

Q What is the concept of State of Nature as given by Thomas Hobbes? Also describe its Social Contract.

Answer 1-

Introduction

"Nature of State varies by various philosophers..."

(-Touqueen Husna)

Thomas Hobbes gave a different concept of State of Nature. In fact, he observed turbulence period in his life and gave his view about the State of Nature. However, he also led to the formulation of 'Social Contract' as the need of the state. Therefore, Thomas Hobbes was a great philosopher.

2-

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679 AD): a brief introduction

"Thomas Hobbes was a great English

philosopher."

(Faisal Bari)

Thomas Hobbes born in England. He was inspired by Nicholo Machiavelli. In his life, he saw reign of James I, Charles I and II, and also saw a turbulence period of civil war in England. Therefore, he decided to open the chapter of history with gathering of people.

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

Thomas Hobbes gave concept of 'State of Nature' as below:

a) Nature of Human being in the state

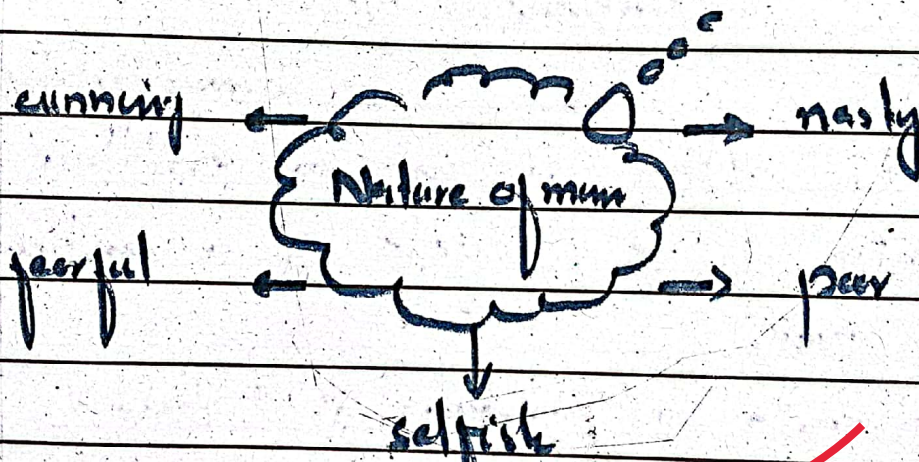
"Man is brutish and nasty."

(Thomas Hobbes)

Thomas Hobbes described the nature of human in formation of the state. He regarded man as brutish and nasty.

"Man is selfish,  
fearful, cunning  
and poor."

(- Thomas Hobbes)



He showed self-interested and self-emotional nature of a man. Therefore, he laid foundation of 'State of Nature' by the nature of a man.

B- State of nature by Thomas

Hobbes

"State is an endless struggle."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Thomas Hobbes described 'State of Nature' as an endless struggle. He regarded that states are in continuous tussles.

"State is in a continuous war."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Hence, state is in an endless attempt in a cycle of a continuous war.

Following are features of 'State of Nature':

i) War of all is against all

War of all is against all in "State of Nature". In Hobbes view, people are in continuous tussle of all other.

"Attack of one is  
retaliation of all"

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Thus, war of all is against all.

(ii) Might was right

Moreover, might was  
right. According to Hobbes,

"laws are given by  
men, and are  
implemented by  
men."

(- Thomas Hobbes)

Therefore, might was right.

(iii) Survival of fittest

Survival of fittest was  
the most important feature of 'State  
of Nature'. Everyone was in an  
attempt of survival.

(Man was full of  
solitariness, poor and  
nearly nature...)

(← Thomas Hobbes)

Thus, everyone is in an attempt of survival of fittest.

Features of State of Nature

War of all's against all.

Might was right

Survival of fittest

#### 4- Social Contract of Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes gave an idea of social contract. He felt need of gathering of people in a contract.

"I authorize and give up my all rights to this man."

(← Thomas Hobbes)

Further, Thomas Hobbes said as:

"I surrender my rights,  
liberty, and freedom  
before an absolute  
power."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

Thomas Hobbes described contract by  
surrendering his rights. But, he  
also explained as,

"My life and property  
is under responsibility  
of an absolute  
power."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

Thomas Hobbes not only surrender  
of rights, but also led to suprem-  
e authority to sovereign power.

"Even in case of  
failure of an absolute  
power, I will not  
go against to  
it."

(-Thomas Hobbes)

In short, all powers are given to only one, an absolute power in 'Social Contract' of Thomas Hobbes.

5. Critical Analysis of 'Social Contract' by Thomas Hobbes

Critical Analysis of 'Social Contract' is as below:

a) Unilateral contract

Thomas Hobbes' contract was unilateral. Social contract was not an agreement between a ruler and sub-ordinates.

'Social contract of Hobbes was an agreement between sub-ordinate

to sub-ordinate."

Hence, it was a unilateral contract.

b) Irrevocable contract

Further, it was an



irrevocable contract. None can go against an absolute power.

↓ An absolute power was a supreme body."

Therefore, 'Social Contract' was also irrevocable contract.

c) Creates an absolute ruler

'Social Contract' created an absolute ruler. All powers were given to one.

• All people surrendered their respect to ruler."

Hence, 'Social Contract' created an absolute ruler.

Unilateral

or absolute ruler



Social Contract by  
Hobbes

↓  
Irrevocable

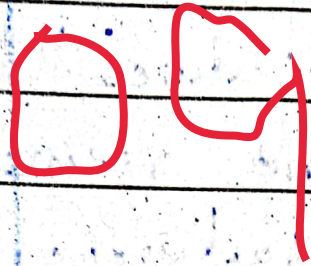
Second part of the answer needs improvement

G Conclusion

Thomas Hobbes

presented a dark

picture of "State  
of Nature"



Thomas Hobbes describ-

~~ed a dark picture of 'State  
of Nature with dark view of  
man. In fact, he led to  
'Social Contract' by describing 'picture  
of State'. Therefore, Thomas Hobbes  
regarded contract in his 'State  
of Nature'.~~