Basic Political Writings

A fascinating examination of the relationship between civilization and inequality from one of history’s greatest minds. The first man to erect a fence around a piece of land and declare it his own founded civil society—and doomed mankind to millennia of war and famine. The dawn of modern civilization, argues Jean-Jacques Rousseau in this essential treatise on human nature, was also the beginning of inequality. One of the great thinkers of the Enlightenment, Rousseau based his work in compassion for his fellow man. The great crime of despotism, he believed, was the raising of the cruel above the weak. In this landmark text, he spells out the antidote for man’s ills: a compassionate revolution to pull up the fences and restore the balance of mankind. This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.

Rousseau's Political Writings

This classroom edition includes On the Social Contract, the Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts, the Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, and the Preface to Narcissus. Each text has been newly translated and includes a full complement of explanatory notes. The editors’ introduction offers students diverse points of entry into some of the distinctive possibilities and challenges of each of these fundamental texts, as well as an
introduction to Rousseau's life and historical situation. The volume also includes annotated appendices that help students to explore the origins and influences of Rousseau’s work, including excerpts from Hobbes, Pascal, Descartes, Mandeville, Diderot, Voltaire, Madame de Staël, Benjamin Constant, Joseph de Maistre, Kant, Hegel, and Engels.

The Social Contract; and Discourse on the Origin and Foundation of Inequality Among Mankind

Social Contract; Discourse on the Virtue Most Necessary for a Hero; Political Fragments; And, Geneva Manuscript

While some modern lovers of philosophy, literature, and politics might not agree with his views, Jean-Jacques Rousseau was undoubtedly one of the most influential thinkers in Western civilization. Rousseau was certainly controversial during his time, as his writings were revolutionary for contemporary audiences. "Basic Political Writings" contains four essential political works written by Rousseau: "Discourse on the Science and the Arts," "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality," "Discourse on Political Economy," and "On the Social Contract." In these works, he lays out the basic foundation of society and how it has evolved since the origins of man. Then, he describes how society is pulling mankind away from the laws of nature. Foundational to his point of view is Rousseau's argument that there are no true personal possessions in nature, only the community. He writes that it was the rise of personal possessions that allowed certain people to make powerful gains, and they were the ones who controlled the political spectrum. However, Rousseau offers hope by explaining that men can change their government; they do not have to be chained by their
possessions or other symbolic constraints. The author's concept of the general will is astounding, and he has since been both praised and criticized for his beliefs. Regardless of whether the reader agrees with Rousseau's political theories, the works in "Basic Political Writings" are essential reading for anyone looking to better understand the forces at work behind the rise of civilizations, power, and politics.

**Selected Political Writings**

Rousseau first exposes in Discourse on the Origin of Inequality his conception of a human state of nature, presented as a philosophical fiction and of human perfectibility, an early idea of progress. He then explains the way, according to him, people may have established civil society, which leads him to present private property as the original source and basis of all inequality. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778) was a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer of the 18th century, mainly active in France. His political philosophy influenced the Enlightenment across Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the overall development of modern political and educational thought.

**Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings**

The Second Discourse examines man in the true "state of nature," prior to the formation of the first human societies.

**Discourse on the Sciences and Arts**

In A Discourse on Inequality, Rousseau sets out to demonstrate how the growth of civilization corrupts man’s natural happiness and freedom by creating artificial inequalities of wealth, power and social privilege. Contending that primitive man was equal to his
fellows, Rousseau believed that as societies become more sophisticated, the strongest and most intelligent members of the community gain an unnatural advantage over their weaker brethren, and that constitutions set up to rectify these imbalances through peace and justice in fact do nothing but perpetuate them. Rousseau’s political and social arguments in the Discourse were a hugely influential denunciation of the social conditions of his time and one of the most revolutionary documents of the eighteenth-century. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Fundamental Political Writings

This two volume collection forms a comprehensive anthology of Rousseau's political writings.

