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*Second Treatise of Government* (John Locke, 1690)

1. According to Locke, government arises from a social contract between the people and those who govern them. In this contract, people agree to give up some of their individual rights in exchange for protection and security provided by the government. Locke believed that all individuals have certain natural rights that are fundamental and undeniable. He argued that these rights are not granted by the government but are inherent to human beings by nature. In Locke's view, the government exists to protect these rights and promote the common good.
2. According to Locke, the fact that a contract forms government is significant because it implies that government is a voluntary agreement between the people and those who govern them. In other words, people give up some of their individual rights in exchange for the protection and security provided by the government. This idea of a social contract challenges the traditional notion that government has absolute power over its citizens and can do whatever it wants. This social contract theory establishes the fundamental relationship between the government and the governed, implying that the government has

a responsibility to protect the natural rights of its citizens. It also means that the power of the government is not absolute but is limited by the terms of the contract. This idea of limited government power is essential to democratic thought and the protection of individual rights- values that we carry to this day (at least in the western world). One of the main network values embedded into the *Second Treatise* is the idea of birth-given rights. By Locke, people essentially deserve to have rights like property, freedom, and life for the simple fact that they are alive. The government then should have no power to interfere with such rights, which certainly becomes threatening to rulers of traditional hierarchies. If you are a ruler, and your population now begins to believe that it is owed protection, the validity of life, property, and more,- the possibility for a rebellion or revolution to happen, because you have not given them these rights (you most likely have abused them for your own convenience and pleasure, let's be honest), is very high.