

Short Answer: Social Contract.

Read the text of Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Rousseau's description of the "*Social Contract*." Once you have completed your reading, answer the questions below.

- A. Explain ONE major difference between Hobbes' and Rousseau's interpretations of the role of the people and government.
 - B. Provide ONE piece of evidence from your studies thus far that supports Hobbes' interpretation and explain HOW it supports the interpretation.
 - C. Provide ONE piece of evidence from your studies thus far that supports Rousseau's interpretation and explain HOW it supports the interpretation.
- Submit your completed assignment when finished.

- A. Hobbes and Rousseau were opposite on their ideas of the power and capabilities of people in government. Rousseau believed government should ideally exist as a direct, true democracy in which the people had absolute control, while Hobbes believed that, as humans were brutish and incompetent by nature, the government should have increased control over the lives of individuals. Hobbes insinuates in *Leviathan* that humans are selfish creatures at heart, and as such, only powerful governments such as absolute monarchies are capable of properly governing humans. Rousseau argues in his *the Social Contract* that government power originated with the people, and thus belonged with the people; monarchs possessed no divine right and were only given power so long as the people were accepting of it. He argues that government must only increase in power the larger the territory, and as such, smaller direct democracies are better, such as his homeland of Switzerland, in which people held great power in their individual cities. This contrasts greatly with the Hobbesian view of control being absolutely necessary in curbing the ills of human nature.
- B. Hobbes refers to the State as the Leviathan, comparing it to an artificial man that is greater than the sum of its parts, its parts being the citizens of the state. He describes the Leviathan as having members moved to perform their obligated duty by the 'seat of sovereignty', indicative of his views of the need for a strong government in order to provide the protections needed. Hobbes refers to sedition and civil war as sickness and death for the artificial body, insinuating that the government must avoid such at all costs, and it is only assumed that the artificial body's immune system must mean a restriction of individual liberties, as he describes in his second law as being necessary for security and stability.
- C. Rousseau elaborates within *the Social Contract* that at its core, the social contract (or social compact) is an agreement in which individuals submit to the will of the whole they have become a part of, but as such are endowed certain rights within the whole along with the capability to help to guide the direction of the whole. A famous quote of his is that "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains," which refers to how when the social contract is not followed as it should be, the government grows unnaturally powerful. This contradicts what he claims to be the proper order. Government should be a contract, an agreement, as described previously, in which government is only capable of governing with the will of the people; in fact it is necessary to follow the will of the people to govern. Such an assertion is clearly demonstrative of his belief in a democratic style of government, and lacking a model of representative government to look towards, it must be assumed that Rousseau refers to an ideal direct democracy.