



Our Question:  
Where does legitimacy come from?

Lecture #2:

*Revolution, Rights & the Social Contract: on  
the Institutionalization of State Power*

# Reminder: Course Website

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- [allenbolar.wordpress.com](http://allenbolar.wordpress.com)

# From Last Time:

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- Power is the ability to work ones will in the world
- Power with legitimacy is authority
- Power without legitimacy is tyranny

# Legitimacy?

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- How is legitimacy created and bestowed?
- How is authority created?

# Legitimacy?

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- How is legitimacy created and bestowed?
- How is authority created?
- We are interested in this in an American context, and we seek to understand how early Americans grappled with these questions.
- So, we've read a selection of important documents from the founders...haven't we?
  - *Get to work!*

# Before Liberalism

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- The three estates:
  - Knights
  - Priests
  - Peasants
- Roles were defined by birth and status and legitimated by the Church, tradition, and custom.
  - An organic hierarchy existed: in other words, natural and not made by man.

# The Three Estates





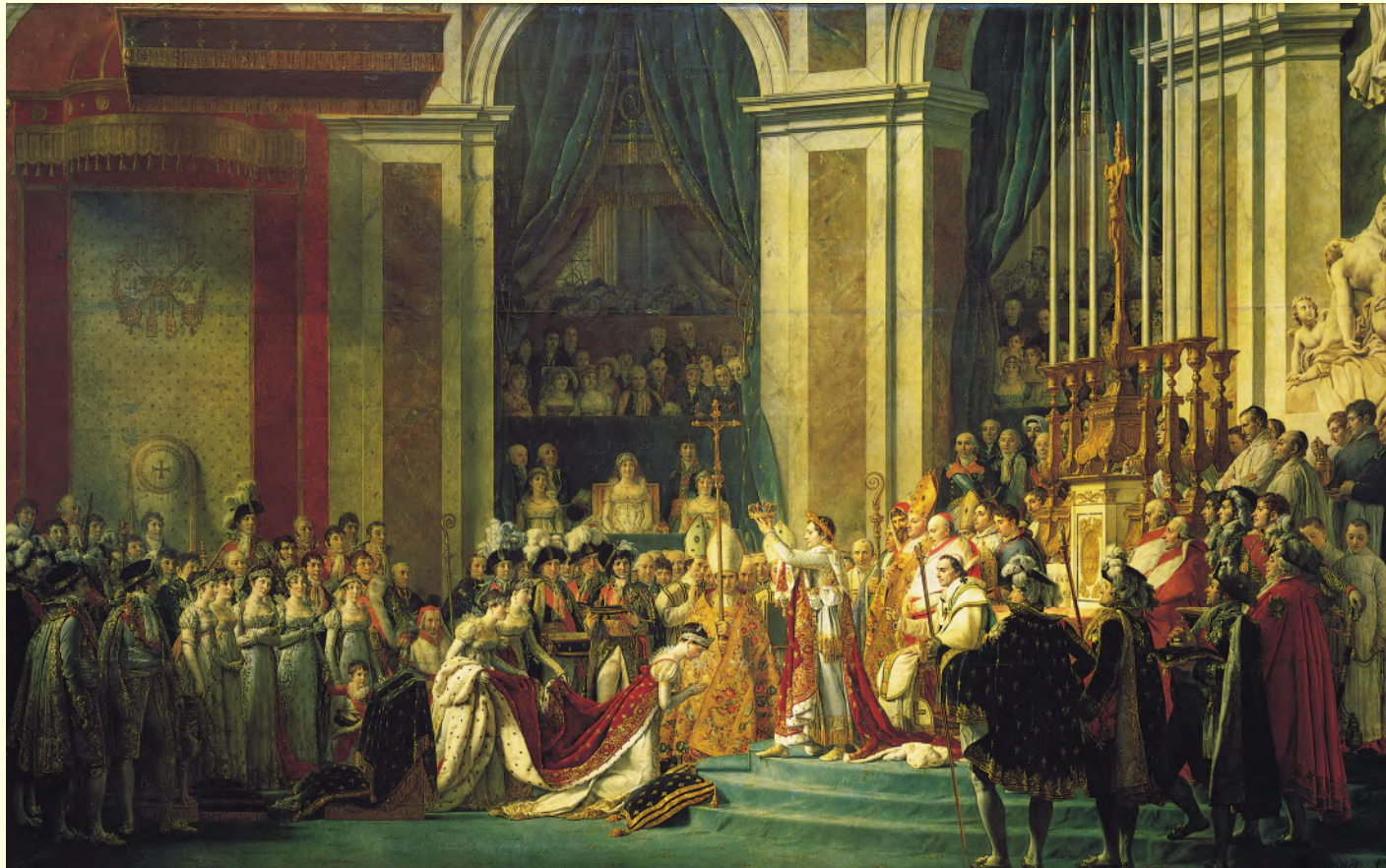
# The Divine Right of Kings





# Napoleon crowns himself

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# “Render unto Caesar...”





