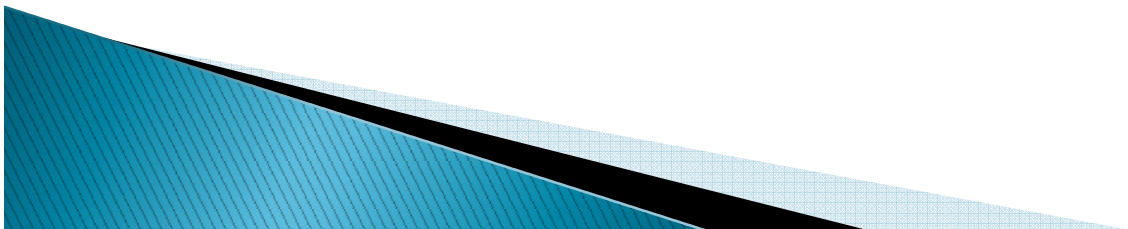
The Social Contract

- ▶ REASON naturally leads to the formation of a SOCIAL CONTRACT and to a COMMUNITY
- ▶ The First Community is the FAMILY.
- ▶ Parents may initially use THEORY X on their children (Coercion) But this temporary Social Contract is voluntarily continued by the children even after they have reached adulthood
- ▶ Why? According to Hobbes , without any fear of retribution they would kill their parents and steal their parents' property.



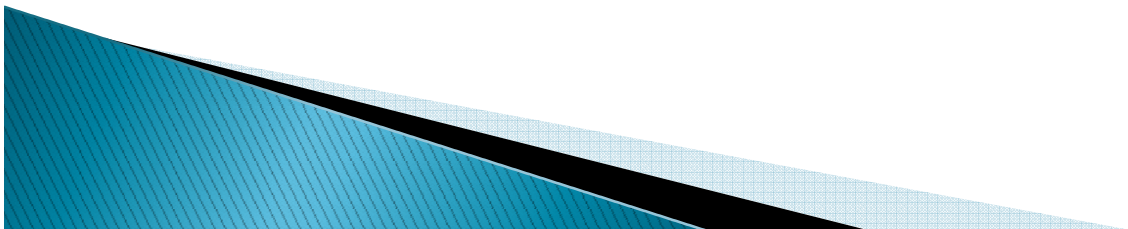
Social Conscience

- ▶ Because the authority of parents does not depend completely on fear and force, but on love, respect, and OBLIGATION:
THEORY
- ▶ REASON leads man to recognize that the Social Contract is advantageous for all the members of the community
- ▶ And that RIGHTS cannot be obtained without contingent OBLIGATIONS
Individuals will naturally follow the “Voice of Duty”:
- ▶ their SOCIAL CONSCIENCE



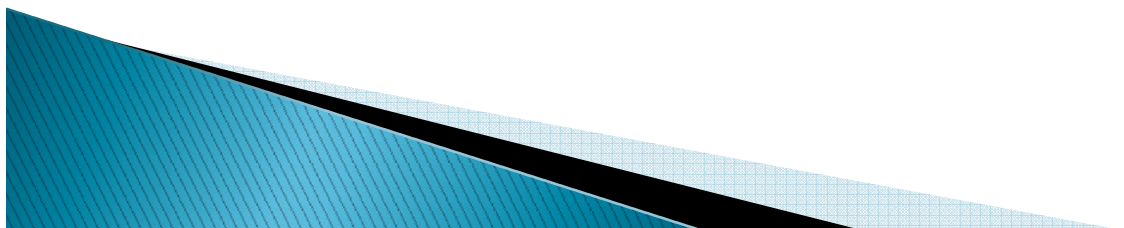
The Social Contract Redux

- ▶ The Social Contract is therefore a COMPLETE RENUNCIATION of NATURAL RIGHTS
Natural Rights imply NO OBLIGATION
- ▶ But a concurrent acquisition of CIVIL RIGHTS
CIVIL RIGHTS necessitate obligations and respect:



