

Title: Property rules and Society

John Locke argued that man live in a Society under some rules and property rule is one of them. The main objective of Societies is to promote the common good, which can only be achieved through the implementation of established laws & and statutes overseen by impartial and upright Judges. Contrary to the idea of absolute monarchy and amidst the emergence of commercial classes in England, Locke asserts that even kings are bound by the law and individual possess inherent rights to their property, emphasizing that taxation requires ~~consent~~ consent.

Q.No.8

Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

(20 Marks)

John Lock reflects the new situation in England more than ever when he goes on to argue that the reason men come together to live in society, with laws, is for the preservation of their property. Since men are driven into society, it follows that the power of that society 'can never be suffered to extend further than the common good'. And this common good can only be determined by standing laws, statutes, that all are aware of and agree to, and not by extemporary degrees of, say, an absolute sovereign. Moreover, these laws must be administered 'by indifferent and upright judges'. Only in this way can the people (and rulers) know where they are. In an important amendment to the idea of absolute monarchy, Lock said that the king can never suspend the law. Finally Lock gave voice to the main anxiety of the rising commercial classes in England (a fear of something which they saw happening in France, in state intervention in trade), that no power can take from a man his property without his consent. 'A soldier may be commanded by a superior in all things, save the disposal of his property'. In the same way a man has property in his own person, meaning that a man's labor is his property too. The most important consequence of this, Lock says is that people can be taxed only with their consent. (We recognize this now in the doctrine 'No taxation without representation'.)