

Liberalism is the true path of humanity

OUDCE Philosophical Society – Members' Weekend

David BurrIDGE - 17 September 2022

Liberty is a vital principle and the individual must not be deprived of it unless they are doing harm to others.

John Stuart Mill



Freedom of Expression



Illiberalism can be exerted by

Government

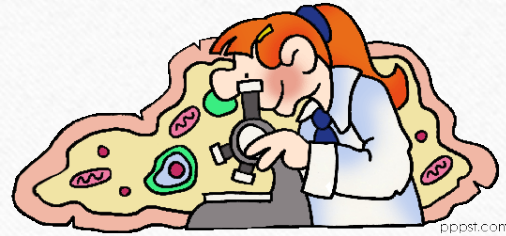


Domineering social groups



“Wrong opinions and practices gradually yield to fact and argument [...]”

If questioned or examined from every angle

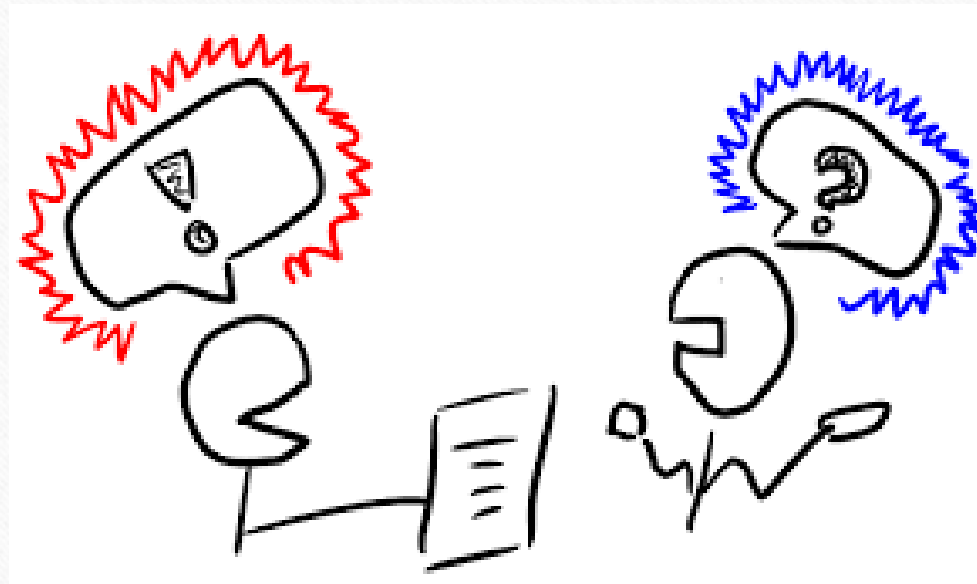




Intellectual pacification

People who have the capability to question keep quiet

“He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that” [the truth]



The changing attitudes of creeds

When **fighting** for
Recognition

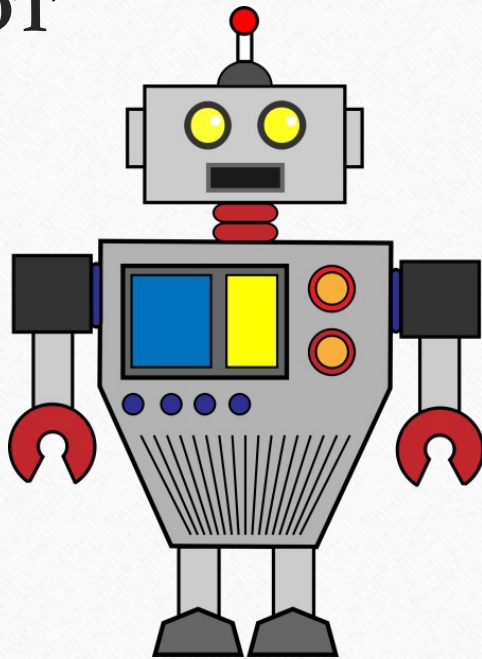


When **established** in
Power



Individuality - Human Nature

Is NOT



It is



“The general tendency of things throughout the world is to render mediocrity the ascendant power among mankind.”

