

# Social Contract Theory - Summary

Birth of Liberalism and Human Rights

State of Nature: humans are free & equal

Law of Nature. How to learn and implement it?

What is Human Being? What is Society?

What is Rule, Governance, Politics?

Natural Rights Doctrine

Transformation of the Rule/State

Transformation of Legitimacy of Power

Birth of Civil Society, Public Opinion



# Rousseau Jean Jacques

1712 – 1778

- Geneva, Maverick, on the run
- Pantheon in Paris (1794)
- State of nature as normative guide, critique of society, civilization as decadent
- Fault of ownership x savage
- Morality as natural, innate
- Instinct/emotions as its source
- Marxism, romantics, environmentalism ...



# French revolution 1789

The background of the slide is a historical painting depicting a battle scene from the French Revolution. It shows soldiers in uniform fighting amidst smoke and flags. The scene is set in an urban environment with stone buildings and a large stone archway on the right. The overall atmosphere is one of intense combat and chaos.

- Declaration of Independence 1776
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens 1789 (Lafayette, Sieyès, Mirabeau)
- Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizens (Olympe de Gouge)
- Napoleon: Code Civil 1804
- Habsburgs: ABGB 1811
- Codex Maximilianus Bavaricus Civilis, 1756
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

*„ Until the end of the second world war and revolution in the mass media, these models of democracy clearly distinguished Anglo-American tradition from continental Europe“  
(Giovanny Sartori).*

## **Rationalistic Democracy**

Enlightenment - Normative

Ideas

Deduction

Idealism, Utopian

What is Democracy?

Principals, Values

Intellectuals/Writers

Revolution – a New Beginning

Break with the Past

Legal State (Rechtstaat)

Code Law

Private & Public Law

Volk/People - Singular

Representation

Parliamentary System

Proportional System

Neo-Corporativism/Centralisms

Intellectually Appealing

Less effective

## **Empirical Democracy**

Empirical - Pragmatic

Facts

Induction

Realism

Making Democracy Work?

Procedures

Politicians

Evolution – Hereditary Right

Continuity

Rule of Law

Case Law

Common Law & Equity

We the People - Plural

Leadership

Cabinet/Presidential System

Majority System

Pluralism/Lobbing Regulation

Unappealing

More effective