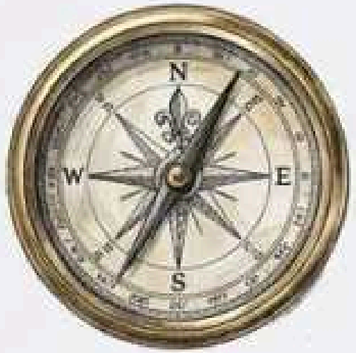
Lecture 1: Ideology and Liberalism

¶ 1.1

- What is an ideology, and why hold one?



- Where do the labels “left” and “right” come from?



- What does liberalism actually claim?



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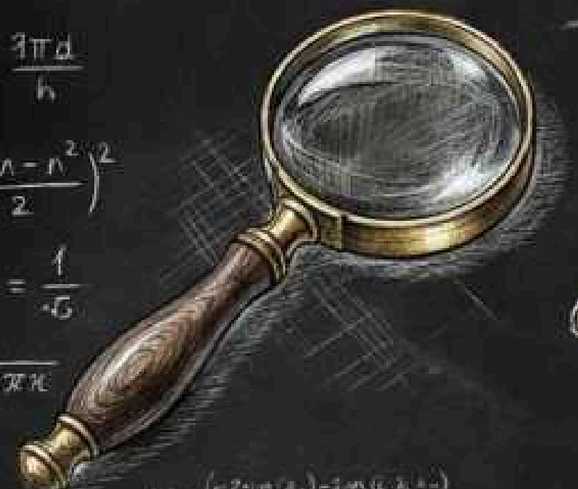
¶ 1.2

1796: Antoine Destutt de Tracy → A "Science of Ideas"

Early 1800s: Napoleon → Mockery of "Ideologues"

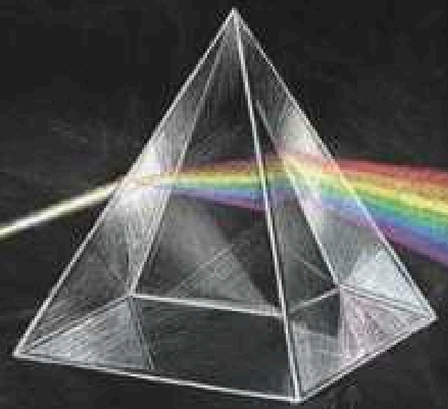
Mid-1800s: Karl Marx → Ideas disguising ruling class interests

Today: Modern Scholars → A neutral analytical lens









¶ 1.3

I = {N, S, P}

I (Ideology) is a connected set of beliefs about N (Human Nature), S (Society), and P (Power).



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¶ 1.4

EXPLAIN

Offers a story about how society works.

EVALUATE

Supplies standards of right and wrong.

ORIENT

Gives a group an identity.

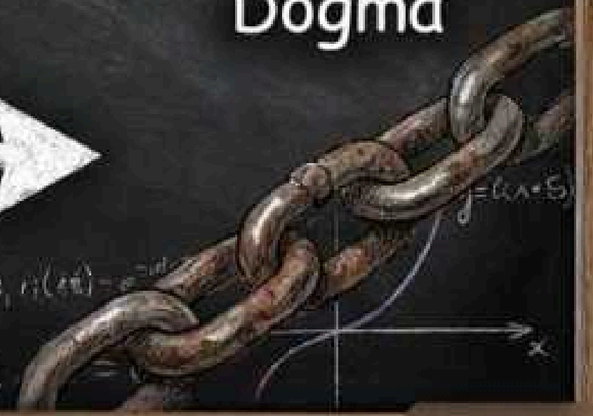
MOBILIZE

Turns belief into action.

Inspiration

Dogma





These four jobs explain why belief systems have this dual nature.

