

Q Discuss Rousseau's Theory of social contract. Do you agree with his rationale

### 1) INTRODUCTION

Man is born free but  
is binded to chains later  
on in life.

- Rousseau

This quote of Rousseau tells how by nature man is born free and later is binded owing to the social turmoil. To prevent such turmoil he came up with his theory of social contract. His social contract tells about submission of rights by the members to the community. Furthermore, the salient features of his social contract theory is based on general will, no transfer of power, rules in state, having state religion, majority is always right and so on. This has a few drawbacks such as, minority is undermined etc. In my opinion his rationale was a good one.

## 2) A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS A SOCIAL CONTRACT

For enhanced protection  
within a society

↓

People submit their rights  
to the sovereign

↓

The sovereign then provides  
the citizens with  
enhanced protection

↓

This then maintains  
the status of the  
people in a society

↓

A society driven by  
peace and away from  
turbulence is created

### 3) DISCUSSING ROUSSEAU'S THEORY OF SOCIAL CONTRACT

#### 3.1) THE STATE OF NATURE AND HUMAN NATURE WHICH NECESSITATES SOCIAL CONTRACT ACCORDING TO ROUSSEAU

According to Rousseau, the human nature is peaceful and practical. However, private property has now caused turmoil in the state of nature giving birth to oppression. To counter this, a social contract is necessary.

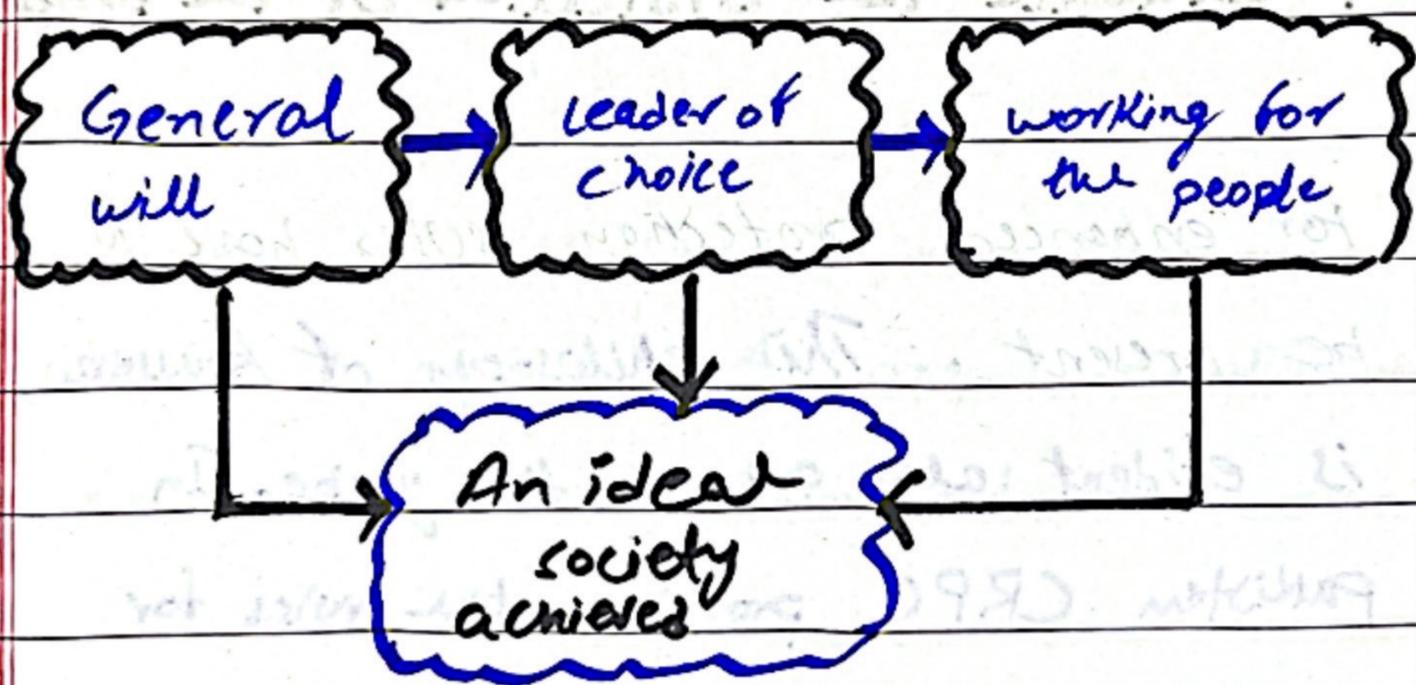
#### 3.2) STATING ROUSSEAU'S SOCIAL CONTRACT

The social contract of Rousseau is different from Locke's. In his social contract each member has to submit his rights to the community collectively for protection and welfare in return.

### 3.3) SALIENT FEATURES OF ROUSSEAU'S THEORY OF SOCIAL CONTRACT

#### 1) General will to take precedence in the social contract

In Rousseau's social contract general will is at the epitome. Every decision has to be in sync with it.



#### 2) Submission of rights to the sovereign without any indifferent opinion

All the members of the society have to submit their rights to the sovereign to eliminate any kind of differing opinions that can violate the social contract.

3) The state to act as a welfare state

Under the social contract the sovereign has to establish a welfare state granting education, health and security in the state. A welfare state is a just state (Plato)

4) Establish rules in the state to enhance the protection of the people

For enhanced protection rules have to be present. This philosophy of Rousseau is evident all around the globe. In Pakistan CRPC provides the rules for protection.