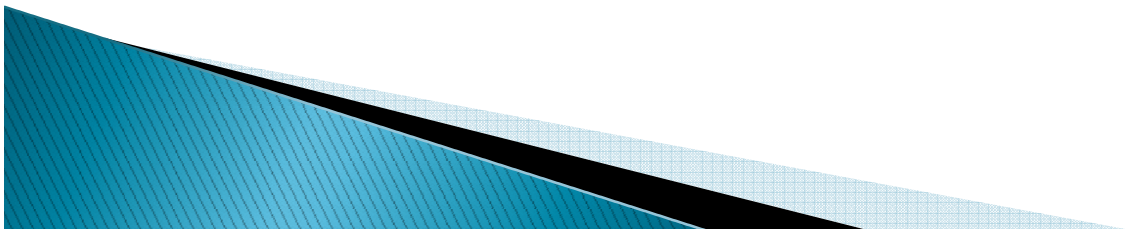
Natural & Community Rights

| <u>RIGHTS</u> | <u>NATURE</u> | <u>COMMUNITY</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | (FORCE) | (OBLIGATION) |
| LIFE | SELF-PRESERVATION | JUSTICE |
| LIBERTY | SELF-INTEREST | RESPECT |
| PROPERTY | POSSESSION | TITLE |
| | INSTINCT | REASON |



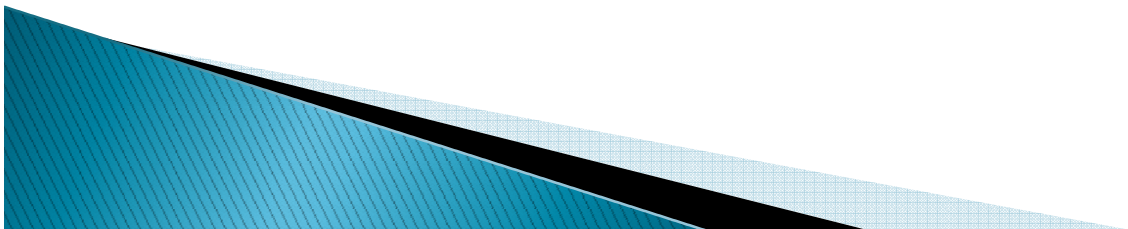
Civil Rights

- ▶ Individuals who renounce all their rights in the Social Contract gain back more than they lose!!
- ▶ They become FREE. But how? Because RIGHTS are redefined the way that GOD intended them to be defined
- ▶ Individuals CHOOSE to RESPECT each other and therefore gain CIVIL RIGHTS as CITIZENS of COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY



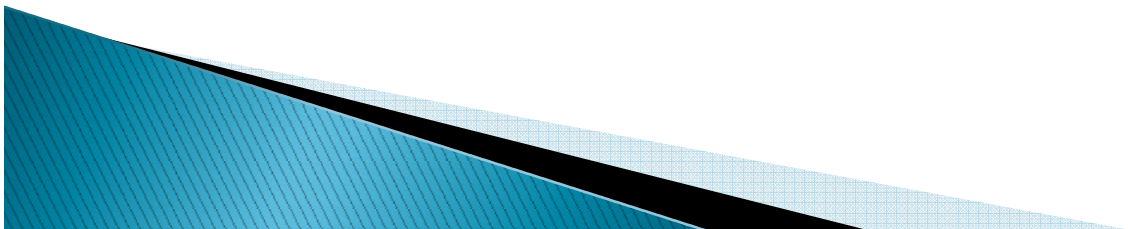
Collective Responsibility

- ▶ Individuals are protected by the community under a system of COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY We exercise our SOCIAL CONSCIENCE by putting the GENERAL INTERESTS of the COMMUNITY ahead of our own individual PARTICULAR INTERESTS
- ▶ We are therefore FREE!!! to climb Mazlow's Pyramid of Self-Actualization

