



# 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 pursue 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?