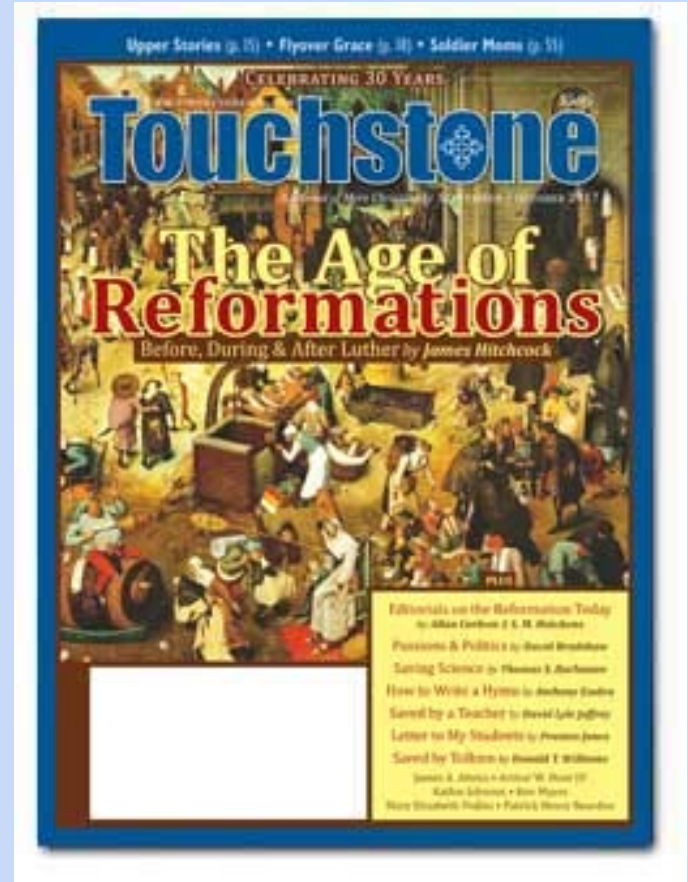


Passions' Republic

*The Christian Cure for What
Ails Modern Politics*
by **David Bradshaw**

See: <http://touchstonemag.com>



PHI 335: The Individual & Society

Plato, *Republic*

Federalist Papers

Aristotle, *Politics*

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*

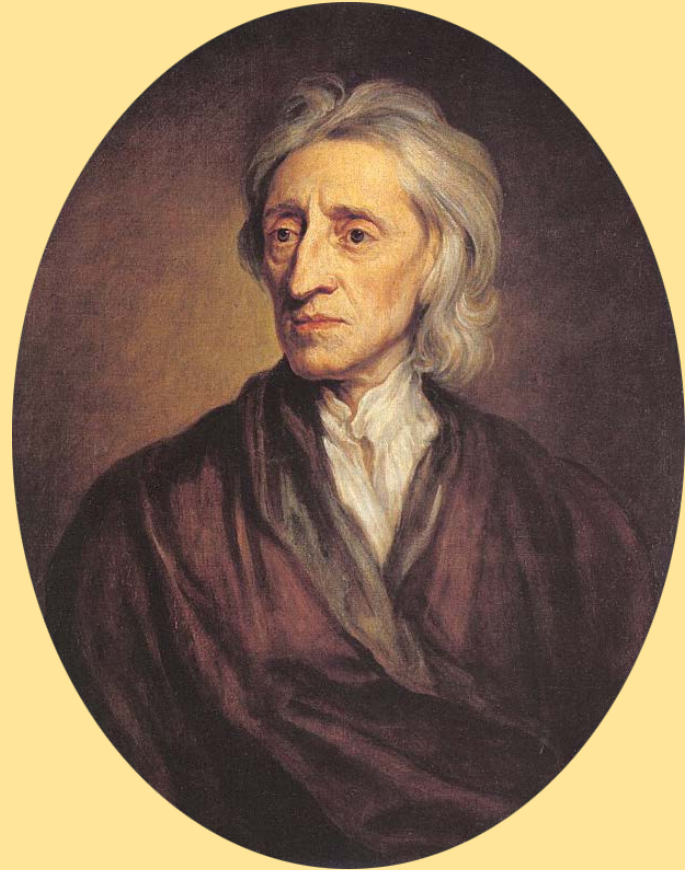
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*

