

• — (SUBJECTIVE - PART) — •

(SECTION - A)

IS the philosophy and functioning of the concept of 'social contract' by -----?

Functioning
philosophy of 'social contract' by Hobbes, Locke
and Rousseau :-

These philosophers are known for their "social contract" which elaborates, how the authority of a state came into existence. Each philosopher's philosophy had a connection to his past. Also, their philosophies consisted of three elements.

Thomas Hobbes :-

In 'Leviathan', Hobbes develops a political philosophy centered around the necessity of a strong centralized authority to prevent social chaos and violence. Because he believes that human nature is self-driven and it can be easily misled due to limited knowledge.

'Human nature is monster by nature'

Then he talks about "state of Nature", where there was no rule of law, no concept of Justice and injustice, right and wrong, good or bad. There was a "war of all against all." But when man became a rational being and they think upon their security and property that how long their property and life remains insecure?

As to escape from the state of nature, individuals come together to form a social contract, a 'sovereign authority', who would protect their life and property.

(ii) John Locke

He was optimistic about "Human nature". He believed that **Man is good**, cooperative, simple by nature. He described Human mind as a **Tabula Rasa** or **Blank State** at birth.

Also, he described "State of nature" in which everybody was equal. Nature Resources were produced by nature and everyone/man used to distribute it in society. Individuals were free, yet bound by the law of nature to respect each others liberty. But without a centralized authority it's was not possible. Because there were no legislature to make laws, no executive to implement them and no judiciary to check them.

So, as to overcome those drawbacks there was a need of "social contract" between individuals to form a government who can protect their natural rights, liberty, property, along with right to resist and overthrow the government if government fails to fulfill their needs.

(iii) Rousseau :-

He believed, "Human nature" was inherently good and peaceful. There had limited needs but when the concept of private property developed it

Corrupted their goodness.

According to Rousseau, cave man was better than modern man because he had absolute freedom. But private property disrupted the "State of Nature" and introduced a competition.

"Man is born Free but everywhere he is in chains."

To overcome this state of nature, he suggested a Social contract on individual General will.

→ Relevancy of social contract in modern time:-

The social contract theory, as described by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, is a foundational concept in political philosophy that remains relevant in modern times, but its applicability requires careful considerations.

(i) Thomas Hobbes:-

As Hobbes' emphasis on the need for security strong central authority to maintain security, which is relevant in modern times.

Secondly, Hobbes' concept of absolute sovereignty sparks ongoing debates on the balance between individual rights and government authority.

(ii) John Locke:-

Locke's idea of natural rights, such as life, liberty and property underlies modern human rights framework.

(iii) Rousseau:-

His concept of "General will" is relevant to modern

to modern times.

Secondly, his ideas on "direct democracy" and citizen participation influence contemporary movements.

| | Relevancy of social contract to modern times | Irrelevance of social contract to modern times |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Thomas Hobbes | Leviathan | • Absolute sovereignty • no right to revolt |
| Rousseau's | • General will Freedom to revolt | Lack of representation of marginalized communities. |
| John Locke | Individual right and freedom | Individualism |