

John Locke Political Philosophy

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Assessment:

The founding of the constitution is a byproduct of many philosophies created throughout the time of mankind. Not only has philosophies founded the constitution, but throughout time philosophies have evolved into the supreme law of the land. Recently I have studied the works of the famous philosopher John Locke. Locke had believed in natural rights and individual rights which structured the Bill Of Rights. The Bill of Rights had guaranteed all residents individual rights that could not be stripped away by the centralized government.

Locke had many views about rights and a lot of the views had merit and he also had contradictory views based on my opinion. Natural Law is when people enforce their own laws which Locke thought was true freedom. I did not agree with this claim because someone enforcing their own laws can be violating someones else's individual rights. For example, If a thief steals crops from a farmer and the farmer enforces his moral law by killing the thief, he is still violating the right to life for the thief. This was a major flaw in Locke's philosophy but the idea also did hold some qualities. The idea of self-enforcement of laws also means that the individual had the right to protect himself as shown in the Bill of Rights(second amendment). I find the second amendment is very beneficial because it ensures that individuals can protect themselves when the law can not.

Locke had very divergent views of the consent of the governed which is a vital part of any true democracy. Locke explains how people willingly consent to the government by accepting or obtaining property in the land of the government. I would not consider this as consent because the people who are

entitled to the land won't get the property because they simply do not accept the terms of the government. I do not agree with this principle but the constitution also does not approve of the concept either. This was actually stated in the constitution and gave people the choice to be governed. For example, the Amish people did not approve of the government and also did not contribute or derive any resources from the government which made them a prime example of people who had land and did not appraise consent.

John Locke was a brilliant philosopher and had some controversial beliefs that reframed the constitution for the better. His work was critical to the development of the constitution and even his contradicted beliefs served as an example that had to be corrected in the constitution. I admire John Locke because he was open about what philosophies he thought were right even though various philosophers had criticized his works like Thomas Hobbes. The most important lesson I can take away from this article is to express my political ideas even if they are wrong and to be proud that I stepped up to incite change.

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