

LOCKE ON NATURAL RIGHTS

LOCKE'S ARGUMENT

1. A person has the right to damage his own property (without another person's consent or other special excuse), and no one has a right to damage another person's property (without the owner's consent or other special excuse).
2. God created people and therefore owns them.
3. Since human beings belong to God, they do not belong to one another.
4. Therefore, they do not have the right to harm one another: "they are his Property ... made to last during his, not one another's Pleasure."
5. We can know if one person has the right to destroy another by observing the faculties God gave them.
6. Human beings have "like Faculties," so observation tells us God meant for all human beings to be treated as equals.
7. Therefore, all human beings have equal rights against being harmed.

SECULARIZED VERSION

- 1*. A person has the right to damage his own property (without another person's consent or other special excuse), and no one has a right to damage another person's property (without the owner's consent or other special excuse).
- ~~2*. God created people and therefore owns them.~~
- 3*. ~~Since human beings belong to God, they~~ do not belong to one another.
- 4*. Therefore, they do not have the right to harm one another: "~~they are his Property ... made to last during his, not one another's Pleasure.~~"
- 5*. We can know if one person has the right to destroy another by observing the faculties ~~God gave them~~ [they have].
- 6*. Human beings have "like Faculties" so observation tells us ~~God meant for~~ all human beings ~~to be treated as~~ [are] equals.
- 7*. Therefore, all human beings have equal rights against being harmed.