Basic Political Writings

A revolutionary and controversial work, this book is a classic of political theory and a key source of democratic ideals. Rousseau's concepts of "the general will" as a way for individuals' self-interest to unite for a common good, and the individual's submission to government by contract, stand at the heart of democracy. A must-read book for all who care about the foundations of liberty. Newly designed and typeset in a modern 5.5-by-8.5-inch format by Waking Lion Press.
The Political Writings of Jean Jacques Rousseau

The new edition of this comprehensive and authoritative anthology of Rousseau's important early political writings in faithful English translations.

Jean Jaques Rousseau's Concept of Society and Government: A Study of the Social Contract

This substantially revised new edition of Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings features a brilliant new Introduction by David Wootton, a revision by Donald A. Cress of his own 1987 translation of Rousseau's most important political writings, and the addition of Cress? new translation of Rousseau's State of?War. New footnotes, headnotes, and a chronology by David Wootton provide expert guidance to first-time readers of the texts.

The Social Contract ; And, The Discourses

This carefully edited Jean-Jacques Rousseau collection has been designed and formatted to the highest digital standards and adjusted for readability on all devices. Table of Contents: Novels Emile, or On Education New Heloise (An Excerpt) Political Writings The Social Contract Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Among Men Discourse on the Arts and Sciences A Discourse on Political Economy Autobiography Confessions Criticism on Rousseau Rousseau and Romanticism (Irving Babbitt)

Discourse on the Origin of Inequality

Censored in its own time, the Social Contract (1762) remains a key source of democratic belief and is one of the classics of political theory. It argues concisely but eloquently, that the basis of any
legitimate society must be the agreement of its members. As humans we were ‘born free' and our subjection to government must be freely accepted. Rousseau is essentially a radical thinker, and in a broad sense a revolutionary. He insisted on the sovereignty of the people, and made some provocative statements that are still highly controversial. His greatest contribution to political thought is the concept of the general will, which unites individuals through their common self-interest, thus validating the society in which they live and the constraints it imposes on them. This new translation is fully annotated and indexed. The volume also contains the opening chapter of the manuscript version of the Contract, together with the long article on Political Economy, a work traditionally between the Contract and Rousseau's earlier masterpiece, the Discourse on Inequality.

The Social Contract, a Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, And a Discourse on Political Economy

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

The new edition of this comprehensive and authoritative anthology of Rousseau's major later political writings, in up-to-date English translations.

Rousseau: 'The Discourses' and Other Early Political Writings

The Second Discourse examines man in the true "state of nature," prior to the formation of the first human societies.

The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau
The Social Contract & Discourses by Jean Jacques Rousseau. This little treatise is part of a longer work which I began years ago without realising my limitations, and long since abandoned. Of the various fragments that might have been extracted from what I wrote, this is the most considerable, and, I think, the least unworthy of being offered to the public. The rest no longer exists. I mean to inquire if, in the civil order, there can be any sure and legitimate rule of administration, men being taken as they are and laws as they might be. In this inquiry I shall endeavour always to unite what right sanctions with what is prescribed by interest, in order that justice and utility may in no case be divided. I enter upon my task without proving the importance of the subject I shall be asked if I am a prince or a legislator, to write on politics. I answer that I am neither, and that is why I do so. If I were a prince or a legislator, I should not waste time in saying what wants doing; I should do it, or hold my peace. As I was born a citizen of a free State, and a member of the Sovereign, I feel that, however feeble the influence my voice can have on public affairs, the right of voting on them makes it my duty to study them: and I am happy, when I reflect upon governments, to find my inquiries always furnish me with new reasons for loving that of my own country.

The Collected Works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Illustrated

Rousseau's major works, available in a uniform English edition, continue the dialog of Rousseau's linguistic and musical theory within his larger philosophical system.

Discourse on Political Economy and The Social Contract

This eBook edition of "The Social Contract" has been formatted to the highest digital standards and adjusted for readability on all
devices. The Social Contract, originally published as On the Social Contract; or, Principles of Political Rights by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, is a 1762 book in which Rousseau theorized about the best way to establish a political community in the face of the problems of commercial society, which he had already identified in his Discourse on Inequality (1754). The Social Contract helped inspire political reforms or revolutions in Europe, especially in France. The Social Contract argued against the idea that monarchs were divinely empowered to legislate. Rousseau asserts that only the people, who are sovereign, have that all-powerful right.

