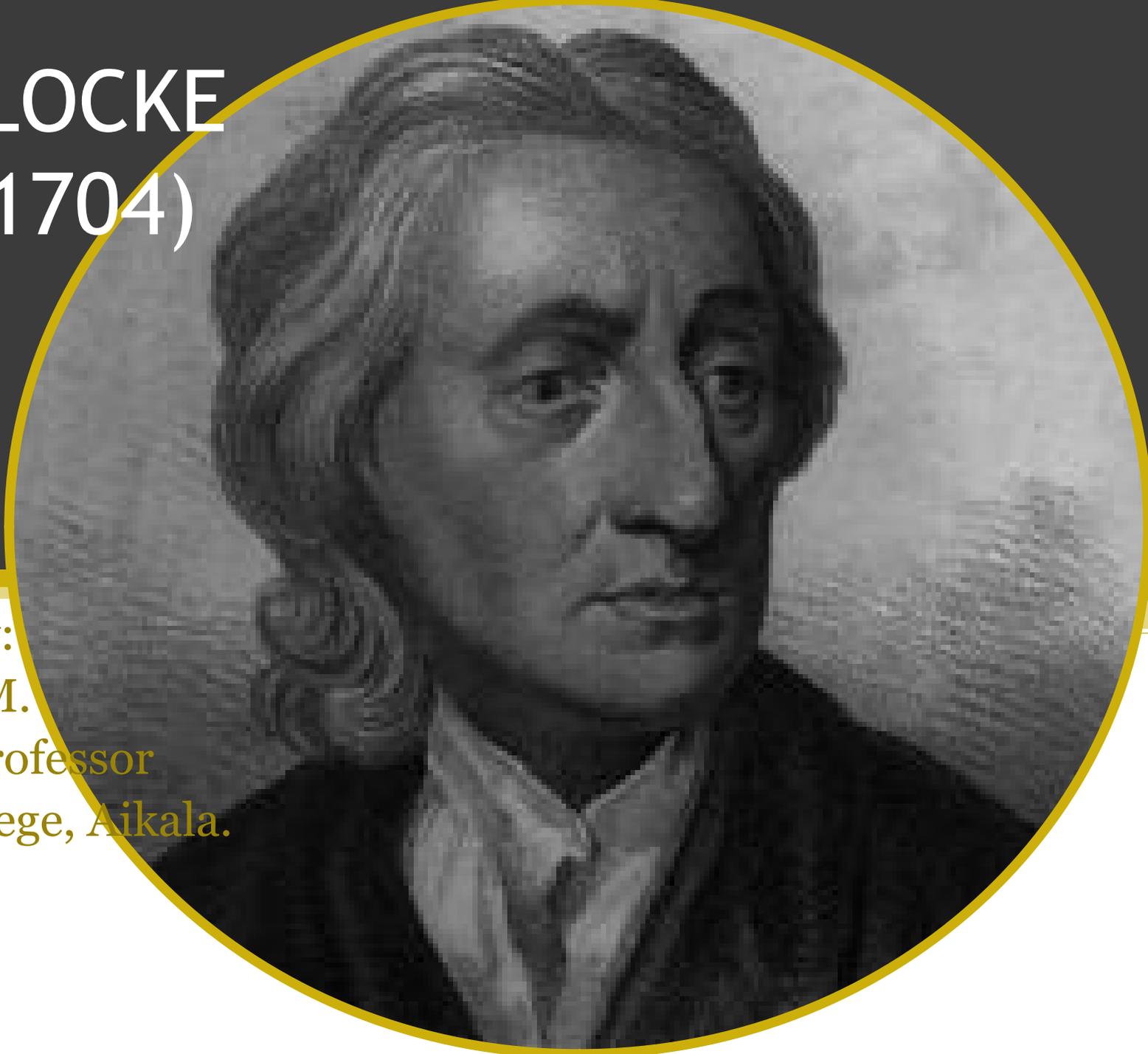


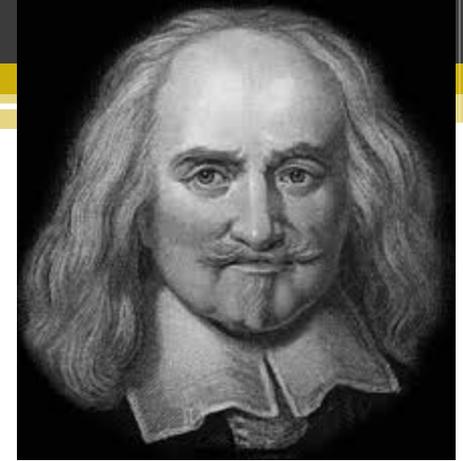
JOHN LOCKE

(1632-1704)