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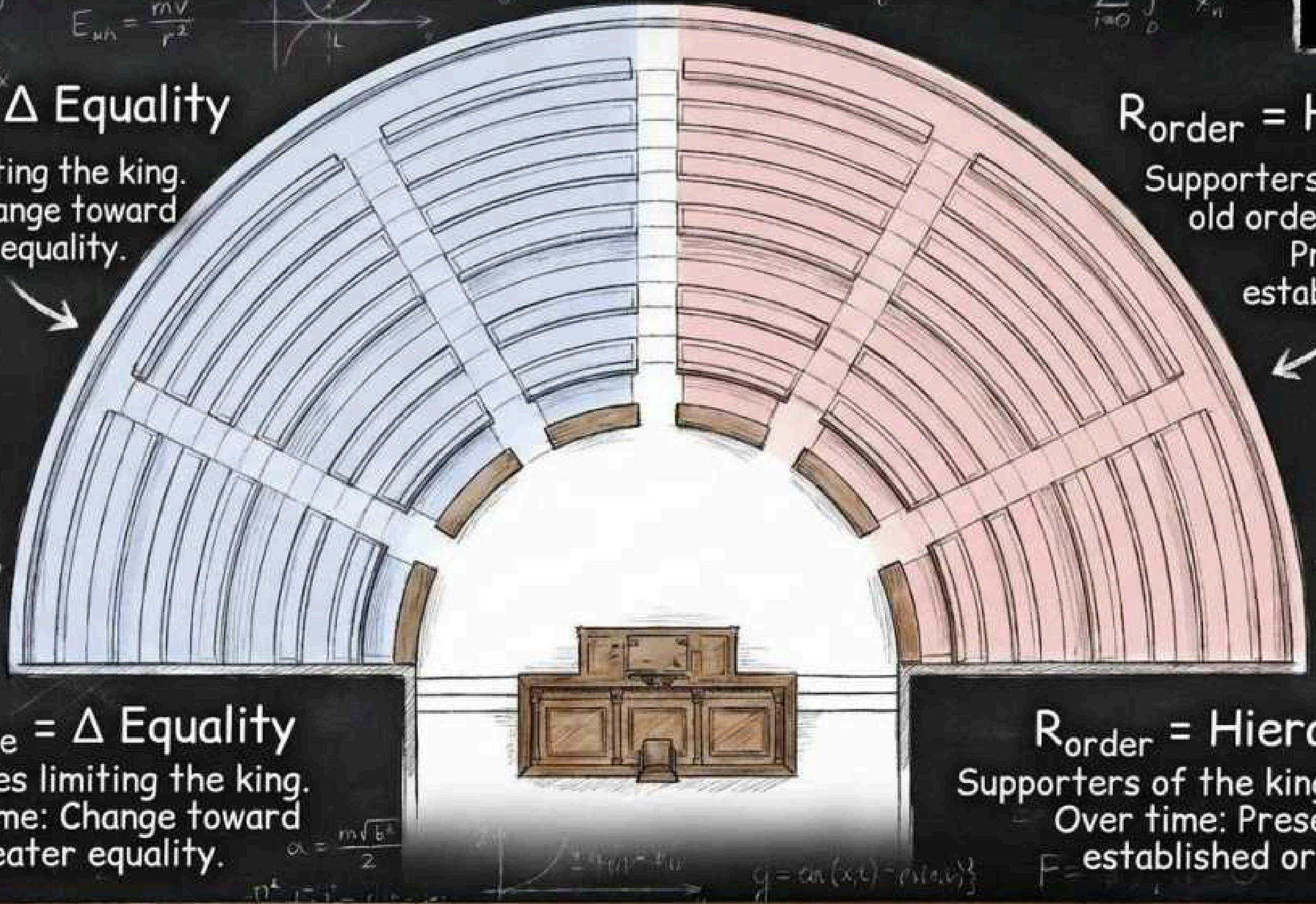
¶ 1.5

L_{change} = Δ Equality

Delegates limiting the king. Over time: Change toward greater equality.

R_{order} = Hierarchy

Supporters of the king/ old order. Over time: Preserving established order.



