

## SUMMARY OF JOHN LOCKE'S SECOND TREATISE ON GOVERNMENT

The following summarizes the important points John Locke outlined pertaining to the state of nature of man, property, political or civil society, the beginning of political societies and the ends of political society and government in the Second Treatise on Government which he wrote in the year 1690.

### Of the State of Nature

The original nature of man comprises perfect freedom and equality among other men to use God's creations. However, his freedom is not absolute which means that it does not give him the right to harm himself and others or create chaos in the world he lives in. Thus, the government ensures the creation and observance of laws to protect him by providing guidelines on how to properly behave in society.

These laws provide men the legal rights to punish and claim compensation for the harm that others will cause him. The right to punish under the law merits an appropriate punishment for every crime committed. Interpretations and regulations of lawmakers determine the appropriate punishment for every type of crime committed in a society.

### Of Property

Man's state of nature created him to equally consume God's creation in relation to other men. However, each man generates his own property or assets through exercising his skills and intellect to earn money to be able to accumulate his own sets of properties. These assets that he accumulates using his own labor are outside the boundaries of other people's rights to claim communal ownership.

### Of Political or Civil Society

A political or civil society exists when various sets of individuals or families come together to form a community that serves as a political body under the guidance of government that legislates and enforces laws to protect the freedom of the people. Each man then relinquishes to the government his individual right to directly punish crimes committed against him and others. He lets the law laws of the government handle the deterrent and punishment of crime commission. In doing so, he also acknowledges that he is subject to the same law and must abide by it.

### Of the Beginning of Political Societies

Political societies start when men come together voluntarily to create a community where there is protection of freedom, rights are upheld, protection of properties and peaceful environment for living. Thus, men agree to be under the rule of the government in political societies wherein the decision of the majority prevails.

### Of the Ends of Political Society and Government

The purpose for the creation of political society and government is to provide men the security they need to protect himself, his loved ones and his property from harm caused by his fellow men which risk his ability to enjoy his freedom to interact and live his life freely as well as enjoy the possessions he rightfully accumulate through his own labor.

Thus, man is willing to give up his absolute freedom and independence by agreeing to be under the jurisdiction of the political society and government where there is observance of the law. These laws provide a set of guidelines on how men should behave in the society and on how to resolve disputes peacefully avoiding bloodshed. Further, these laws establish what is right and wrong and eradicate biases in dispute resolution since the government appoints a disinterested party to facilitate conflict resolution.