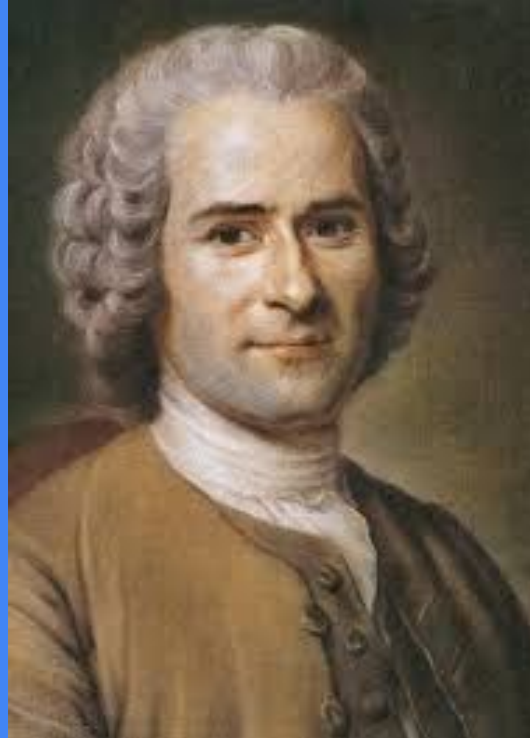


Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Basic Information

- Born June 12, 1712 in Geneva Switzerland.
- Died July 2nd, 1778.
- Lived in France while he was alive.
- His mother died right after giving birth.
- His father abandoned him when he was twelve.

Name of their most famous work(s)

- *The Social Contract* (1762)
- *The Emile* (1762)
- *The Discourses* (1750)

Rousseau's main objective

He argues that the general will allows individual diversity and freedom. The general will has sovereignty meaning they have all the power. They want to aim for the common goal instead of one's individual goal. People would be most free and moral under a republican form of government with direct democracy. However, the individual could be "forced to be free" by the social contract. The Social Contract explores for moving from a misleading social contract to a legitimate one.

The Relationship between government and the individual

The government had supreme power or as other words, sovereignty. One's individual had no power or no say. A citizen cannot achieve their own goal if their selfish. They have to lower themselves to the law acting as a collective.

The Ruler

- Rousseau argues that every man should be free.
- He strongly believes in certain principles of the government.
- Wanted the 'general will.' This is when each citizen decides on what is good for all as a society instead of thinking what's good for themselves.

Religion

He distinguishes three different types of religion.

1. Religion of man- This is a personal religion linking themselves to god. He admires this religion however, it will hurt the state.
2. Religion of the citizen- This is the official religion of the state which completes with dogmas and ceremonies. This religion combines the state and church, teaching patriotism. However, this corrupts religion by replacing true sincere worship with official dogmatic ceremonies.
3. The third religion is neither civil nor religious. People are free to worship whatever they please as long as they do not disturb the public interest.

State of Nature

- Believed that people were neither bad nor good, but were born as a blank slate.
- People did not know each other for there to be conflict.
- He sees the state of nature to be true freedom.

Education

- Argued of a “Negative Education.”
 - He believes it should be carried out with the development of a child’s goodness.
- The child shouldn’t be forced to do something, but to draw their own conclusions as a result to their own explorations.
- The first stage of this education is infancy.
 - The child should be as free as possible rather than being forced.
- From the age of twelve, this is where they begin their second stage.
 - This is the stage of abstract skills and concepts. This is not done by books but by experience.

Education Continued...

- The third phase is when they hit puberty or early adulthood.
 - This is where they have an interest to the opposite sex.
 - The task of the tutor is to ensure that the learner finds a secure place for his recognition of his own worth.
- The final stage of Education is when the tutor turns into the adult's trusted advisor.
 - This involves introduction into the nature of the social world.