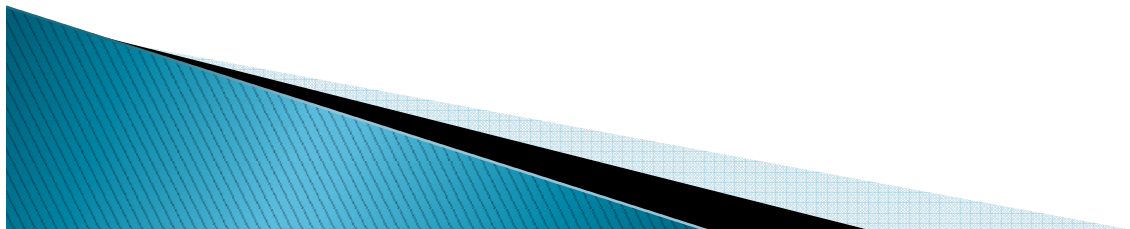
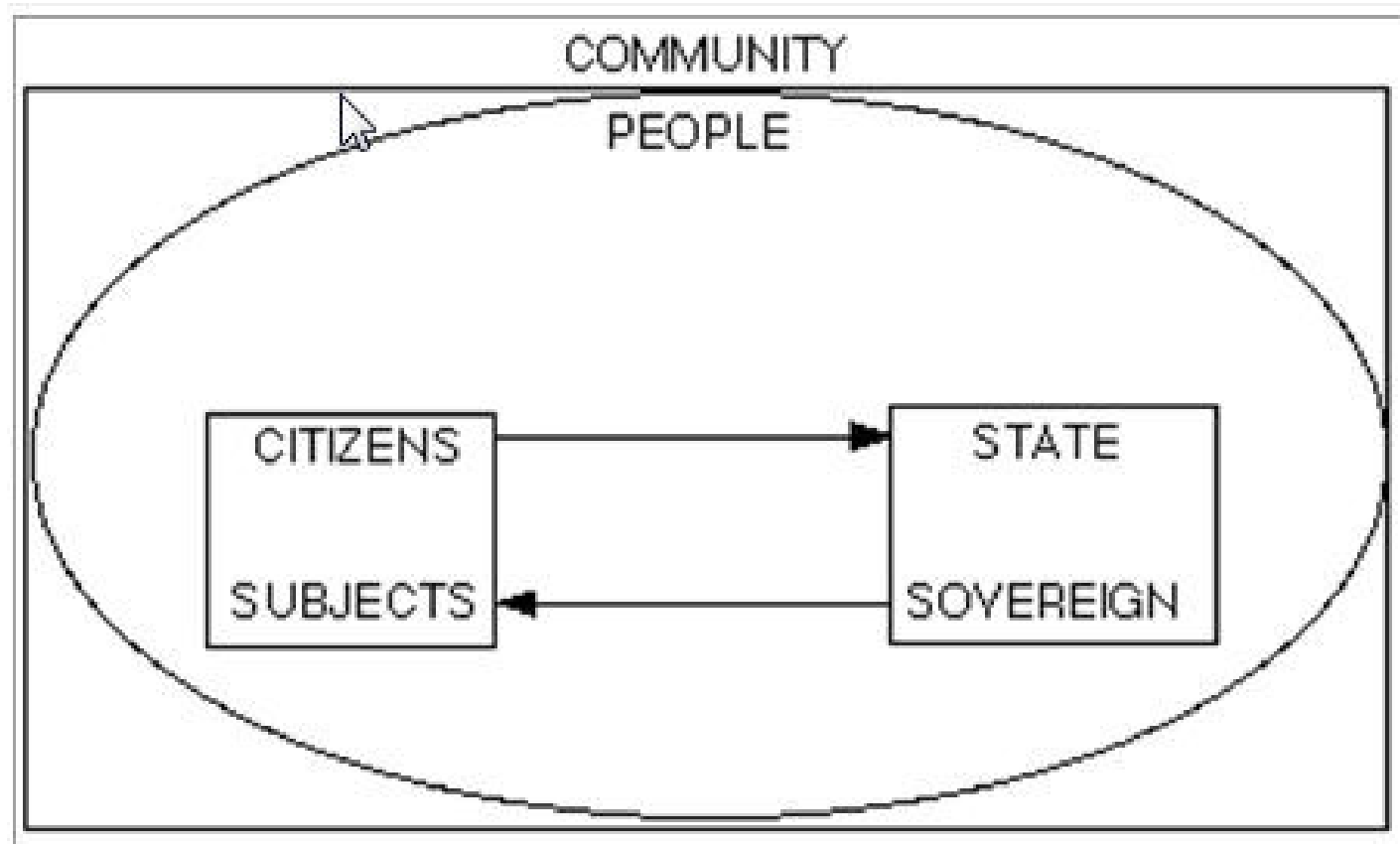


Sovereign as Servant

- ▶ The Sovereign is our Servant because the Social Contract is between the INDIVIDUALS who make up the Community
- ▶ We are the STATE
- ▶ The SOVEREIGN is bound to the GENERAL WILL of the PEOPLE and cannot go against their wishes due to the very nature of the Social Contract

