|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Thinker | What is the purpose of government? | Important ideas/concepts |
| Hobbes | The gov’t needs to protect the people from themselves. People are born selfish and greedy and therefore need a strong gov’t (absolute monarch) to control them and maintain order | Social Contract: The people give up some of their rights so the gov’t can protect them |
| Locke | The main role of the gov’t is to protect people’s natural rights. If the gov’t does not do this it is the duty of the people to overthrow the gov’t | Natural rights (life, liberty and property): are God-given rights which can never be taken from us  Locke’s version of social contract says the gov’t agrees to protect natural rights and the people recognize this gov’t as legitimate.  People are born reasonable |
| Rousseau | The purpose of the gov’t is to make laws for the greatest good of the greatest number of people in the community | Rousseau’s social contract: An individual gives up some rights in order to do what’s best for the overall community  People are born good but society corrupts them |