Rutkowski

Enlightenment
“philosophes” (Fr “philosopher”) – great thinkers

primarily a secular movement of intellectuals who:
  1. celebrate science
  2. question religion
  3. propose social reform

in the name of reason, nature and progress

Locke (Essay Concerning Human Understanding) Reason is that faculty that distinguishes humans from animals

Diderot: Reason is to the philosophe was grace is to the Christian.

nature can (and should be) – observed, experimented with, described, controlled

progress: belief in ability of humans to improve their lives through moral and reasonable human invention
(take one, apply to second, get third)

finally (whew) – context for Locke
Enlightenment period bound by 2 revolutions: Glorious Rev in Engl & Fr Rev
mid 17th c – civil war in Engl involved, among other parties, Charles I and radical Puritans (Prot) led to execution of Charles I in 1649 (Locke is 17); for about 10 years Engl ruled by the leader of Puritans, Oliver Cromwell; when he died, “Restoration” Charles II after Restoration, Locke’s writing – which emphasizes reason, natural rights and man’s ability to rule himself – is seen as a threat. he flees to Holland.

Charles II – succeeded by James II, a Catholic

some English leaders who oppose James invite Mary (James’ daughter) and her husband the Dutch prince William of Orange; they arrive with an army, and basically James and his administration flee (so “glorious” = bloodless)

consequences:
  • early in 1689 William and Mary accepted the invitation of Parliament to rule as joint sovereigns. The Declaration of Rights and the Bill of Rights (1689) redefined the relationship between monarch and subjects
  • barred any future Catholic succession to the throne.
  • The royal power to suspend and dispense with law was abolished, and the crown was forbidden to levy taxation or maintain a standing army in peacetime without parliamentary consent.
  • The provisions of the Bill of Rights were, in effect, the conditions upon which the throne was offered to and accepted by William and Mary.
  • These events were a milestone in the gradual process by which practical power shifted from the monarch to Parliament. The theoretical ascendancy of Parliament was never thereafter successfully challenged.
Locke is literally on the same boat as William and Mary – he returns to England because he hopes he will be safe, and he’s right. Publ. 2 Treatises same year – but anon – he never acknowledges in lifetime

First Treatise: demolishes divine rights of kings
second: from demolition to reconstruction
despite the dryness of this reading, and b/c seems so commonsense now, miss out on how crazily radical this text is: it all leads up to explaining when it’s ok to overthrow a government

***

Locke:
style? tone?

I: distinguishes political power from other kinds of relationships – what kind? p 2
he then defines political power as? (3)

II. state of nature?
perfect freedom, equality
can anyone do anything? (no, not state of perfect license, must be governed by reason)
what rights do men have in this state?
(right to punish)
what kind of punishment? (in proportion)

III. state of war? state of enmity and destruction
what’s the difference between this and state of nature?
12 – when someone threatens to use force on another and there’s no higher authority to appeal to
what can we do to avoid state of war? (bottom 13) (enter into society)

IV Slavery
what’s his point about “consent”? (15)
what is the condition of slavery? state of war continued between conqueror and a captive

V property –
this is one of the most imp sections
come back to this

VI paternal power
are children born into full state of equality? no – born in it but not until they reach majority
uses analogy again between son/father, subject/king – what’s the difference?
39. comes a time when all men are free from the will of their father

VII polit or civil society
kinship & conjugal society not the same as political society
I know the suspense is killing you – what’s polit society and when does it happen?
51: read long passage – whole class read, one sentence each
leads to 53: