

State of Nature:

- The state into which man is born outside of any social covenant or contract being in existence.
- In the state of nature there is no law and each man struggles to take anything he can from another man while protecting his goods from being stolen by another man.
- This form of life is brutal, according to Rousseau. (*The Social Contract, I.4*)

Social Contract:

- The covenant made by all members of a state at the time of the founding of that state whereby everyone surrenders all their rights.
 - People accept the social contract because they want to get out of the brutal way of life evident in the state of nature. In the state of nature, it is every man for himself, and each person seeks to take whatever they can from the next person.
 - When people enter the social contract, they both gain and lose things. They gain the protection of everyone else who has entered the social contract. They surrender everything and all of their rights. (*The Social Contract, I.6*)
- Brings the being of the state into existence. The laws give him motion. Social contract = “social pact.” (*The Social Contract, II.6*)
- [Social pact] Establishes equality among the citizens in that they all pledge themselves under the same conditions and must all enjoy the same rights. (TSC, II.4)
 - By the nature of the compact, ev act of sovereignty...ev act of the general will, binds or favors all citizens equally.

General Will:

- Expression of the will of the people - a legislative action or decision of the people that creates a law applying equally to everyone who has entered into the social contract.
- It is the will of the majority of the people that have entered into the social contract.
- It can be discovered only by taking an actual vote of each person. It cannot be discovered by letting representatives vote on behalf of the people. (*The Social Contract, I.6*)

Lawgiver

- “the engineer that invents the machine” — the prince sets it. Up and operates it

Act of Sovereignty

- “It is NOT a covenant between a superior and an inferior, but a covenant of the body with each of its members....
- It is legitimate bc its basis is the social contract
- It is equitable bc it is common to all
- It is useful bc it can have no end but the common good.
- It is durable bc it is guaranteed by the armed forces and the supreme power. (TSC II.4)

Government

- “An intermediary body established between the subjects and the sovereign for their mutual communication, a body charged w the execution of the laws and the maintenance of freedom, both civil and political.” (TSC, III.1)
 - Members of the body are called magistrates or kings/governors, and the whole body bears the name prince.
- “I tf call ‘government’ or ‘supreme administration’ the legitimate exercise of the executive power, and I call ‘prince’ or ‘magistrate’ the man or the body charged with that administration.” (TSC, III.1)