5) State religion should be present under the social contract and no divergence should be present

There should be one state religion to

prevent alienation in a society. Only one state religion should be present, any deviation or breach to it will result in execution [Rousseau, The social contract]

6) Revolving centers to incorporate all the people in a society under its social contract

For absolute general consensus under the social contract the centers should be revolving to incorporate all the citizens.

This is evident in the proposed Constitutional Court under the 27<sup>th</sup> Amendment for members

7) Elected aristocracy should be present in a society for effectiveness

It is difficult ~~for~~ to incorporate all the people under democracy. Therefore, elected aristocracy is a need under Rousseau's social contract.

Democracy → Difficult to maintain general will

Elected Aristocracy → General will maintained under the social contract

8) Executive control for the binding of laws to create a safer society

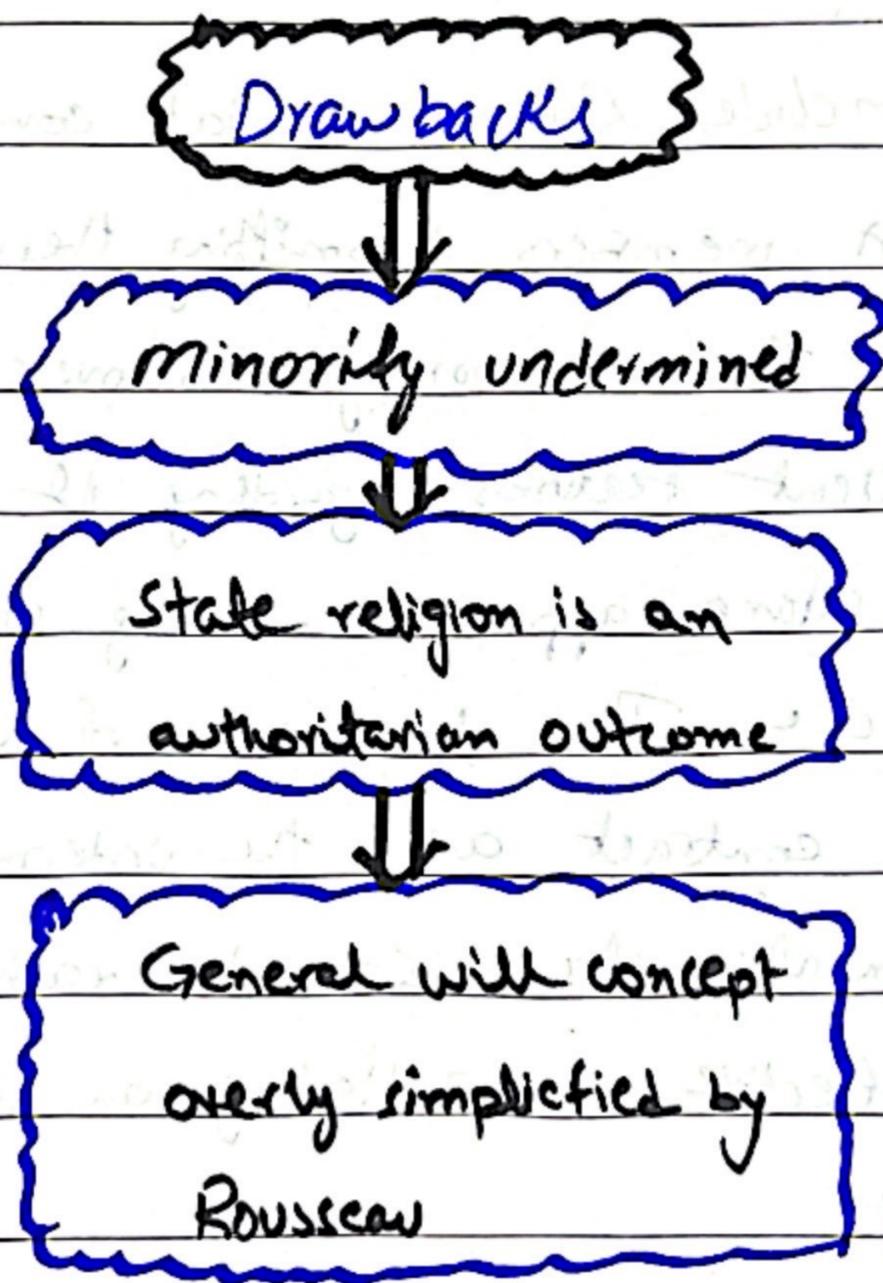
The executive should be present to maintain the laws that are devised under the social contract. Similar model is followed by the adoption of police, bureaucracy etc world wide.

9) Legislative oversight on the executive to ensure absolute justice and liberty

The legislation has to have oversight

on the executive. Any violation by the executive can result in the disqualification of them by the legislators [social contract, Rousseau]

### 3.4) Drawback of Rousseau's social



### 4) AGREEING WITH ROUSSEAU'S RATIONALE

While agreeing with Rousseau's rationale of social contract. It is pragmatic owing to great emphasis on the welfare

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of the people and general will. If this is achieved an ideal society can be achieved that can uplift the people collectively.

## 5) CONCLUSION

To conclude, Rousseau's social contract is about members submitting their rights to the community. Moreover, it has salient features regarding its general will, welfare approach, having state religion etc. The drawbacks of its social contract are the undermining of minorities etc. Still, his rationale is effective in achieving an ideal society.