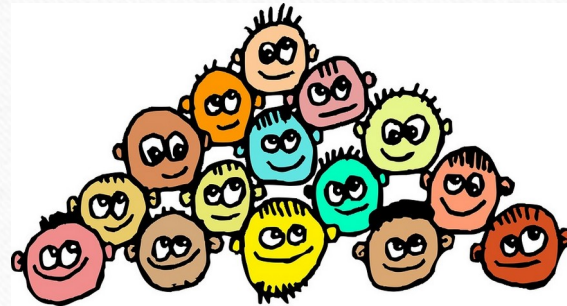
Contrast with Rousseau's Social Contract

Individual



has priority

over society



Accountability...

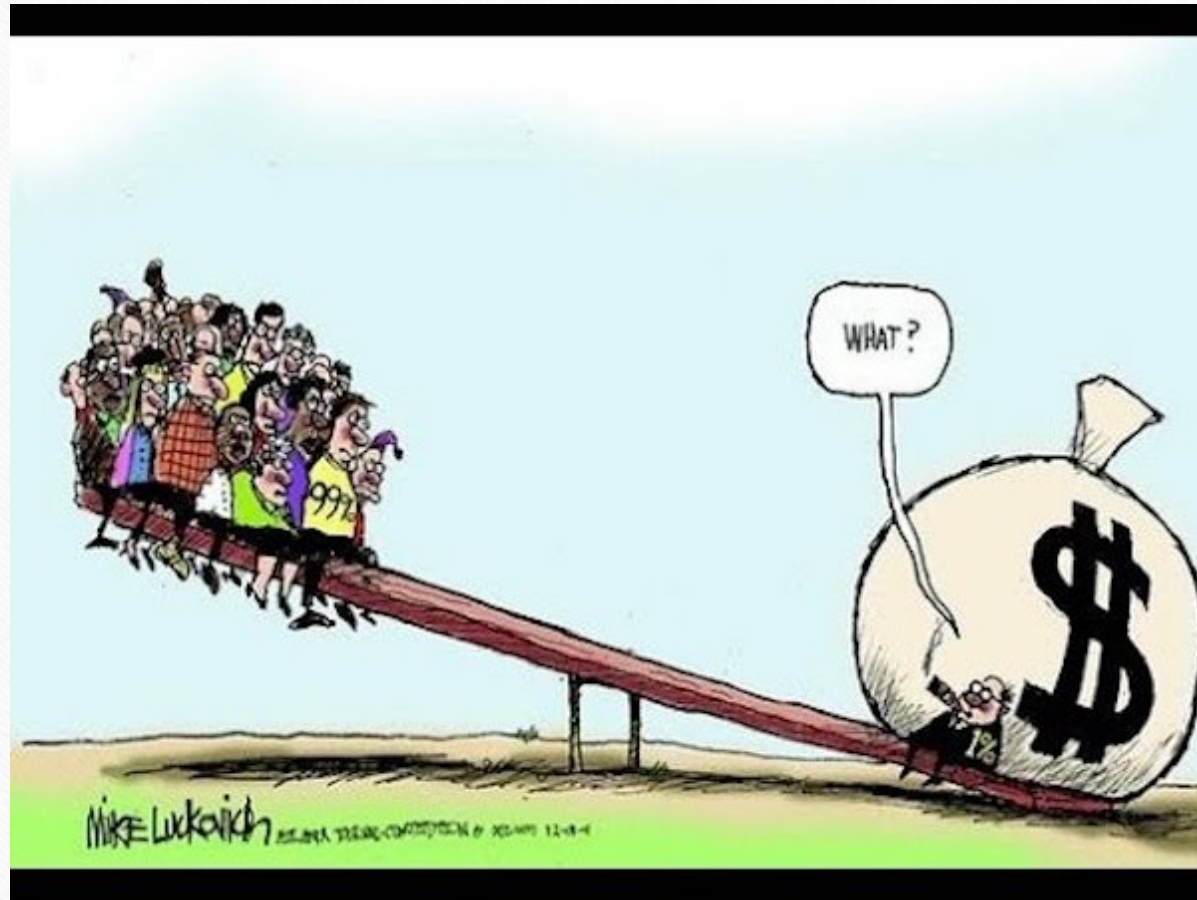
“[..] the individual is not accountable to society for his actions in so far as these concern the interests of no other person but himself.”



...and Justice

“[...] for such actions as are prejudicial to the interests of others, the individual is accountable and may be subjected either to social or to legal punishment [...]”





Economic inequality = major threat to liberalism