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Rousseau's Theory of Social Justice

Jean-Jack Rousseau was disappointed with society and the ideas that prevailed during his time. The world was dominated by inequality, unfairness, and a total lack of freedom. That is the reason why he developed the idea of a social contract (Jos 2006).

Let us take a closer look at his idea of social justice in a perfect world. To begin with, it is important to mention that Rousseau popularized the idea of the "natural state." In it, people demonstrate mercy and self-love, which is the reason why there is no need to have justice in such a state. Speaking about the civil state, it is the result of the establishment of private property and advanced rationality. Thus, there is a lot of unfairness. Some groups of people become marginalized as a result of that. So, self-love turns into egoism while people start to always put their interests first. For this reason, Jean-Jack Rousseau wanted to offer a new version of a social contract. The idea is to create an ideal society in which everyone is equal, thus developing the concept of social justice in society.

One of the main reasons why Jean-Jack Rousseau introduced his theory of social justice was to solve the huge amount of problems that existed at that time. He wanted to remedy the situation by introducing his own vision of how life in a society should be organized. He believed that people had already developed many moral and social ills. Thus, it was time to change the situation for the better.

All theories expressed by Rousseau form a single view of a political and moral situation. Even though we are given the right to freedom by nature, this right has often been taken away from us in the course of history. That is the reason why it is time to introduce a new set of rules in order to overcome corruption which has been dominating the world for way too long. It will help us reconstitute ourselves

politically. What is more, it will assist in establishing democracy as the main form of government—the principles of which rely on the right to freedom and self-expression.

Taking everything into consideration, Jean-Jack Rousseau was a very important figure in the history of philosophy, as he was one of the first people to introduce the idea of social justice. Thus, he stated that the society people lived in already became corrupted and imperfect, and it was time to do something about it. In other words, he was one of those people who recognized that inequality exists and that this problem had to be addressed right away.

Works Cited

Jos, Philip H. "Social Contract Theory." *The American Review of Public Administration*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2006, pp. 139–155., doi:10.1177/0275074005282860.