A Discourse on Political Economy, Large-Print Edition

A revolutionary and controversial work, this book is a classic of political theory and a key source of democratic ideals. Rousseau's concepts of "the general will" as a way for individuals' self-interest to unite for a common good, and the individual's submission to government by contract, stand at the heart of democracy. A must-read book for all who care about the foundations of liberty. This publication from Boomer Books is specially designed and typeset for comfortable reading.

Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men

Rousseau is known as the forerunner of the French Revolution. He called for a "return to nature" which included a society demonstrating true equality. Rousseau's main philosophical works, which outline his social and political ideals, include: The New Eloise; Emile, or On Education; and The Social Contract. Rousseau was the first political philosopher who, while exploring the origins of the state, attempted to explain the causes of social inequality
and its forms. He believed that the state existed through a social contract with the people. Rousseau's writings rebuke modern society for inequalities, while providing ethical instruction and encouraging the science of compassion. DISCOURSE ON THE ARTS AND SCIENCES DISCOURSE ON THE ORIGIN AND BASIS OF INEQUALITY AMONG MEN DISCOURSE ON POLITICAL ECONOMY ÉMILE, OR ON EDUCATION THE SOCIAL CONTRACT OR PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL RIGHT CONSTITUTIONAL PROJECT FOR CORSICA CONSIDERATIONS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND REVERIES OF A SOLITARY WALKER THE CONFESSIONS OF JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

A Discourse on Inequality

A comprehensive 1997 anthology of Rousseau's work containing The Social Contract, his most famous single work.

Discourse on the Origin of Inequality

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was an 18th century Genevan philosopher and writer. His Basic Political Writings which contain his political philosophy, influenced the Enlightenment in France and across Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the overall development of modern political and educational thought. This edition of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Basic Political Writings contains Rousseau's most important political writings such as A Discourse on Inequality in which Rousseau discusses two types of inequality: natural, or physical inequality, and ethical, or moral inequality. This edition also contains Jean-Jacques Rousseau's The Social Contract and A Discourse on Political Economy. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Basic Political Writings is often required textbook reading in the following disciplines: politics & social
Fugitive Rousseau

A provocative essay that challenged the superiority of civilized society and modern government, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality made him an outcast among fellow Enlightenment thinkers but stands today as one of the most important political texts in Western history. Helena Rosenblatt's new translation, introduction, and selection of related documents help students comprehend why Rousseau's criticisms of human nature, political hierarchy, and private property were so controversial in his time yet later were hailed as a foundation of democracy. The introduction explores life experiences that shaped Rousseau's philosophy, explains contemporary ideas about political authority and social order, and guides students through Rousseau's thought, including explanations of how his work anticipated theories about evolution and inspired leaders of the French Revolution. Related primary documents -- including a selection from Rousseau's Social Contract -- situate Rousseau's ideas in contemporary political and social thought. Questions for consideration, a chronology of Rousseau's life and work, and a selected bibliography enrich students' understanding of the man and his times.

Rousseau: 'The Social Contract' and Other Later Political Writings

This substantially revised new edition of Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings features a brilliant new Introduction by David Wootton, a revision by Donald A. Cress of his own 1987 translation of Rousseau's most important political writings, and the addition of Cress' new translation of Rousseau's State of
Basic Political Writings

This substantially revised new edition of Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings features a brilliant new Introduction by David Wootton, a revision by Donald A. Cress of his own 1987 translation of Rousseau's most important political writings, and the addition of Cress' new translation of Rousseau's State of War. New footnotes, headnotes, and a chronology by David Wootton provide expert guidance to first-time readers of the texts.