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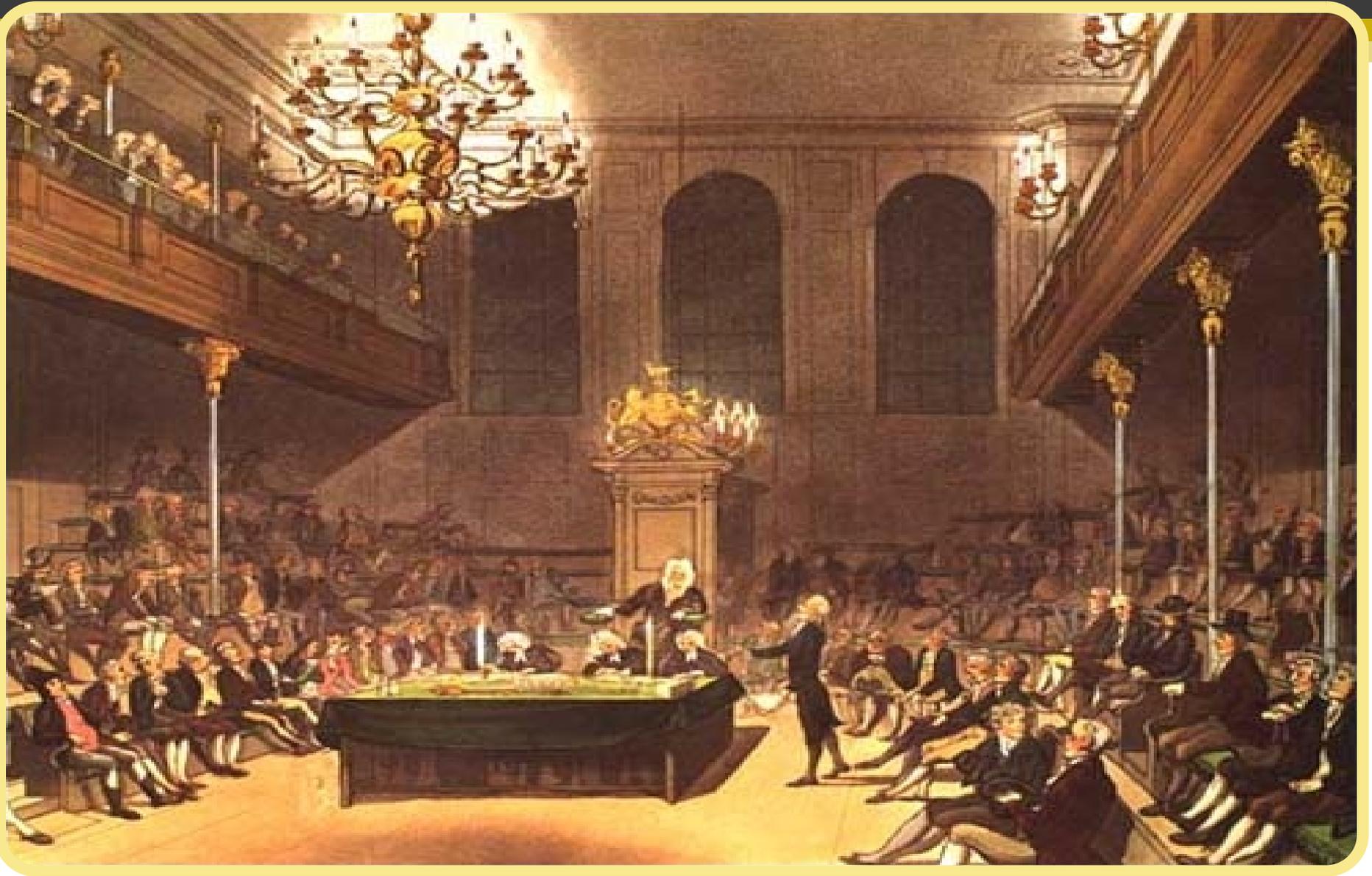
Introduction:



