

Q What's the concept of state of nature as given by Thomas Hobbes? Make its comparison with Social Contract as presented by John Locke.

Answer: Introduction

"Thomas Hobbes is a
 Secular of every
 authority."

Thomas Hobbes gave the concept of 'State of nature' as an unending struggle. However, John Locke presented peaceful image of 'State of Nature'. Therefore, Thomas Hobbes' 'Social Contract' can be compared with Locke's contract.

2. Personal profile of Hobbes and Locke

• Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were

English philosophers."

Both were English philosophers. In fact, both presented separate ideas of 'State of Nature'. Thus, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke gave concepts of State of nature according to their situation of the era.

Hobbes ← English philosopher → Locke

3- Concept of 'State of Nature' by Thomas Hobbes

"State is in a continuous war."

(Thomas Hobbes)

Concept of 'State of nature' is as follows:

- a) War of all is against all
War is all against

all. In fact, war is not ending in a state because man nature is brutal.

"Man is nasty and brutish."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

Therefore, war of all is against all.

b) Might was right

Might was right was a concept of 'State of Nature' by Thomas Hobbes. Laws are man-made and were enforced by men.

"Laws were possible created and were enforced by human brutal nature."

Therefore, might was right in 'State of Thomas Hobbes'.

c) Survival of fittest

Moreover, survival of fittest was a struggle in 'State of Nature'. Man was enemy of man and state was enemy of state.

"Man was nasty and selfish."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

Thus, survival of fittest was a concept of 'State of Nature' by Thomas Hobbes.

4- Comparison of social contract of Thomas Hobbes with Locke's contract.

State is an endless war. In fact, history needed to open a chapter with contract.

"To make the state stable, a social contract was

required."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Thomas Hobbes bound society in a contract as below:

"I authorize and surrender my rights to
sovereign."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Further, Thomas Hobbes described as,

"I surrendered my
liberty, freedom,
and will to

the sovereign."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

To sum up, Thomas Hobbes gave all powers to sovereign body.

"In case of failure to
protect rights and
liberty, there
will go against to
absolute."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Therefore, all powers were under absolute. However, he presented a separate nature of contract.

'State of Nature' is peaceful and
"goodwill."

(- John Locke)

No doubt, 'State of Nature' was peaceful, but still need a social contract to secure natural rights.

"man are natural and needed to legislate, enforce, and interpret laws."

(- Locke)

Therefore, John Locke made more secure rights in his 'Social contract'.

5- Implications of 'Social Contract' of Hobbes and Locke

Following were
implications:

a) Unilateral versus bilateral contract

Thomas Hobbes gave
an idea of unilateral contract.

'Social contract was not
between sovereign
and people, but
people to people.'
(Thomas Hobbes)

However, John Locke gave an
idea of bilateral contract.

'Social contract was an
agreement between
sovereign and
people.'
(Locke)

Therefore, nature of contract was
unilateral versus bilateral.

b) Irrevocable versus revocable

contract

Thomas Hobbes' contract was irrevocable.

"People left their rights to sovereignty and could not go against to it."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

While, Locke presented a revocable contract.

"Your sovereign, your guardian, and responsible to you."

(Locke)

Therefore, nature of contract was irrevocable versus revocable.

c) Absolute ruler versus responsible ruler

Powers of rulers were also different. Hobbes

created an absolute ruler.

"Your sovereign is your absolute, not go against to it."

(Thomas Hobbes)

However, Locke was against an absolute power.

"Surrendering ones liberty for the sake of security, will result neither liberty nor security."

(Locke)

Hence, powers of rulers were also unlike.

6. Conclusion

"Hobbes was a proponent of sovereignty in one."

Thomas Hobbes gave

a different 'State of Nature' by creating a single sovereignty. However, Social Contract of Hobbes is clearly comparable to contract of Locke. In fact, nature and order of both contract were different. Therefore, Thomas Hobbes and Locke presented 'Social Contract' in accordance with the situation of their era.