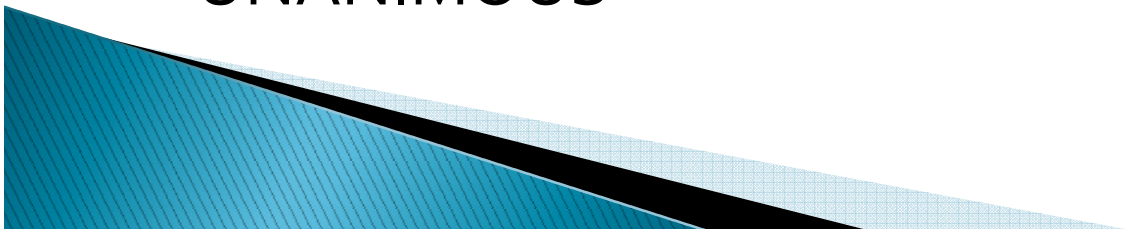


Citizen/State Relationship



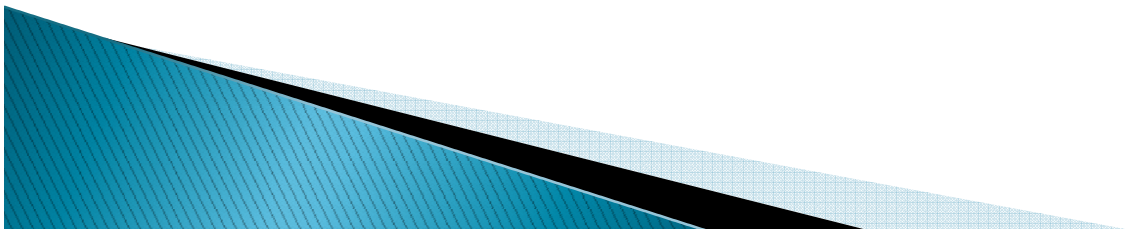
The General Will

- ▶ Rousseau believed in DISCUSSION, ACCOMODATION and COMPROMISE so everyone agrees and the GENERAL WILL is really GENERAL
- ▶ The Community must always protect itself against FACTIONALISM since Indirect representation leads to self-interest over general interest
- ▶ A community must always be small enough so that everyone knows everyone else We can easily “put ourselves in their shoes”
- ▶ This implies that all decisions will naturally be UNANIMOUS



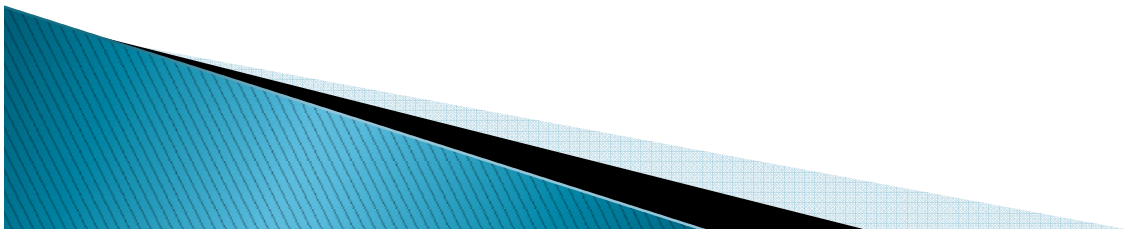
Majority & Minority Rights

- ▶ But does this also necessarily imply that the WILL of the MAJORITY must always RESPECT the RIGHTS of the MINORITY?
- ▶ What if an Individual follows his own individual interest and ignores the General Will
- ▶ Do we assume he has broken the Social Contract and we arrest him? No! That's Hobbes!



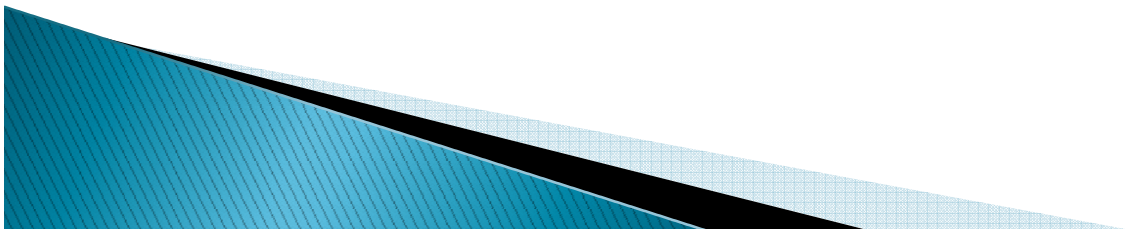
Can the General Will Be Wrong?

- ▶ We respect his right to choose, but we expect him to go along with the majority decision.
- ▶ After all, the General Will can never be wrong. Any decision which takes into account our social conscience must be correct.
- ▶ But what about the recalcitrant individual?



