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Jean-Jacques Rousseau

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During late 17<sup>th</sup> century and 18<sup>th</sup> century, people in Europe tried to gather knowledge by using reason rather than tradition or superstition so called The Age of Enlightenment. They started to understand things through science and started to think differently from their custom about their society such as equality, citizenship and liberality. Jean-Jacques Rousseau is the one of leading philosophers in Enlightenment. He inspire people to think that human was born to be free, but everywhere they are in chain<sup>1</sup> and this idea went against the reality in France at that time when everybody were under monarchy, aristocracy and religious authority, but not after France Revolution. Person like Rousseau who could think freely drive people to reform a new society that they are all equal. Having liberality in thinking can inspire people to come out from their own cave to see the world. This is not contained only one matter of one kind of thought, but billions. These liberal thoughts can be resulted in changing.

Back to 18<sup>th</sup> century, many aristocratic youths were not risen by their mother but educator. The way to educate children that time is to give them the consequence of their act. They did not learn right or wrong by themselves punishment. They only know the cause-effect which was told, but they never tried to experience by themselves. Therefore, they did not know reasons why something happens, the other thing comes out. Rousseau argue the idea of education in 18<sup>th</sup> century that children is not young adult. They was born to be free and equal. No one can dominate them. It is

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "The Social Contract." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 6 Sep. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On\\_the\\_Social\\_Contract](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Social_Contract)>

false to believe that they was born with Original Sin which be descended from Adam and Eve like Calvinism did believe. He stated that the role of educator is to make a reasoning man. The greatest way is to make them how to reason. When children know how to reason things, they will have liberality in thinking and considering of what they have been told logically. In nowadays, this way of learning is called Child-Centered Education.<sup>2</sup> It is a stimulating method to encourage children to show their natural thought fearlessly. Nature and society is the center of education that helps children to be creative and talented. Children will have their own opinion about things and will not be dominated by superstition, religion and politics.

Everything is naturally good but human ruin it and they become evil.<sup>3</sup> Society that human live in together make them disorder because they need each other and cannot live independently. In nature of human, they can live alone and they don't need helps. But after they meet each other, they care each other and want to be better. The faculty of self-perfection had result in blooming of knowledge and unlimited wants. Finally, it make people in society to destroy, to betray and snatch each other. In order to have liberality or can live on their own, they need social contract that abandoning their private interest, free will, and sharing natural equality and general will. His theory is sort of unorthodox in 18<sup>th</sup> Century. In a country, like France, a wealthy minority indulges themselves while hundreds of thousands suffered from severe poverty and inflation, people long for basic quality of life. While loyalty lived on piles of gold and didn't have to pay tax, The Third Estate had to pay high tax. These people disliked too much privilege of aristocracy and large distinction between both The First Estate and The Second Estate, and The Third Estate. Because of this difficult circumstance, many of them felt that if general will was for changes, then they need not to still live in this unfair city. This all had a result in France Revolution, which

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<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Jean-Jacques Rousseau" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 6 Sep. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques\\_Rousseau#Education\\_and\\_child\\_rearing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Rousseau#Education_and_child_rearing)>

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia contributors. "Emile, or On Education" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 6 Sep. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emile,\\_or\\_On\\_Education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emile,_or_On_Education)>

collapse the absolute monarchy that rule France for centuries. It was the beginning of the growth of liberal democracies. People have right to direct their society by voting their representative.

In consequence of Industrial Revolution began in 18<sup>th</sup> Century in England and expanded to other countries, society developed rapidly. People in suburb moved to the city. It is the time of Age of Enlightenment when people focus on reasoning and scientific intellection. Also followed with French Revolution, people were in the new politic form and ideal of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. However, the rational idea model was ignored by Romantics. The Romantics chose to use imagination and feeling as ways of understanding the world. They turned away from the intellectual tradition of Western World. They got inspiration from Rousseau who said human have right to escape from vicious society back to nature because he grew up in beautiful, rural Switzerland, which taught him to love nature. However, he did not have any patience with external controls. Therefore, artists in Romanticism tried to escape from reality in that time when French Revolution happened and society was quite disorder. They had preference of art which difference from that in Renaissance and Neo-Classic.

The diversion of thought can reform culture, society and politic. In the beginning, people start to think on their own and try to understand the world by ration. It can be result in French Revolution which French became democracy while some group of people did not feel that only reason or science can define everything. They embrace imagination and feeling instead. Just like the world spin around and around, changing is never stopped as long as people still have liberality in thinking. When people biased on only one side so heavily that they force other people who might think differently to be on the same side. It is not fair for those who have diverse thought. They should have right to consider which side they wish to be on rather than be ordered non-senselessly. One of the brilliant ways to live congenially in society where there are many millions of thought is to share individual space of thought with

each other. The beautiful picture in our 1<sup>st</sup> grade comes from a hundred of point by drawing a line form point to point meticulously.