- He was a contemporary of Thomas Hobbes and one of the great political thinkers of England.
- He championed the cause of **Limited Monarchy** in England.
- He witnessed both the civil war in his early life and also the Glorious Revolution, 1688 in his later part of his life.
- He was a physician by profession but wrote as many as 35 books dealing with different subjects.
- The Social Contract theory of John Locke is found in his “**Two Treatises on Civil Government**” published in the year 1690.

Introduction...

- He put forward his social contract theory to **justify the Glorious Revolution and to reject the theory of Absolute Monarchy** advocated by Hobbes and others.
- His first treatise on Civil Government was written **to disapprove the royal prerogative based upon the Devine Right.**
- His second Treatise on civil government was a comprehensive and systematic discussion of the **origin, nature and province of government.**



DEPOSING OF JAMES II

His views on Human Nature:

- His conception of Human nature is summed up in his work “Essay on Human Understanding”
- Locke did not take a dark picture of human nature as Hobbes did.
- Unlike Hobbes , Locke does not express his views about human nature in a systematic manner.
- Locke holds that human beings are basically decent and have been endowed with a natural social instinct.
- They are essentially peace-loving and not quarrelsome.

Human Nature.....

- People are not always selfish. Some times they are altruistic also.
- He considers all human beings as equal, in the moral sense and asserts that every individual enjoys certain natural rights like, life, liberty and property.
- He enjoys these rights not because of any position, strength, wealth, etc. but because he is human being.
- Unlike Hobbes, Locke fails to provide any scientific basis for his views on human nature.

Human Nature....

- He believes that man is a rational and social creature capable of living a moral order.
- To him, man is not necessarily selfish, egoistic, competitive, aggressive and quarrelsome.
- He feels sympathy, love and tenderness towards his fellow beings.
- Man wants to live in peace and harmony with others.
- Locke holds that men are fundamentally decent, orderly, social minded, quite capable of ruling themselves.
- He regarded rationality as the pervasive characteristic of man.

2. The State of Nature:

- Locke's state of nature was not pre- social but pre-political.
- Locke's views on the state of nature is the logical extension of his views of human nature.
- He does not consider the state of nature as the state of war of each against all.
- On the other hand, he considers it as an era of peace, good will, mutual assistance and preservation.
- The state of nature was not a period of eternal warfare but an era of peace in which reason prevailed.
- This reason manifested itself in the law of nature, which are based on the principle of equality.

State of Nature....

- To Locke, law of nature means a set of rules for human behaviour which describe as to how men ought to behave.
- State of nature as described by Locke had the following features
 1. Men in the state of nature were rational, social and sympathetic towards each other.
 2. State of nature was one of peace and goodwill.
 3. Men had freedom and equality but within the limits of reason and mutual respect.
 4. Law of nature granted men certain natural rights like right to life, liberty and property with corresponding obligations.

State of nature....