L_{change} = Δ Equality

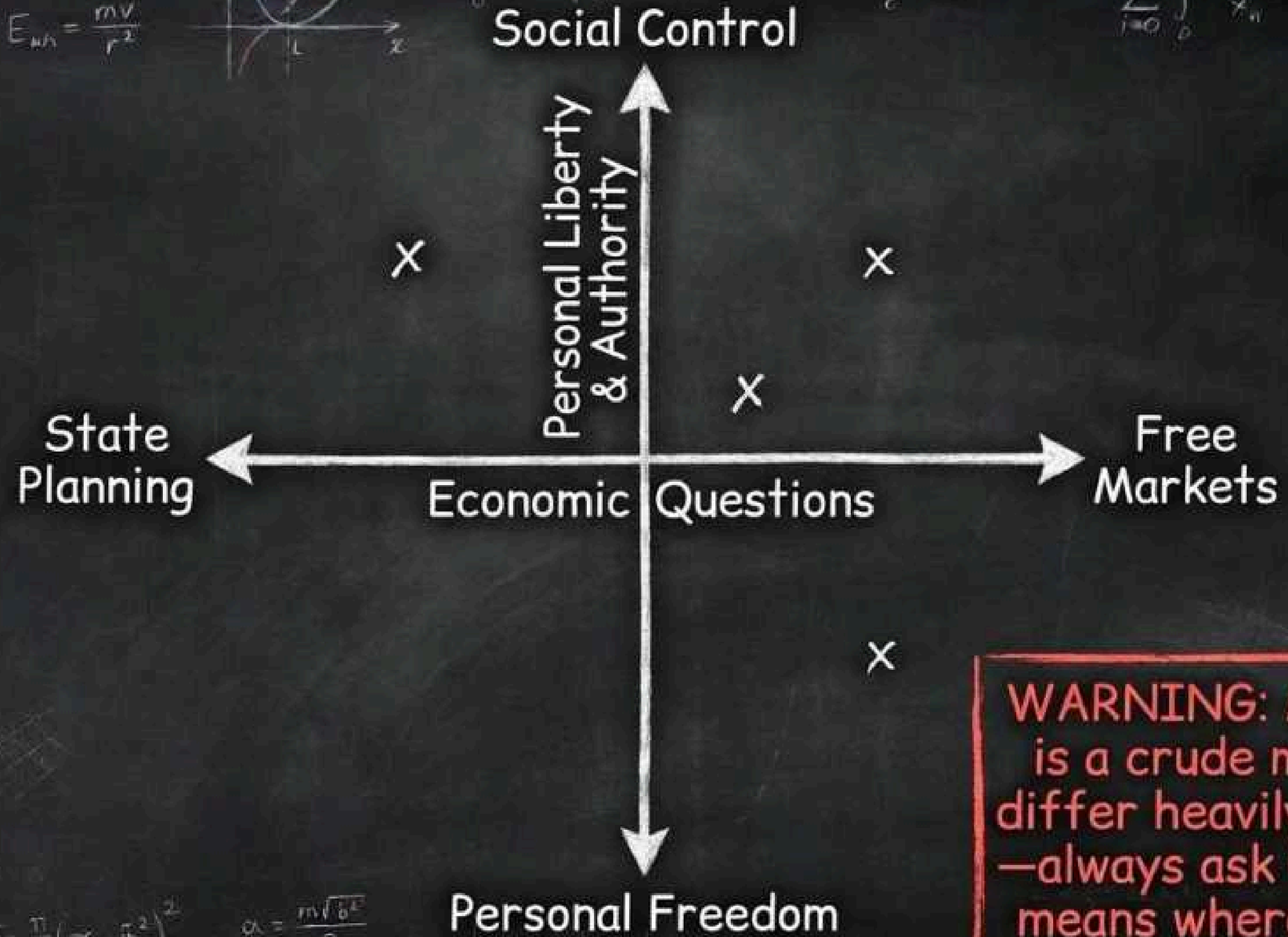
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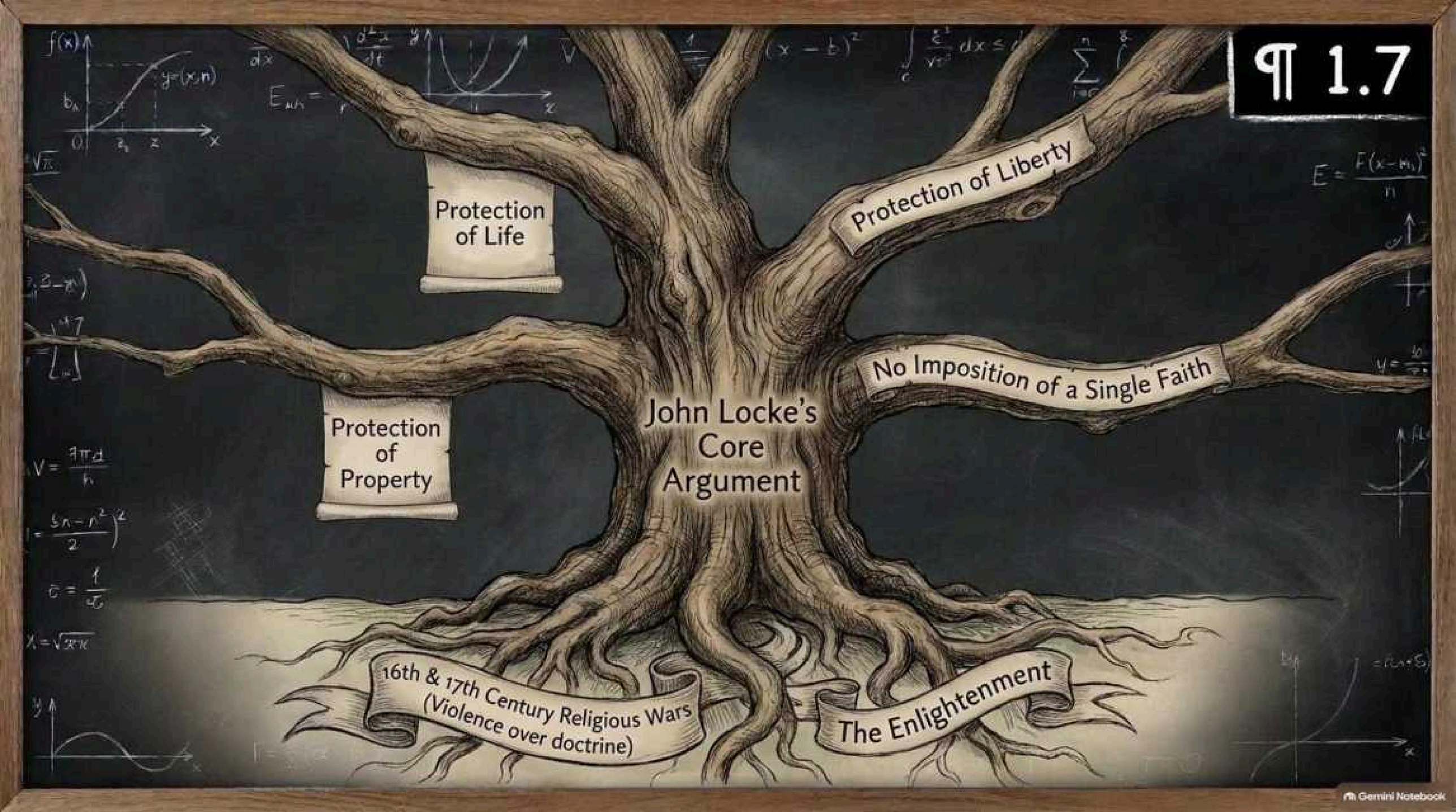
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¶ 1.6

