

Analyzing Locke's Second Treatise on Government

Excerpt from Locke's Second Treatise on Government	Summarize Locke's argument here in ten or fewer words.	Which value of democracy does this most directly reflect? Explain the connection
<p>“The reason men enter into society is the preservation of their property; and the end while they choose and authorize a legislative is that there may be laws made, and rules set, as guards and fences to the properties of all the society . . . “</p>		
<p>“Whosoever . . . unite into a community, must be understood to give up all the power necessary to the ends for which they unite into society to the majority of the community . . . And thus, that which begins and actually constitutes any political society is nothing but the consent of freemen capable of majority, to unite and incorporate into such a society. And this is that, and that only which did or could give beginning to any lawful government in the world.”</p>		
<p>“It is true that governments cannot be supported without great charge, and it is fit everyone who enjoys his share of the protection should pay out of his estate his proportion of the maintenance of it. But still it must be with his own consent, ie the consent of the majority. . . For if anyone shall claim the power to lay and levy taxes on the people by his own authority, and without such consent of the people, he thereby invades the fundamental law of property, and subverts the end of government.”</p>		
<p>“Whenever the legislators endeavor to take away and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are therefore absolved of any further obedience.”</p>		

In 50 words, address the following questions:

1. Think back to the Allegory of the Cave. Locke is describing the way out of a cave. What is the Cave that Locke is trying to liberate people from? Explain using quotations from both Locke and the Allegory of the Cave.
2. How is what Locke is proposing similar to our own system of government here in the United States? Explain using a specific example from our government and a quote from Locke?
3. Why would Locke's ideas threaten people like James I? Explain using a quote from both James and Locke.