Discourse on the Origins of Inequality (second Discourse); Polemics; And, Political Economy

Jean-Jacques Rousseau writes, Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. This statement exemplifies the main idea behind The Social Contract, in other words that man is essentially free if it weren't for the oppression of political organizations such as government. Rousseau goes on to lay forth the principles that he deems most important for achieving political right amongst people. Contained within this volume are also two discourses by Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In A Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Rousseau examines the causes of the inequalities that exist among men concluding that it is the natural result of the formation of any civilization. In A Discourse on Political Economy Rousseau examines the nature of politics and their effect on people. These three works lay a solid foundation for the political philosophy of Rousseau and are a must read for any student of political science or philosophy.
Here are The Prince and the most important Discourses, newly translated into spare, vivid English by one of the most gifted historians of his generation. Why a new translation? "Machiavelli was never the dull, worthy, pedantic author who appears in the pages of other translations", says David Wootton in his Introduction. "In the pages that follow I have done my best to let him speak in his own voice." (And indeed, Wootton's Machiavelli literally does so when the occasion demands: Renderings of that most problematic of words, virtù, are in each instance followed by the Italian). Notes, a map, and an altogether remarkable Introduction, no less authoritative for being grippingly readable, help make this edition an ideal first encounter with Machiavelli for any student of history and political theory.

The Essential Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau

A powerful, passionate explanation of the roots of social inequality, Rousseau's "Discourse "influenced virtually every major philosopher of the Enlightenment. It remains among the 18th-century's most provocative and frequently studied works.

Rousseau's Reader

Critics have claimed that Jean-Jacques Rousseau was a primitivist uncritically preoccupied with “noble savages” and that he remained oblivious to the African slave trade. Fugitive Rousseau presents the emancipatory possibilities of Rousseau’s thought and argues that a fresh, “fugitive” perspective on political freedom is bound up with Rousseau’s treatments of primitivism and slavery. Rather than trace Rousseau’s arguments primarily to the social contract tradition of Hobbes and Locke, Fugitive Rousseau places
Rousseau squarely in two imperial contexts: European empire in his contemporary Atlantic world and Roman imperial philosophy. Anyone who aims to understand the implications of Rousseau’s famous sentence “Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains” or wants to know how Rousseauian arguments can support a radical democratic politics of diversity, discontinuity, and exodus will find Fugitive Rousseau indispensable.

**Discourse on Inequality**

Contains the entire First Discourse, contemporary attacks on it, Rousseau’s replies to his critics, and his summary of the debate in his preface to Narcissus. A number of these texts have never before been available in English. The First Discourse and Polemics demonstrate the continued relevance of Rousseau’s thought. Whereas his critics argue for correction of the excesses and corruptions of knowledge and the sciences as sufficient, Rousseau attacks the social and political effects of the dominant forms of scientific knowledge.

**A Discourse on Inequality**

On his famous walk to Vincennes to visit the imprisoned Diderot, Rousseau had what he called an “illumination”—the realization that man was naturally good but becomes corrupted by the influence of society—a fundamental change in Rousseau’s perspective that would animate all of his subsequent works. At that moment, Rousseau “saw” something he had hitherto not seen, and he made it his mission to help his readers share that vision through an array of rhetorical and literary techniques. In Rousseau’s Reader, John T. Scott looks at the different strategies Rousseau used to engage and persuade the readers of his major philosophical works, including the Social Contract, Discourse on
Inequality, and Emile. Considering choice of genre; textual structure; frontispieces and illustrations; shifting authorial and narrative voice; addresses to readers that alternately invite and challenge; apostrophe, metaphor, and other literary devices; and, of course, paradox, Scott explores how the form of Rousseau’s writing relates to the content of his thought and vice versa.

Through this skillful interplay of form and content, Rousseau engages in a profoundly transformative dialogue with his readers. While most political philosophers have focused, understandably, on Rousseau’s ideas, Scott shows convincingly that the way he conveyed them is also of vital importance, especially given Rousseau’s enduring interest in education. Giving readers the key to Rousseau’s style, Scott offers fresh and original insights into the relationship between the substance of his thought and his literary and rhetorical techniques, which enhance our understanding of Rousseau’s project and the audiences he intended to reach.

The Discourses and Other Political Writings

Rousseau first exposes in this work his conception of a human state of nature, presented as a philosophical fiction, and of human perfectibility, an early idea of progress. He then explains the way, according to him, people may have established civil society, which leads him to present private property as the original source and basis of all inequality.