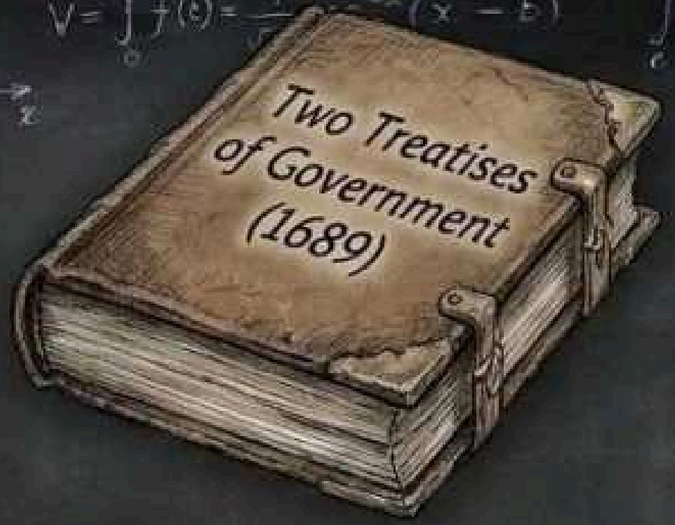


WARNING: A single line is a crude map. Labels differ heavily by country—always ask what a word means where it is used.

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¶ 1.7
John Locke's Core Argument
Protection of Life
Protection of Property
Protection of Liberty
No Imposition of a Single Faith
16th & 17th Century Religious Wars (Violence over doctrine)
The Enlightenment

¶ 1.8



Legitimacy = $\sum$ Consent of the Governed

(If rulers violate natural rights, people may resist.)

- English Bill of Rights (1689)
- American Declaration of Independence (1776)
- French Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789)

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¶ 1.9

Individual Liberty

Individual Liberty

Equality before the Law

Regular Elections



The Individual: The basic unit of moral concern (Not groups, not rulers).

Constitutional Limits on Power

Private Property & Free Exchange

Rule of Law

Toleration of Different Beliefs

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¶ 1.10

Adam Smith (1776) – The Wealth of Nations

Living Standards $\propto$ (Specialization $\times$ Exchange)

Baron de Montesquieu

State Power $\div 3 =$ Prevention of Tyranny



John Stuart Mill (1859) - *On Liberty*

Power_justified $= f$(Preventing Harm to Others)

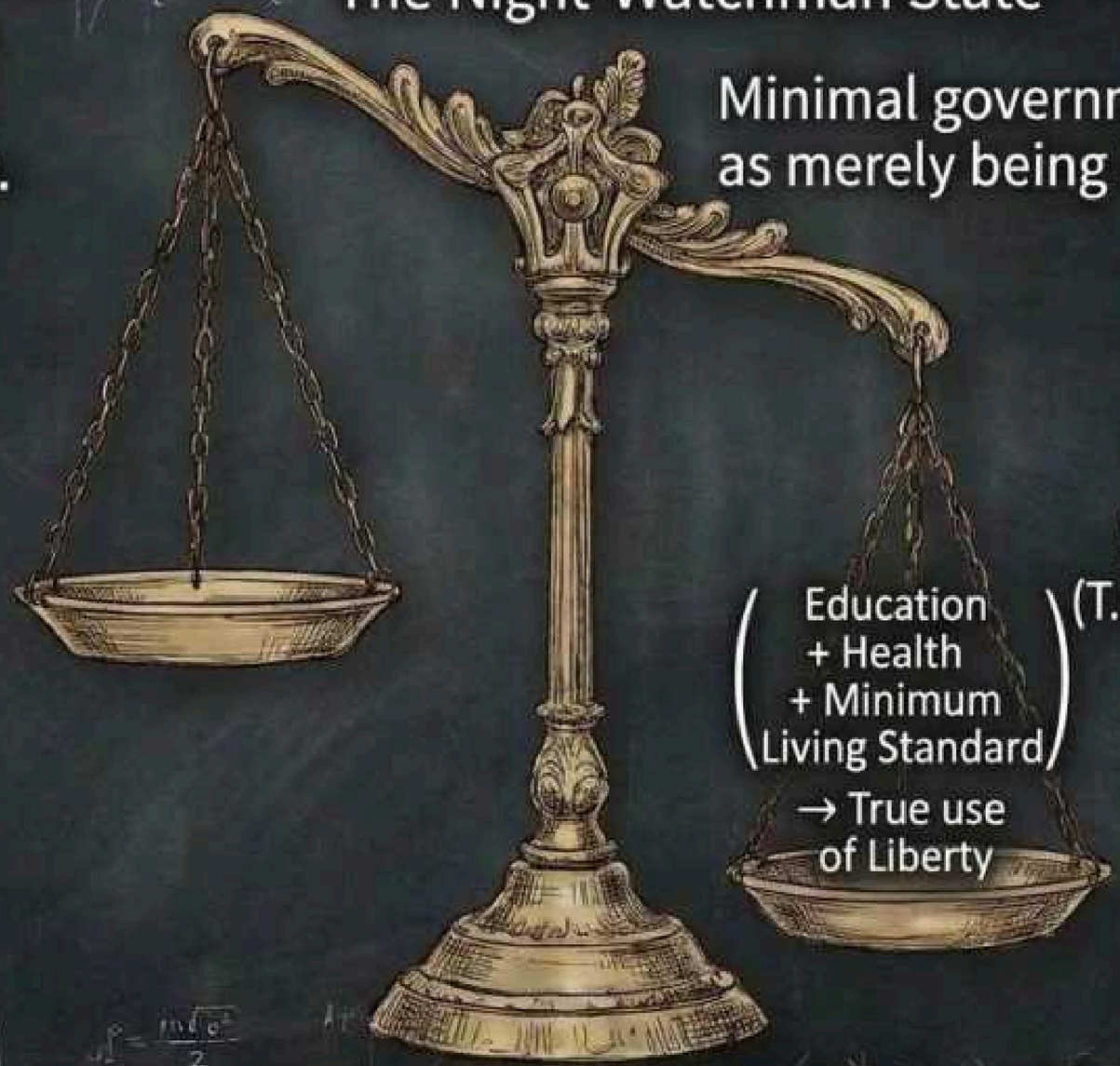
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¶ 1.11