# Martin Luther

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■ *Against the  
Murderous,  
Thieving Hordes  
of Peasants,  
(1525)*

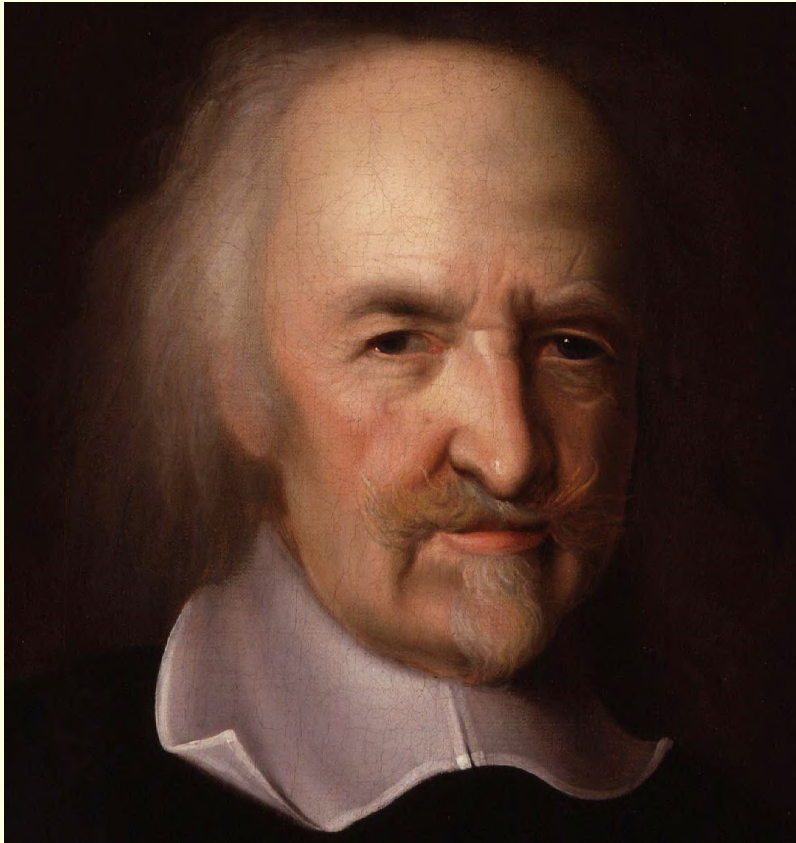
# Henry V

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# Thomas Hobbes

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- English Political Philosopher
- Born 1588
- Died 1679
- English Civil War (1642-1651)
- *Leviathan* published 1651

# Legitimacy by consent

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- In the state of nature, our mutual fear makes us dangerous to one another.
  - Life is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”
- So, we consent to form a social contract and to create the Leviathan.
  - For our protection
  - To promote commodious living



# The Leviathan – The Immortal Beast



# John Locke

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- English Political Philosopher
- Born 1632
- Died 1704
- Glorious Revolution (1688)
- Two Treatises of Government published in 1689

# Property and Natural Law

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- Natural law exists prior to the creation of civil society
  - We have a conscience that allows us to “read” the natural law.
- The natural law tells us that we own ourselves, our consciences, and our labor.
  - Through our labor we acquire property rights.
- Civil Society exists to secure our natural rights of “life, liberty, and property”.



# Property and Labor

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# When the Sovereign Fails?

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# The Destruction of the Leviathan

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# American Complaints

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- Economic exploitation by England
  - Taxation, forcible quartering of soldiers, violation of property rights
- Legal domination
  - British soldiers to be tried only in England, forced alteration of MA charter, restriction of town meetings
- Governmental oppression
  - Colonies have no say in taxation, diminished voice in own gov't

# *The Declaration of Independence*

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- “WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”

# *The Declaration of Independence*

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- “When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.”



# The End (for now)

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