- Such a moral and social state of nature had to be given up by individuals because of the following shortcomings in it. They are-
 1. Laws of nature were not clearly defined.
 2. There was no executive to execute these laws.
 3. There was no authority to settle disputes.
 - to him, the state of nature was full of fears and continued dangers because of the above limitations.
 - In order to escape from all this and to gain security, men decided to abandon the state of nature.

3. Locke on Social Contract:

- To him, men in the state of nature entered in to two contracts so as to overcome the shortcomings and problems of the state of nature viz-
 - 1. Social contract and
 - 2. the governmental contract

1. Social Contract:

- Men enter into a contract with one another so as to form a civil society.
- This contract was of all with all and was a social contract.
- With this first contract the state of nature ended and civil society was born.
- In order to form a civil society men surrendered certain rights and powers so that at least the remaining rights could be enjoyed.
- But the surrender of rights was not made to a monarch or to an assembly of men but to the entire community.

Social contract

- Locke further said that men did not surrender all their natural rights.
- But each one voluntarily and willingly surrendered to everyone his single power of punishing to be exercised by those appointed amongst themselves and by such rules as agreed upon by the community.
- Locke thus recognizes the sovereignty of the community of people.
- This contract was thus, meant to be only a transfer of certain rights and powers in order to protect and preserve the remaining rights.

2. Governmental Contract:

- His second contract was a governmental contract.
- With this contract a government was established and a ruler was selected to remove the inconveniences of the state of nature.
- This second contract was subordinate to the first contract as the government was required only to secure those ends for which the authority was created.
- The community was superior to the government and the social contract superior to the governmental contract.
- And therefore if the governmental authority acted contrary to the civil society, the community had the right to get rid of the government.
- The authority of the government is limited and constitutional and the government depends on their consent.
- He also speaks about the 3 kinds of powers of the government like- the legislative, executive and federal – the power to make treaties and handle foreign affairs.

Features of Locke's Social contract:

1. Locke's state of nature was pre- political rather than pre-social.
2. In his state of nature men enjoyed equality, freedom and were guided by the sense of reason.
3. Absence of a government to make and enforce laws and treaties created inconvenience in the state of nature. So men entered into voluntary contracts.
4. There are two contracts – social contract and governmental contract, social contract being superior to the governmental contract.

Features.....

5. The ruler is a party to the contract.
6. Only a few rights are surrendered for the protection of the remaining rights.
7. Law is the expression of the will of the people and it is the law of reason.
8. Consent of the people is the source of all governmental authority.
9. Locke gave the community the right to revolt against the ruler if he failed to fulfill the terms of the contract.

4. Locke's Ideas on State:

- Locke's state was not a sovereign state.
- To him, the power of the state is vested in the community.
- Sovereignty of the state is not absolute as it has only the power to protect the natural law.
- In his state minority is bound by the will of the majority.
- Consent of the individual member in the civil society is either tacit or expressed.
- The social contract is binding on all its members.

His Ideas on State....

- The powers of the government is limited by the constitutional traditions.
- The government exist to preserve the individuals rights.
- He recognized the distinction between the state and the government.
- His theory of state is based upon consent.
- He also separated the governmental powers into legislative, executive and federal.
- He separated the state and the Church. State should deal only with preservation of social order and not with religion.
- He classified the government into monarchies, aristocracies and democracies based on the location of legislative authority.

Evaluation of Locke's Views: Merits.

1. Clear cut presentation.
2. Contribution of the doctrine of Natural Rights.
3. He championed **the democratic principles**. For example, consent of the people as the source of all governmental powers, or sovereignty of the state is not the sovereignty of the ruler, etc.
4. The concept of **constitutional monarchy**.
5. He laid the foundation of the theory of **separation of power**.
6. His contribution of **Political sovereignty**.
7. He considered the **Government as a trust**.

DEMERITS:

1. Vagueness of the **location of Sovereignty**.
2. **Rights cannot exist** in the state of nature.
3. Views on state of nature **is incredible**.
4. It **is difficult to believe** that men entered into two contracts in the state of nature.