The Night-Watchman State

Industrial capitalism brought wealth, but also severe hardship.

Minimal government; freedom as merely being left alone.



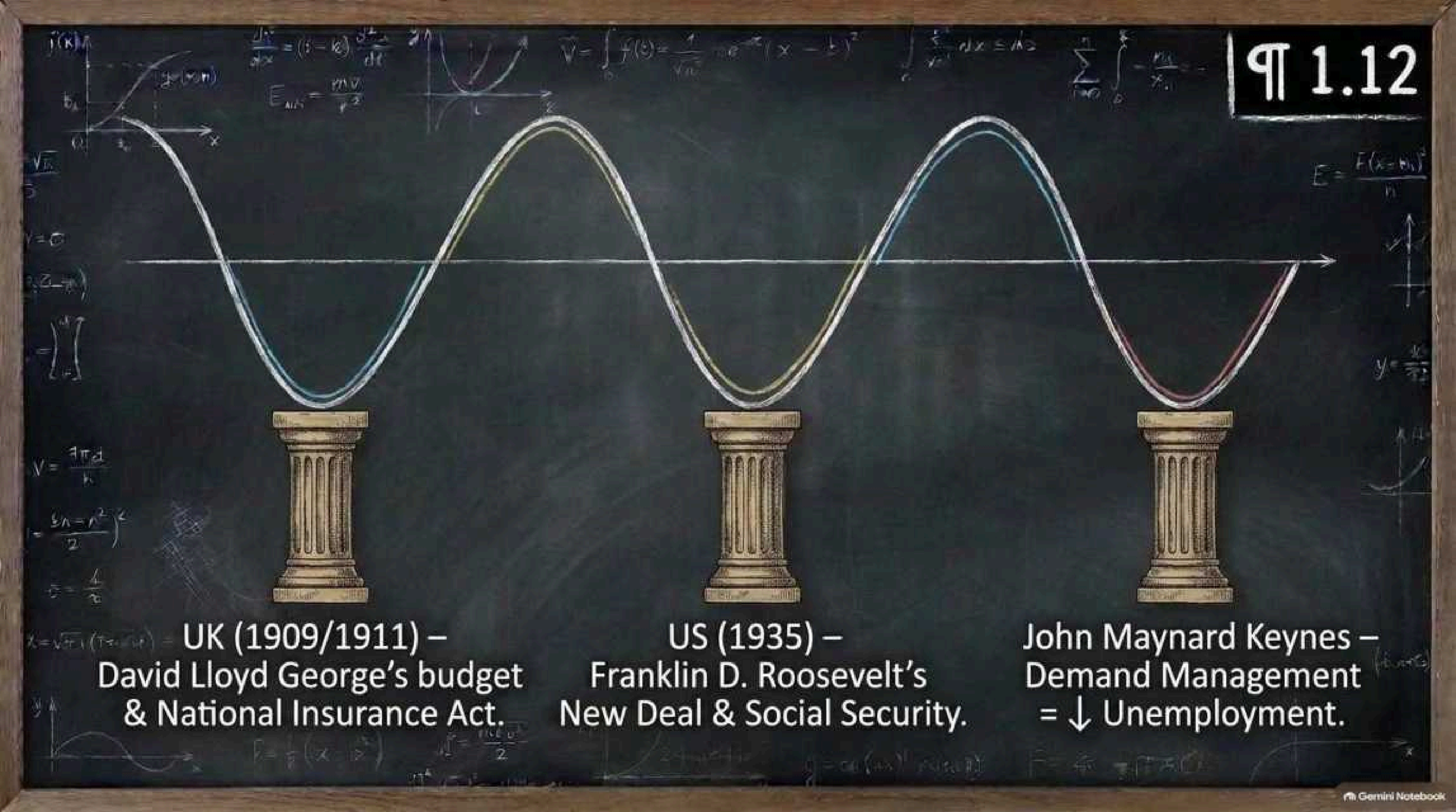
Social Liberalism
(T.H. Green & L.T. Hobhouse)

(Education + Health + Minimum Living Standard) → True use of Liberty

Government must actively support basic conditions so people can exercise freedom.

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¶ 1.12



UK (1909/1911) –
David Lloyd George's budget
& National Insurance Act.

US (1935) –
Franklin D. Roosevelt's
New Deal & Social Security.

John Maynard Keynes –
Demand Management
= ↓ Unemployment.