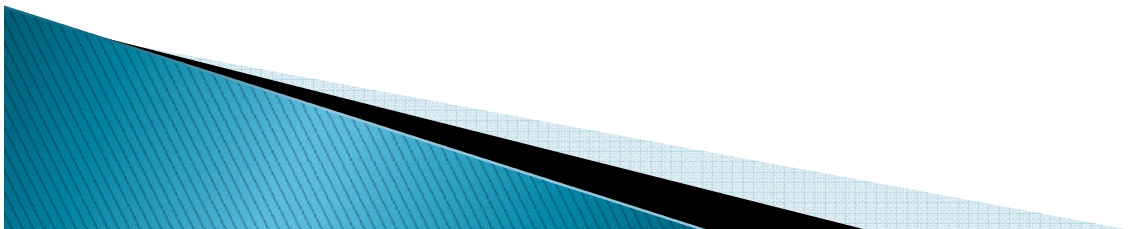
“Forced to be Free”

- ▶ Can someone be “Forced to be Free?” YES!!
- ▶ If Freedom = Liberty, but Natural Liberty implies Slavery - Slavery to our animal nature - then wouldn't jail be a better solution than breaking the Social Contract?
- ▶ Yes! If the goal is SOCIALIZATION or REHABILITATION We must REEDUCATE the creep to see the light
- ▶ Children and Piano Lessons! Your parents make you play and practice to make you a better adult



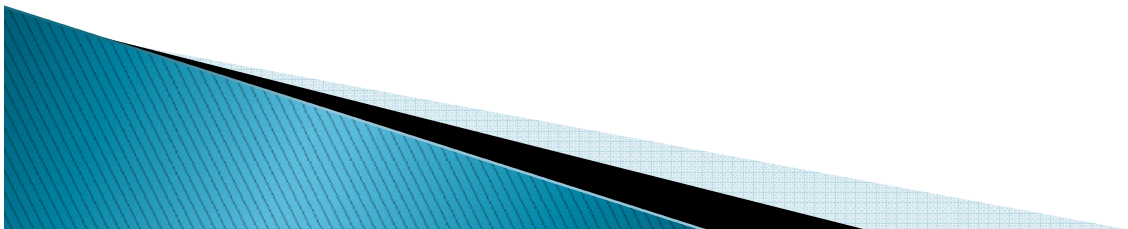
The General Law vs. The Law

- ▶ Remember: that though the GENERAL WILL is ALWAYS RIGHT the LAW can be WRONG!
- ▶ The power of the State is only a DELEGATION OF POWER which is REVOCABLE under certain circumstances
- ▶ The power of the State is necessarily LIMITED
Provide for the General Welfare and Equal Protection under the Law



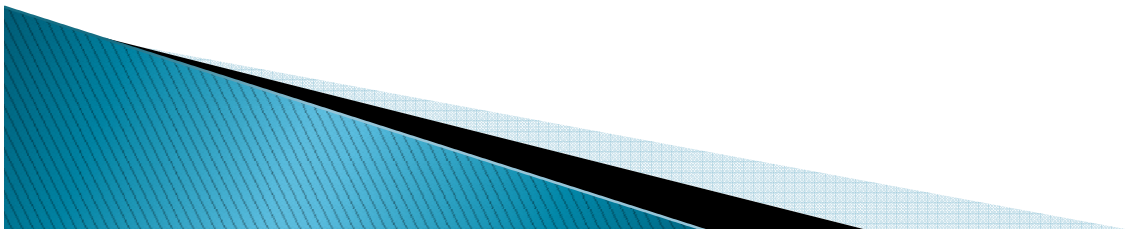
Where Did Modern Society Go Wrong?

- ▶ listening to Hobbes and institutionalizing the right to private property, POSSESSION as opposed to TITLE by labor, and falling into the trap of factionalism
- ▶ How can a community avoid this?
 - It must be: Small enough for everyone to know one another and take part in decision-making
 - Everyone must be well-informed of the issues
 - The issue at hand must be fully and truthfully discussed
 - Without any outside interference
 - Each individual must exercise their social conscience



Legitimate Power

- ▶ The State has LEGITIMATE POWER only so long as it serves the people and obeys the GENERAL WILL
- ▶ When the State ceases to serve the interests of the citizens the citizens not only have the RIGHT to overthrow the STATE,
- ▶ But of necessity under the rule of REASON and Nature's GOD, they have the absolute DUTY to overthrow the State



The Most Fundamental Human Right

- ▶ In the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE LIBERTY-- the freedom to choose--is the most fundamental human right
- ▶ ROUSSEAU is an ACT UTILITARIAN: i.e. the good of the individual must never be sacrificed for the good of the community; the individual is ALWAYS more important than the community
- ▶ We cannot tolerate the innocent in prison even if that means the guilty sometimes go free
- ▶ The END RESULTS of EVERY DECISION of the community MUST be to the BENEFIT of EVERY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER of the community