The Basic Political Writings

This Norton Critical Edition includes the three most important of Rousseau's political writings: Discourse on Inequality, Discourse on Political Economy, and On Social Contract.

A Discourse on Political Economy
Individualist and communitarian. Anarchist and totalitarian. Classicist and romanticist. Progressive and reactionary. Since the eighteenth century, Jean-Jacques Rousseau has been said to be all of these things. Few philosophers have been the subject of as much or as intense debate, yet almost everyone agrees that Rousseau is among the most important and influential thinkers in the history of political philosophy. This new edition of his major political writings, published in the year of the three-hundredth anniversary of his birth, renews attention to the perennial importance of Rousseau’s work. The book brings together superb new translations by renowned Rousseau scholar John T. Scott of three of Rousseau’s works: the Discourse on the Sciences and Arts, the Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men, and On the Social Contract. The two Discourses show Rousseau developing his well-known conception of the natural goodness of man and the problems posed by life in society. With the Social Contract, Rousseau became the first major thinker to argue that democracy is the only legitimate form of political organization. Scott’s extensive introduction enhances our understanding of these foundational writings, providing background information, social and historical context, and guidance for interpreting the works. Throughout, translation and editorial notes clarify ideas and terms that might not be immediately familiar to most readers. The three works collected in The Major Political Writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau represent an important contribution to eighteenth-century political theory that has exerted an extensive influence on generations of thinkers, beginning with the leaders of the French Revolution and continuing to the present day. The new translations on offer here will be welcomed by a wide readership of both Rousseau scholars and readers with a general interest in political thought.
Regarding this quoted statement, Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s Of the Social Contract or Principles of Political Right (in the following referred to as the Social Contract) of 1762 tries to explain and solve the problems of the society Rousseau lived in with the idea of a somewhat direct democracy and a radical popular sovereignty. Accordingly, the author’s theory is the counterpart to the early liberal Montesquieuian model of a state with a binding constitution, but also to the later classical liberal theories of democracy of John Stuart Mill. In general, Rousseau is known as a representative of the concept of direct democracy and as an intercessor of the identity of governors and the governed. Moreover, he pledged for the inseparability of popular sovereignty. Taking this into consideration, Rousseau’s Social Contract – although censored and prohibited in his own time – remains a key source of democratic belief and is one of the classics of political theory. His theories were viewed so controversially that they were even publicly burned. So, the Social Contract and Emile or on Education (1762) became victims of the flames. This was, because basically, the Social Contract argues, that “the first and the most important consequences of the principles established so far is that the general will [volonté générale] alone can direct the forces of the state according to the end of its institution, which is the common good.”

The Changing Face of Nature in Rousseau's Political Writings

Censored in its own time, the Social Contract (1762) remains a key source of democratic belief and is one of the classics of political theory. It argues concisely but eloquently, that the basis of any legitimate society must be the agreement of its members. As humans we were 'born free' and our subjection to government must be freely accepted. Rousseau is essentially a radical thinker, and in a broad sense a revolutionary. He insisted on the sovereignty of the people, and made some provocative statements that are still highly controversial. His greatest contribution to political thought is the concept of the general will, which unites individuals through their common self-interest, thus validating the society in which they live and the constraints it imposes on them. This new translation is fully annotated and indexed. The volume also contains the opening chapter of the manuscript version of the Contract, together with the long article on Political Economy, a work traditionally between the Contract and Rousseau's earlier masterpiece, the Discourse on Inequality.

Rousseau: The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings

The Everyman Paperback Classics series offers the latest scholarship on the works of the world's greatest poets, writers and
philosophers. Each edition includes a comprehensive introduction, chronology, notes, appendix, critical responses, and a text summary. Presented in an affordable edition with wide format pages for generous margins for notes. Contact your sales rep or call Tuttle for a complete list of available titles. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

Discourse on the Arts and Sciences

Discourse on the Origins of Inequality (second Discourse); Polemics; And, Political Economy

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