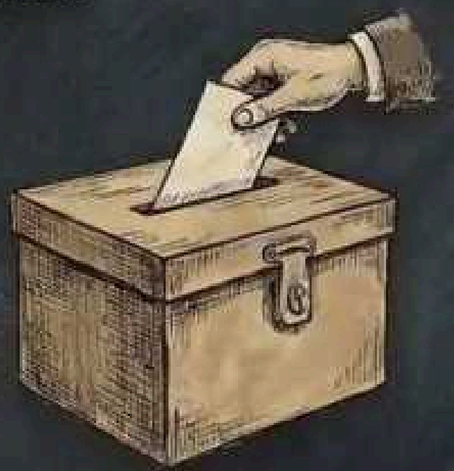
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¶ 1.13

United States

Liberal (Center-Left)

- Favors a larger role for government in the economy.
- Strong protection of social freedoms.



Europe & Much of the World

Liberal (Classical)

- Favors free markets.
- Limited government intervention.



Same vocabulary word, entirely different coefficients.

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¶ 1.14

Friedrich Hayek, 1944 - The Road to Serfdom

Central Economic Planning

Loop A

Consolidates Power

Endangers Personal Freedom



Milton Friedman

Competitive Free Markets

Loop B

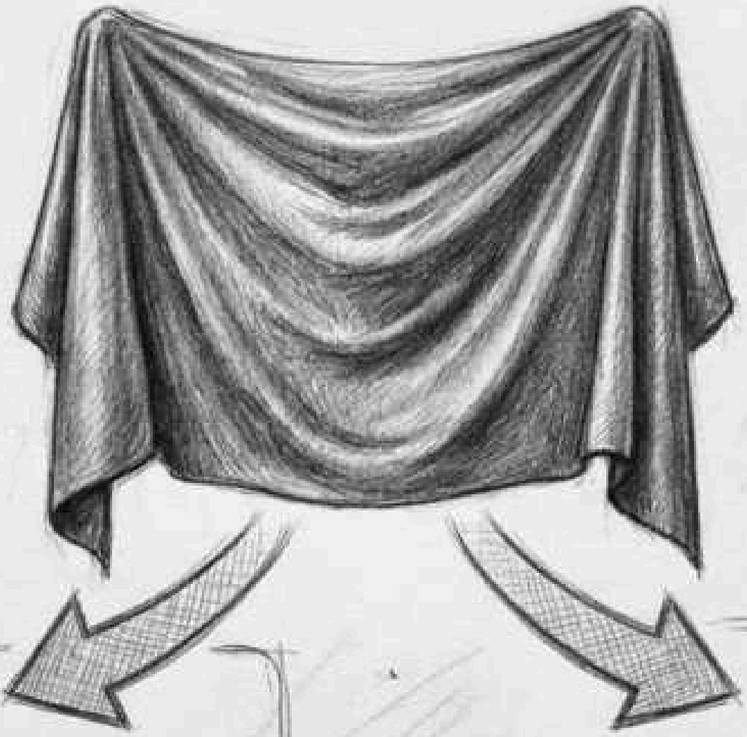
Protects both Liberty and Prosperity

These ideas influenced 1980s policy—critics later labeled this program “neoliberalism”.

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The Veil of Ignorance: Choosing rules without knowing your own place in society.

¶ 1.15



John Rawls, 1971 – A Theory of Justice

△ Inequalities → Must benefit the least advantaged

Protect equal basic liberties.

Robert Nozick, 1974

The Minimal State



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¶ 1.16

Treats people as detached individuals; neglects tradition, community, and duty.



Underrates the importance and cohesion of the nation.

