

Question: Compare and contrast the different political philosophies of Hobbes and Locke. How are these philosophers implemented in present day political systems and policy making.

Answer

Exordium

Thomas Hobbes was born in 1588 in England. Before 1588, Spain was powerful but the war between Spain and England resulted in strong power of king of England. In 1642, the civil war took king to death. Hobbes witnessed the shift of power to king and then to his death. He wrote a book 'Leviathan' and became the father of authoritarianism. However, John Locke is the father of revolution in England in 1670s and 80s. It was 'bloodless revolution'. Locke in his work, "Two Treatises of Government" presented opposite side of social contract between public and rulers. Hobbes and Locke described social contract but they are contrasting in their views of social contracts. Hobbes authoritarianism is implemented in present day

in North Korea Whereas, US
constitution is based on Lockean
philosophy -

⇒ Comparison of Hobbes and Locke's political philosophies

Hobbes and Locke's political
philosophy is totally different
from each other. There is detailed
explanation of how they are different
in view of same world.

1- Optimist or Pessimist

Hobbes is more pessimist in
nature. He has no hope from
ruthless nature of human being.
In contrast, Locke is more optimist
he has soft corner for humans
and regarded them as rational
beings.

2- Natural law

Hobbes emphasizes that
under natural law in past
ages, it was war of all
against all. He considers natural
law as not sophisticated and
controlling of humans. However,
Locke explains natural law
which gave significant resources to

humans and they divided those resources and lived happily under natural law.

3- Creation of sovereign

Hobbes argues that sovereign was created to control lawlessness of humans and sovereign is authority to create and maintain peace. Whereas, Locke criticizes this view and maintained that creation of sovereign was to protect natural law. Also, there was no institutes like executive, legislature and judiciary. The job of sovereign is to implement natural law.

4- Nature of Human being

In one hand, Hobbes consider humans as feelingless, barbaric and lawless creatures. In other hand, Locke recognizes humans as rational and sophisticated beings. Locke gives stance of that humans are rational beings by nature that's why they created sovereign. They are not barbaric in nature.

5- Achievement of peace:

Hobbes point is that public should surrender their liberty so peace can prevail. Hobbes demands the surrender of liberty. Therefore, Locke did not support the very idea, he is not in favour of surrender liberty.

Benjamin notes, those who deserve surrender liberty for peace deserve neither liberty nor peace. Locke is supporter of liberty of individuals. US constitution, which is based on Lockean philosophy is true example of liberty given to individuals.

6- Right to revolt:

Hobbes philosophy gave full authority to ruler and public has to follow him. He believes that one big monster (ruler) can control many small monsters (public). Examples: Greece, North Korea is true follower of Hobbes' philosophy, because there is no right to revolt. The social contract among ruler &

public did not allow them to go against sovereign in any case. Moreover, Locke is opposite in views. He focuses on good social contract. He favours that if sovereign is not performing well, public have has the right to revolt. Locke gave right of revolt and hobbes is against of it.

7- Authority of Law or ruler

Hobbes philosophy gave full authority to rulers, they have full right to govern. In short, he favours rule of sovereign / ruler. Locke criticizes and gave idea of full rule of law. He emphasizes that rule of law should be prevailed, sovereign must also follow the rule of law. Locke gives law the full authority. For instance, in USA, law has full authority and every individual has to follow the law. In USA, every President has to follow the law and law is same for President and for general.

public.

Denouement:

'Leviathan' and 'Two Treaties of Government' both deals with social contract. But, these two philosophies are at war on their difference of ideas. They presents two different sides of social contract.

"Leviathan" shapes the political system of North Korea and "Two Treaties of Government" made constitution of USA an example of Locken philosophy of policy making. Hobbes philosophy is human as dangerous and lawless so sovereign must take their liberty and give peace in return.

One dangerous creature can control all other dangerous creatures.

Locke considers human as rational as they created sovereign to protect natural law. He gives liberty to individuals that public can revolt and remove ruler if not performing well.

Hence, Hobbes and Lockes philosophies are at contrast in view of politics.

However, North Korea and USA are examples of implementation of these philosophies in present day.