**Excerpts from Thomas Hobbes *Leviathan* “OF THE NATURAL CONDITION OF MANKIND ASCONCERNING THEIR FELICITY AND MISERY”**

NATURE hath made men so equal in the faculties of body and mind as that, though there be found one man sometimes manifestly stronger in body or of quicker mind than another, yet when all is reckoned together the difference between man and man is not so considerable as that one man can thereupon claim to himself any benefit to which another may not pretend as well as he. For as to the strength of body, the weakest has strength enough to kill the strongest, either by secret machination or by confederacy with others that are in the same danger with himself.

… And therefore if any two men desire the same thing, which nevertheless they cannot both enjoy, they become enemies; and in the way to their end (which is principally their own conservation, and sometimes  
their delectation only) endeavour to destroy or subdue one another. And from hence it comes to pass that where an invader hath no more to fear than another man’s single power, if one plant, sow, build, or possess a convenient seat, others may probably be expected to come prepared with forces united to dispossess and deprive him, not only of the fruit of his labour, but also of his life or liberty. And the invader again is in the like danger of another.

So that in the nature of man, we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, competition;  
secondly, diffidence; thirdly, glory.  
The first maketh men invade for gain; the second, for safety; and the third, for reputation. The  
first use violence, to make themselves masters of other men’s persons, wives, children, and cattle;  
the second, to defend them; the third, for trifles, as a word, a smile, a different opinion, and any  
other sign of undervalue, either direct in their persons or by reflection in their kindred, their friends,  
their nation, their profession, or their name.

Hereby it is manifest that during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in  
awe, they are in that condition which is called war; and such a war as is of every man …

In such condition there is no place  
for industry, because the fruit thereof is uncertain: and consequently no culture of the earth; no  
navigation, nor use of the commodities that may be imported by sea; no commodious building; no  
instruments of moving and removing such things as require much force; no knowledge of the face  
of the earth; no account of time; no arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual  
fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.

To this war of every man against every man, this also is consequent; that nothing can be unjust.  
The notions of right and wrong, justice and injustice, have there no place. Where there is no  
common power, there is no law; where no law, no injustice. Force and fraud are in war the two  
cardinal virtues. Justice and injustice are none of the faculties neither of the body nor mind.

The passions that incline men to peace are: fear of death; desire of such things as are necessary to commodious living; and a hope by their industry to obtain them. And reason suggest the  
convenient articles of peace upon which men may be drawn to agreement. These articles are they  
which otherwise are called the laws of nature …

**CHAPTER XIV: “OF THE FIRST AND SECOND NATURAL LAWS, AND OF CONTRACTS”**

A law of nature, lex naturalis, is a precept, or general rule, found out by reason, by which a  
man is forbidden to do that which is destructive of his life, or taketh away the means of preserving  
the same, and to omit that by which he think eth it may be best preserved. ..

And because the condition of man (as hath been declared in the precedent chapter) is a condition of war of every one against every one, in which case every one is governed by his own reason,  
and there is nothing he can make use of that may not be a help unto him in preserving his life  
against his enemies; it followeth that in such a condition every man has a right to every thing, even  
to one another’s body. And therefore, as long as this natural right of every man to every thing  
endureth, there can be no security to any man, how strong or wise soever he be, of living out the  
time which nature ordinarily alloweth men to live. And consequently it is a precept, or general rule  
of reason: that every man ought to endeavour peace, as far as he has hope of obtaining it; and when  
he cannot obtain it, that he may seek and use all helps and advantages of war. The first branch of  
which rule containeth the first and fundamental law of nature, which is: to seek peace and follow  
it. The second, the sum of the right of nature, which is: by all means we can to defend ourselves.

**Excerpts from John Locke’s Second Treatise on Civil Government “Of the State of Nature”**

4. To understand political power aright, and derive it from its original, we must consider what estate all men are naturally in, and that is, a state of perfect freedom to order their actions, and dispose of their possessions and persons as they think fit, within the bounds of the law of Nature, without asking leave or depending upon the will of any other man.

The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it, which obliges every one, and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions; for men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent and infinitely wise Maker; all the servants of one sovereign Master, sent into the world by His order and about His business; they are His property, whose workmanship they are made to last during His, not one another's pleasure. And, being furnished with like faculties, sharing all in one community of Nature, there cannot be supposed any such subordination among us that may authorise us to destroy one another, as if we were made for one another's uses, as the inferior ranks of creatures are for ours. Every one as he is bound to preserve himself, and not to quit his station wilfully, so by the like reason, when his own preservation comes not in competition, ought he as much as he can to preserve the rest of mankind, and not unless it be to do justice on an offender, take away or impair the life, or what tends to the preservation of the life, the liberty, health, limb, or goods of another.

**“Of the Ends of Political Society and Government”**

123. IF man in the state of Nature be so free as has been said, if he be absolute lord of his own person and possessions, equal to the greatest and subject to nobody, why will he part with his freedom, this empire, and subject himself to the dominion and control of any other power? To which it is obvious to answer, that though in the state of Nature he hath such a right, yet the enjoyment of it is very uncertain and constantly exposed to the invasion of others; for all being kings as much as he, every man his equal, and the greater part no strict observers of equity and justice, the enjoyment of the property he has in this state is very unsafe, very insecure. This makes him willing to quit this condition which, however free, is full of fears and continual dangers; and it is not without reason that he seeks out and is willing to join in society with others who are already united, or have a mind to unite for the mutual preservation of their lives, liberties and estates, which I call by the general name- property.

124. The great and chief end, therefore, of men uniting into commonwealths, and putting themselves under government, is the preservation of their property; to which in the state of Nature there are many things wanting.

Firstly, there wants an established, settled, known law, received and allowed by common consent to be the standard of right and wrong, and the common measure to decide all controversies between them. For though the law of Nature be plain and intelligible to all rational creatures, yet men, being biased by their interest, as well as ignorant for want of study of it, are not apt to allow of it as a law binding to them in the application of it to their particular cases.

125. Secondly, in the state of Nature there wants a known and indifferent judge, with authority to determine all differences according to the established law. For every one in that state being both judge and executioner of the law of Nature, men being partial to themselves, passion and revenge is very apt to carry them too far, and with too much heat in their own cases, as well as negligence and unconcernedness, make them too remiss in other men's.

126. Thirdly, in the state of Nature there often wants power to back and support the sentence when right, and to give it due execution. They who by any injustice offended will seldom fail where they are able by force to make good their injustice. Such resistance many times makes the punishment dangerous, and frequently destructive to those who attempt it.

127. Thus mankind, notwithstanding all the privileges of the state of Nature, being but in an ill condition while they remain in it are quickly driven into society. Hence it comes to pass, that we seldom find any number of men live any time together in this state. The inconveniencies that they are therein exposed to by the irregular and uncertain exercise of the power every man has of punishing the transgressions of others, make them take sanctuary under the established laws of government, and therein seek the preservation of their property. It is this that makes them so willingly give up every one his single power of punishing to be exercised by such alone as shall be appointed to it amongst them, and by such rules as the community, or those authorised by them to that purpose, shall agree on. And in this we have the original right and rise of both the legislative and executive power as well as of the governments and societies themselves.