Liberalism



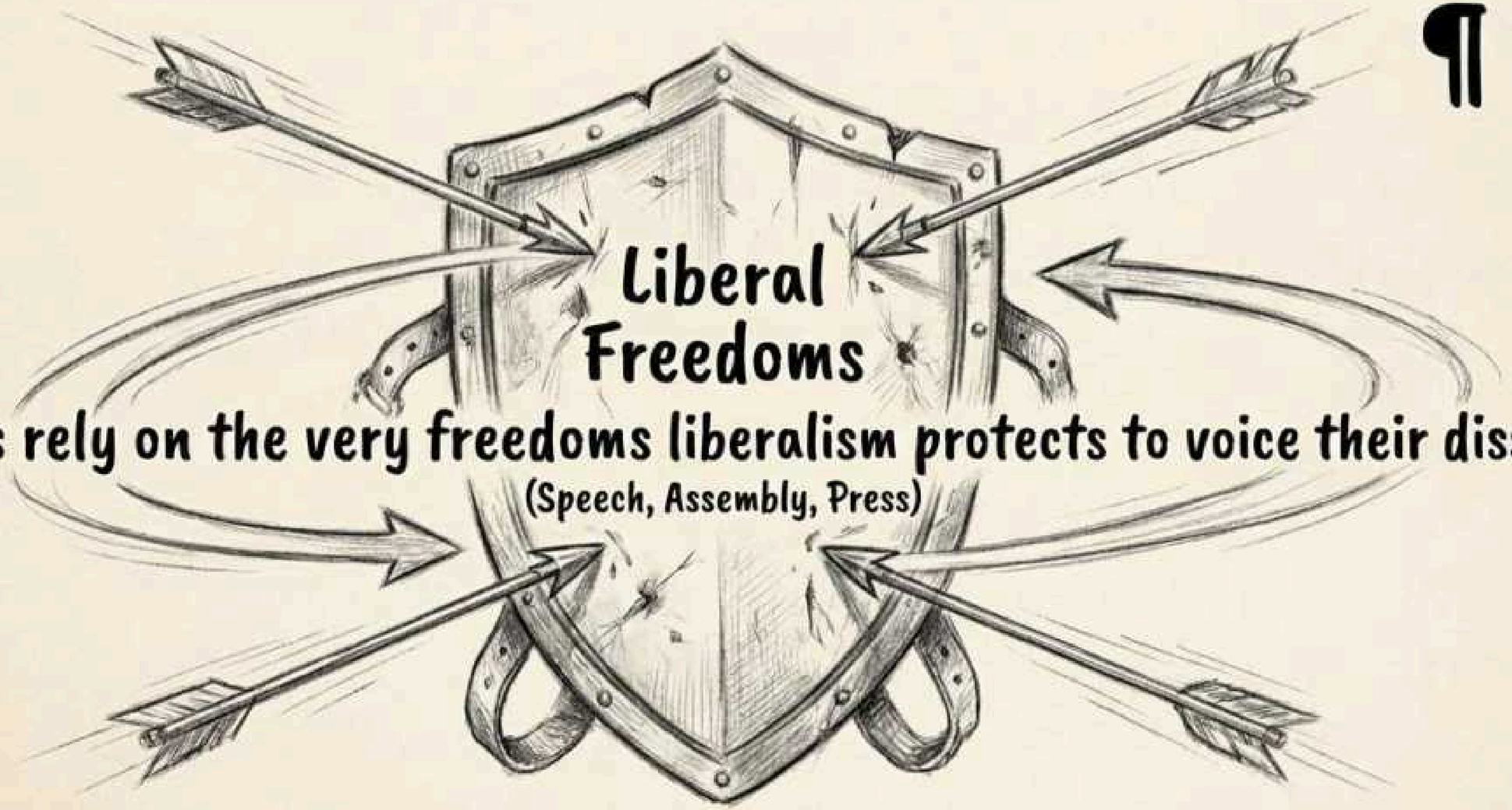
Formal legal equality hides massive, real inequalities of wealth and power.



Hyper-individualism erodes shared social bonds.

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¶ 1.17



Critics rely on the very freedoms liberalism protects to voice their dissent.

(Speech, Assembly, Press)

State Knowledge of What is Good < Individual Knowledge of Own Good

Historical warning: states fail when they claim to know what is best for the individual.

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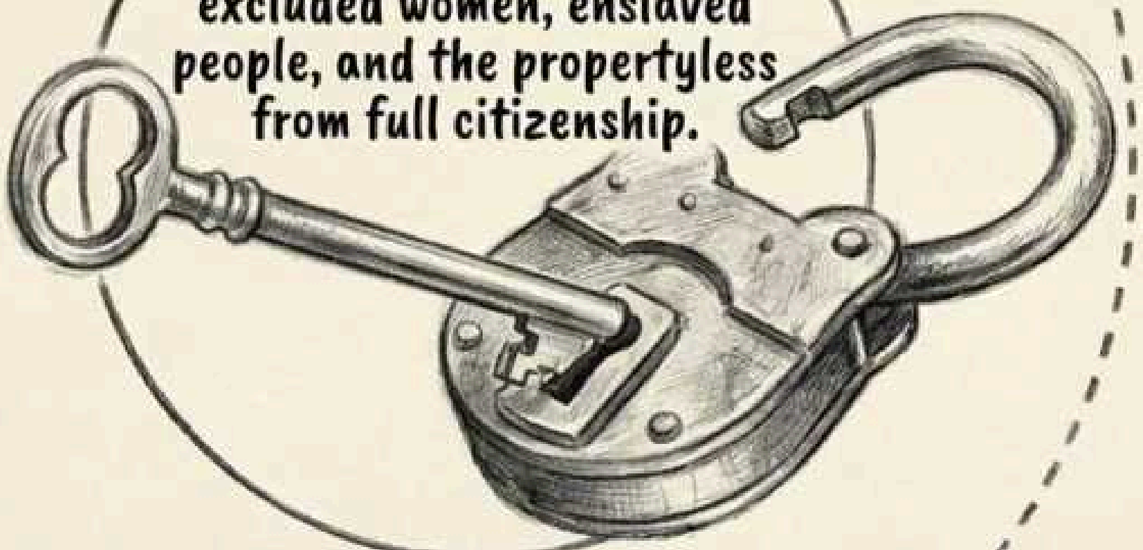
¶ 1.18

Later Reformers

Used foundational liberal principles to widen the vote and abolish slavery.