Mill, *On Liberty*

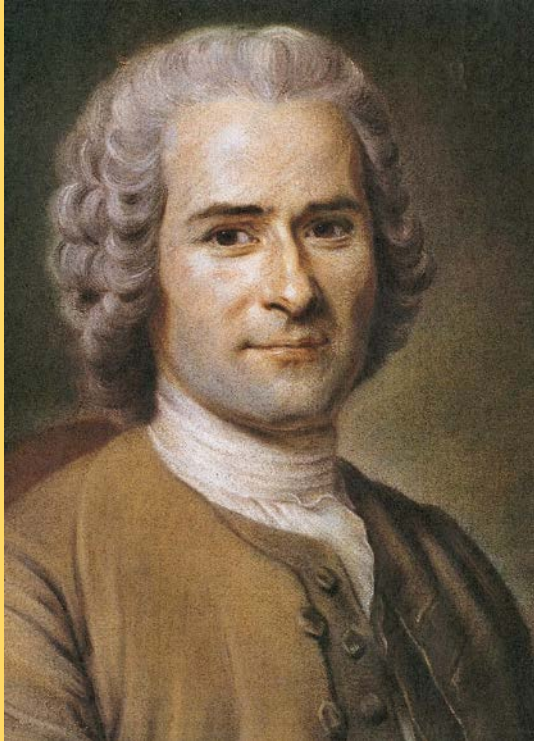
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality & Social Contract*

John Locke (1632-1704)

- All are free & equal in the state of nature
- Natural law derives from God
- Property: take only what you can use & leave enough for others
- Invention of money ➡ no limits to wealth
- Social contract formed to protect life, liberty, & property
- Slavery justified as punishment for breaking natural law



Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

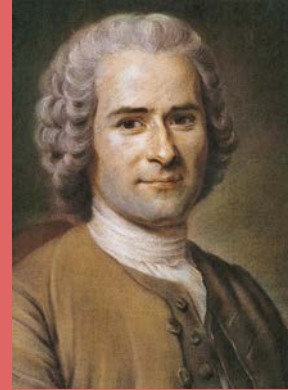


- We are fundamentally good until corrupted by society
- No natural law except instinct (self-preservation & avoidance of suffering)
- Development of property led to our decline from the state of nature
- Government a conspiracy of the rich to oppress the poor

Competing Imaginative Visions

Rousseau

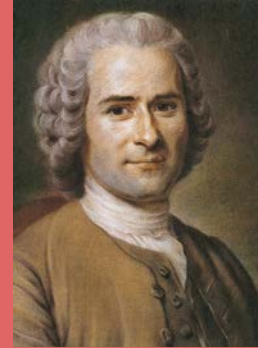
- I am innately good
- Any evil within me is society's fault
- The hardships I suffer are due to oppression



Competing Imaginative Visions

Rousseau

- I am innately good
- Any evil within me is society's fault
- The hardships I suffer are due to oppression



Locke

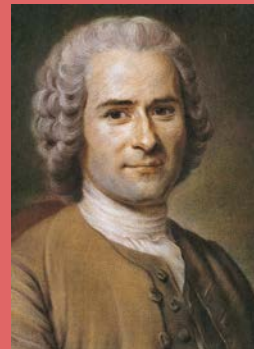
- I am free, independent, & equal to all others
- I have no obligations except those that I freely choose
- My acquisitive impulses are natural & good
- Wealth brings no special moral obligations



Rationalizing the Passions

Rousseau

- Envy
- Resentment
- Pride: nothing wrong with my life is my own fault



Locke

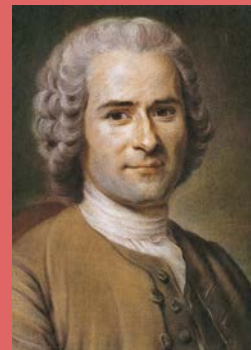
- Greed
- Desire for domination
- Pride: no one can tell me what to do



Rationalizing the Passions

Rousseau

- Envy
- Resentment
- Pride: nothing wrong with my life is my own fault



Locke

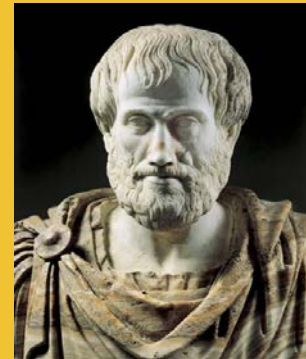
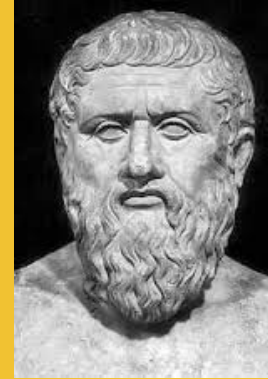
- Greed
- Desire for domination
- Pride: no one can tell me what to do



