

## **Forum Report for the Philosophy Group**

At our October philosophy group meeting we reviewed John Locke and Thomas Hobbes.

They were two of the most prominent political philosophers of the 17th century. Both philosophers had different views on the role of government and the nature of man in relation to the ethics of war & peace.

Hobbes argued that man's natural state is one of a "war of all against all" and that a strong central authority is necessary to prevent society from disintegrating.

In contrast, Locke believed that individuals would not perpetually be at war with each other, and that humans began with a state of natural characteristics of absolute freedom with no government in sight. Locke's view on war and peace was based on his belief in natural rights, which he believed were inherent in all human beings. He argued that the purpose of government was to protect these rights, including the right to life, liberty, and property.

Hobbes believed that individuals should give up their natural rights to a sovereign in exchange for protection and security.

In summary, while both philosophers had different views on the role of government and the nature of man, Locke believed in achieving peace through justice, while Hobbes believed in achieving peace through power.

What do you think?

Come listen & share your views on such philosophical matters at 10am on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Enterprise House, Barnard Castle.

No meeting in December. Next meetings: 28<sup>th</sup> November, 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Mike Gilsenan and Wallace Anderson