The Early State

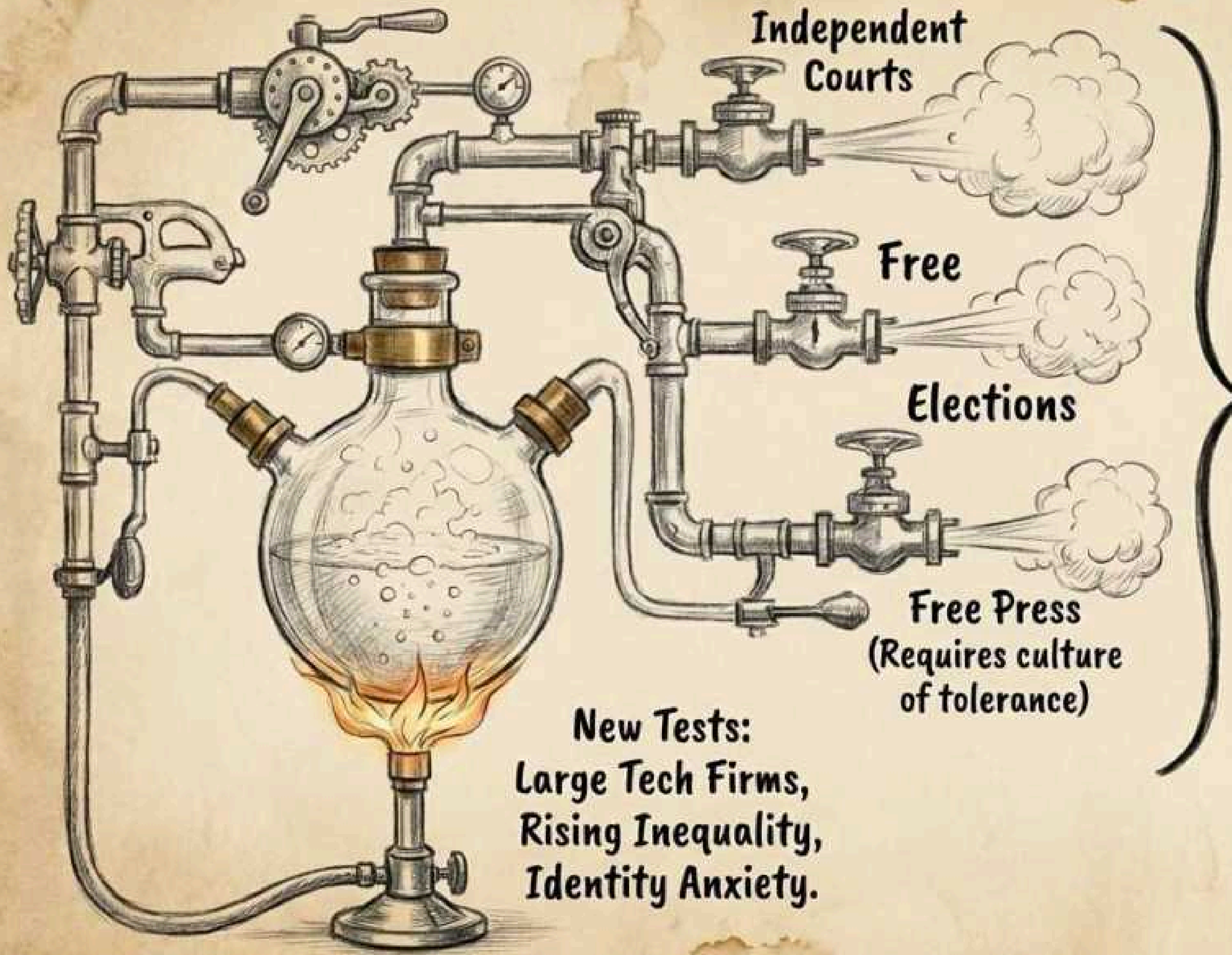
Proclaimed equality but excluded women, enslaved people, and the propertyless from full citizenship.



Liberalism's record is mixed—it has most often been successfully criticized by appealing to its own ideals.

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¶ 1.19



Capacity for Self-Correction without Violence.

This is the strongest argument for the tradition, and the one rivals must answer.

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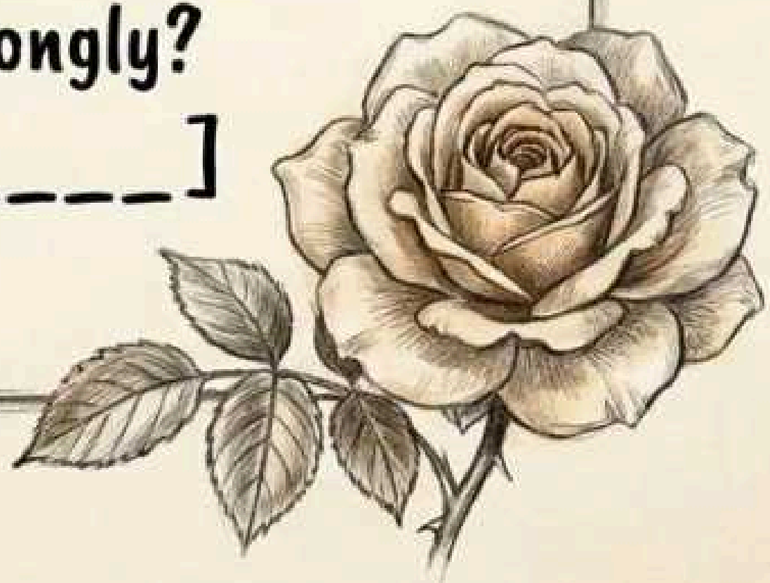
¶ 1.20

Prompt 1: Which of liberalism's core values do you most prize?

[_____]

Prompt 2: Which rival ideology would challenge that value most strongly?

[_____]



Next Lecture:
The reaction to the French Revolution — Edmund Burke & Conservatism.

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