



Political  
philosophy

# Society

- ? “The aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community”

# Questions/Themes

- ? Freedom
- ? Power ( who to rule/ how to rule)
- ? Justice

# Construct the best possible school

- ? Freedom
- ? Power
- ? Justice
- ? Student rights

- ? Who is the leader and how is the leader chosen?
- ? What subjects needs to be studied by the students?
- ? Can you arrive when you like to school?
- ? How do you know that the assessment is just to all students?

# Utopia=

an ideal commonwealth whose inhabitants exist under seemingly perfect conditions. Hence utopian and utopianism are words used to denote visionary reform that tends to be impossibly idealistic.

## Christiania

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuF-3IPo3b8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bliySDk5eYU>

# Plato (427 – 347 BCE)

- ? a good life is possible only in a well – governed society: the rulers should be philosophers, the guardians brave men and workers are regular people
- ? individual freedom is not as important as the state
- ? the common good is what is good for the state
- ? we should always obey the state
  - ? What about this?

# Thomas Hobbes (1588 – 1679)

- ? the society is formed because otherwise people fight each other in the natural state
- ? the ruler of the society has limitless power
- ? people have chosen the security of the society instead of the individual but violent freedom
- ? the common good equals no fighting and a strong ruler
- ? we should always obey the ruler
  - ? Contract?

# John Stuart Mill (1806 – 1873)

- ? the best society is a society that is good for as many individuals as possible
- ? individual good adds to the good of the society as a whole
- ? common good equals the sum of all individual goods
- ? we can either obey or disobey the society if it increases our individual good
  - ? Is this democracy?



# John Locke (1632 – 1704)

- ? the society is formed because people are afraid of each other in the natural state
- ? the security of the society is preferred because then people are not afraid of each other
- ? common good equals security and certain rights (life and property for instance)
- ? the members of the society have the right to overthrow a bad ruler
  - ? Contract?

# Karl Marx (1818 – 1883)

- ? good life for all human beings in a society can not be spoken of if some people are unequal with others
- ? the individual often has to give up her or his freedom by working just to stay alive
- ? common good is not achieved in a capitalist society
- ? the workers should become conscious of the capitalist oppression and unite to build a socialist state
  - ? Can communism work?

# John Rawls (1921 - 2002)

- ? a good society is a just society
- ? individual freedom means that everybody has the same individual freedom
- ? social and economic injustices can be tolerated if they support the common good and if every individual has the possibility of reaching a good place in the society
- ? an intolerable society may be opposed against
  - ? Veil of ignorance – nobody knows their position in the society = just decisions

# Robert Nozick (1938 - 2002)

- ? in a good society an individual can pursuit and reach happiness and riches by individual effort
- ? individual freedom is most important; if society collects taxes in order to finance schools and hospitals it goes against individual rights
  - ? night watchman state – minimal state interference
- ? there is no common good, only individual goods
- ? we should obey ourselves; the society should be obeyed only if it gains us
  - ? Do we have any responsibility for others in our society?