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Q: Compare and Contrast the political philosophies of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau on the social contract theory.

Ans:-

INTRODUCTION

The social contract theory is a foundational concept in political philosophy that explains the origins of society and government. Three prominent philosophers—Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau—offered distinct perspectives on the social contract and the nature of human governance. This comparison explores their varying viewpoints on the state of nature, human behavior, and the purpose of government.

1. STATE OF NATURE

According to Hobbes, life is a constant struggle, where people live in fear of death and violence. While Locke said, ^{that} the state of nature is generally peaceful, with individuals possessing natural rights. On the other hand, Rousseau said that Humans were initially peaceful, but society and private property corrupted them.

2. VIEW ON HUMAN NATURE

According to Hobbes, Humans are selfish and driven by the desire for survival. Locke, Humans are rational and capable of cooperation. Rousseau, Humans are naturally good but become corrupted by civilization.

3. PURPOSE OF SOCIAL CONTRACT

Hobbes, To escape the chaos of the state of nature and secure protection from an absolute sovereign. Locke, To form a government that protects natural rights - life, liberty, and property. Rousseau, To create a collective "general will" where people obey laws that they prescribe to themselves.

4. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

According to Hobbes, A powerful sovereign should enforce order. While Locke, Government must be limited and protect individual rights. Rousseau, A government based on direct democracy should express the general will of the people.

5. RIGHT TO REVOLT

No right to revolt exists; the sovereign's power is absolute. (Hobbes)
People have the right to revolt if the government fails to represent or violate their rights. (Locke). Revolt is justified if the government fails to represent the general will (Rousseau)

6. VIEW ON FREEDOM

Hobbes said, "Freedom is security under a sovereign's protection."
While, Locke said, "Freedom is the protection of natural rights."
Rousseau said, "True freedom is obedience to the general will."

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7. AUTHORITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

Absolute monarchy is necessary.
(Hobbes). Government power should
be separated and checked. (Locke)
Sovereignty resides in the people
through collective decision-making
(Rousseau).

8. LAW AND ORDER

Hobbes said, "Laws are imposed
by the sovereign to maintain
order. On the other hand, Locke
said, "Laws should protect
individual freedom and property.
While Rousseau said, "Laws
represent the general will and
promote collective good."

9.

EQUALITY

According to Hobbes, Equality leads to competition and conflict. Therefore, Locke said, "People are equal in rights and deserve protection. Furthermore, Rousseau said, "Inequality is a product of society and must be corrected through collective decision-making."

10. VIEW ON SOCIETY

Society requires strong control to avoid chaos. (Hobbes). Society is formed to protect natural rights and ensure justice (Locke).

Rousseau, Society corrupts, and only through the general will can it be just.

SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

Thomas
Hobbes
(1588-1679)

John
Locke
(1632-1704)

Jean-
Jacques
Rousseau
(1712-1778)

State of
Nature

View on
Freedom

Authority
and Sovereig-
-nty

View on
Human
Nature

Right to
Revolt

Law and
Order

Purpose
of social
contract

Role of
Government

Equality

view o
of

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau all acknowledged the necessity of a social contract, they differed significantly in their views on human nature, government's role, and individual freedom.

Hobbes emphasized security under an absolute ruler, Locke promoted a government that protects natural rights, and Rousseau advocated for democracy and collective freedom. These differences continue to influence modern political thought.