Result: mutual suspicion & accusations of hypocrisy

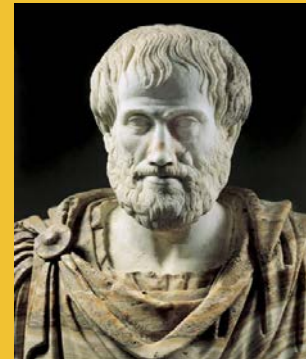
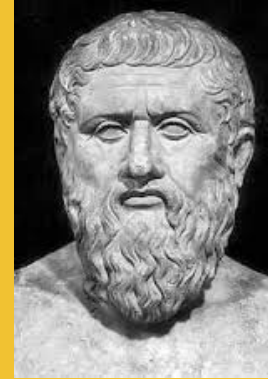
The Classical View of the Passions

- Reason is not just the faculty of inference
(à la Mr. Spock)



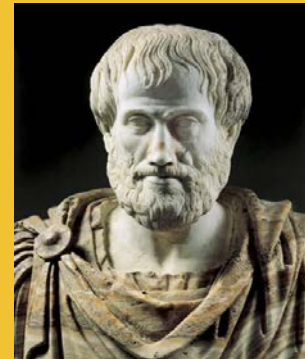
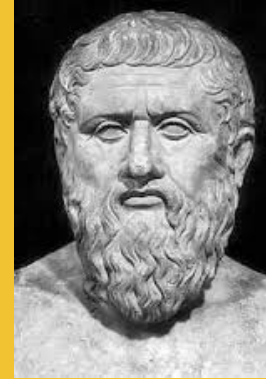
The Classical View of the Passions

- Reason is not just the faculty of inference (à la Mr. Spock)
- Rather, it is the faculty of apprehending truth, *including moral truth*



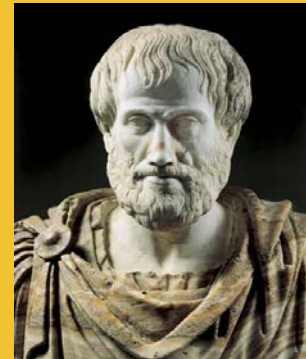
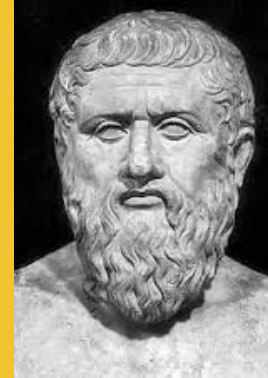
The Classical View of the Passions

- Reason is not just the faculty of inference (à la Mr. Spock)
- Rather, it is the faculty of apprehending truth, *including moral truth*
- The goal of ethical life is to train passion and appetite to follow reason

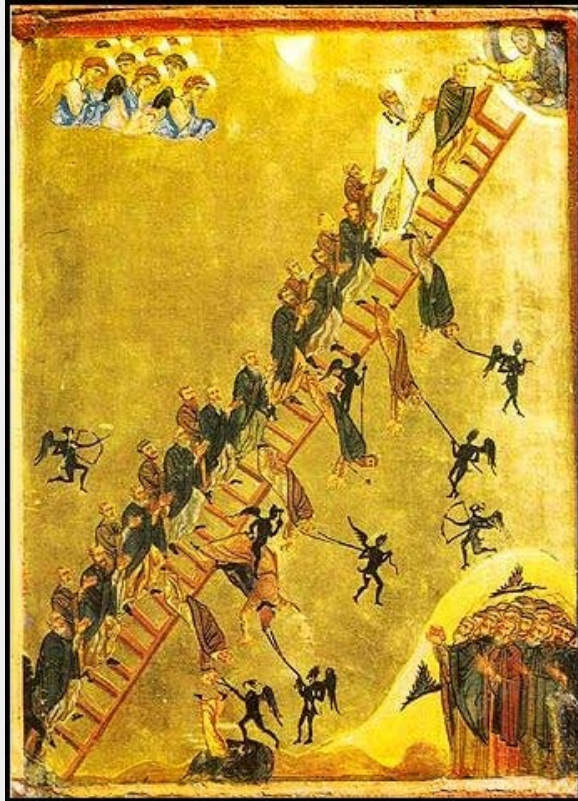


The Classical View of the Passions

- Reason is not just the faculty of inference (à la Mr. Spock)
- Rather, it is the faculty of apprehending truth, *including moral truth*
- The goal of the moral life is to train passion and appetite to follow reason
- This requires education & discipline from a young age, beginning with music, poetry, & athletics



The Christian Adaptation of the Classical View



- Liturgical worship
- Regular fasting tied to the liturgical calendar
- Confession
- Hospitality to strangers
- Almsgiving & care for the poor
- Patient endurance of suffering
- Obedience to an elder

The Churches Hold the Key

- Only in community with others is it possible to effectively combat the passions
- The churches set the moral tone for all of society, even those who do not believe
- Only when the churches recover the disciplines they have lost can our society recover its sanity.

