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Jean-Jacques Rousseau

731 words

The most well known person in the eighteenth century who has the interested ways of thinking that contributed many crucial things, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whose known as Father of Romanticism. He is a philosopher, writer, and bard. Jean-Jacques Rousseau has created many famous works such as Discourse on the Arts and Sciences, Julie, ou la nouvelle Heloise (The New Heloise) and The Confessions of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Nevertheless, The most famous and attractive work is The Social Contract, or Principles of Political Right which is published and translated to many countries around the world at present time. The Social Contract has greatly affected mankind and was the beginning of many incidents; this book illustrates the relationship between human and society that people are born without bind, but everywhere they go is chained. The well known principle that derived from the core of The Social Contract was the liberalism, the democratic system and the capitalism.¹

In the sixteenth century, England has no leader to control the country, the society is in the chaos. People live without happiness and peace, thereby there was some people that initiated the principle to solve the current situation, that is called The Social Contract. It is a process that combined a group of people to live together with give up some right because if people act what they want, the society cannot live peacefully. There existed some thinkers that illustrated The Social Contract who are Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques-Rousseau. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, stated his point of view that normally, people is good in the natural state but the society will turn them to be a bad one. Moreover, people will spent

¹ "Jean-Jacques Rousseau." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 10 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Rousseau>.

their life more comfortable when they live in a small group because there will be limited choices that decreased their roles. This is how the social contract of Jean-Jacques Rousseau functions.

Firstly, The Social Contract leads to ideology liberalism, actually, everyone is equal and also has a freedom, in contrast, from The Social Contract, it is claimed that when people live in the society together, they have to give up some rights and freedom in order to maintain the society order. Therefore, people decided to decrease their freedom; is mean that people can do whatever they want. People agree with The Social Contract such that the whole society can function properly. For example, if people can freely kill each others, totally the society will be in risk. To prevent themselves, people agree to reduce their rights so that they can live peacefully.²

Secondly, the democratic system has a similar idea as The Social Contract. The core of democratic system is that people are the most important factor to decide choices and people must have the rights to participate and suggest idea, so these two ideas related to one another. The Social Contract is the ideas that people agree to live together, so it means that they have the same idea and thinking. They shared it among their own society. Nonetheless, after people concede to be under the social contract, they will quite sure that other people will not disturb each other too much.³

Thirdly, the social contract brought about to the performance of the capitalism. After the social contract take place, the monarchy system of France had been abolished. This situation is caused by the unfairness of the polity from the rulers and the elite person who oppress the citizen in the country. In this era, people absolutely receive more of rights and

² "Liberalism." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 11 Feb. 2012.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism>>.

³ "Democracy." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Web. 13 Feb. 2012.
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy>>.

freedom to choose than before because they did not restrain the decision by the rulers and the elite person anymore. Therefore, this action related to the capitalism, French people can freely starting the trade and have the rights for selling and buying comfortably. This process affected France to have more of middle class in the country because economic system depend on capital not the French anymore. It can be the great opportunity and make the people more equal.⁴

As aforementioned, Jean-Jacques Rousseau was so important for many changes among the confused era. The core of social contract represents the way that people should perform. In the eighteenth century, the social contract leads to the French Revolution and finally contribute and relevant to many principle, for example, liberalism democratic system and capitalism. Seeing that these three principles are famous and important, this is the reason why the social contract is so attractive and well-known.

⁴ "Definition of Capitalism." *Importance Of Philosophy*. Web. 13 Feb. 2012.
<http://www.importanceofphilosophy.com/Politics_Capitalism.html>.