

# **John Locke**

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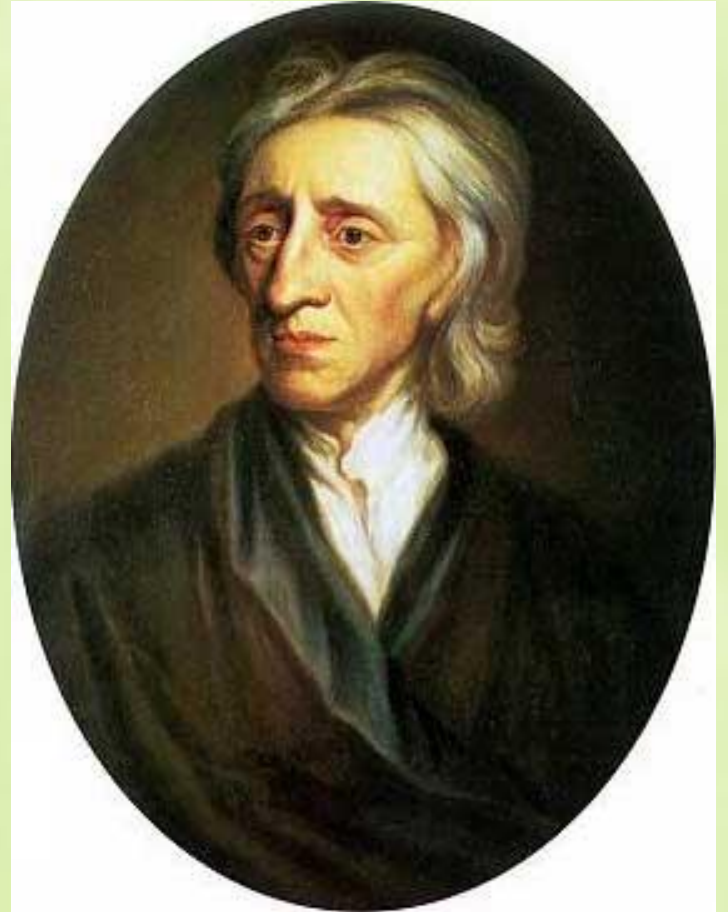
National University

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# John Locke

- ✿ Born August 29, 1632, Died October 28, 1704
- ✿ “Father of Liberalism”
- ✿ British Empiricist
- ✿ The mind is a “Tabula Rasa”



# Empiricism

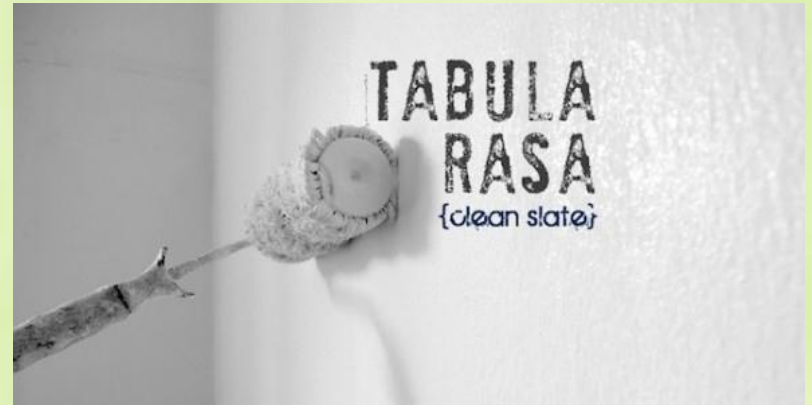
- ✿ The world is best understood through sensory experience and observation of the world around us.
- ✿ Philosophers in this tradition: Aristotle, Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, John Stuart Mill
- ✿ Foundation for modern scientific theory and practices of experimentation

# Theories:

- ✿ Knowledge comes only through experience
- ✿ Understanding of knowledge comes through our senses and reflecting on our experiences
- ✿ Two kinds of knowledge: simple and complex
- ✿ First writer about the separation of church and state

# Theories Continued

- ✿ Tabula Rasa: the mind is a blank slate at birth, no innate predestination for life path and no innate knowledge
- ✿ A person is entirely a product of the education they receive



# The Self:

- ✿ "that conscious thinking thing, (whatever substance, made up of whether spiritual, or material, simple, or compounded, it matters not) which is sensible, or conscious of pleasure and pain, capable of happiness or misery, and so is concerned for itself, as far as that consciousness extends".

# Three Minute Philosophy


 [Video](#)

# Implications for Education

✿ Pg. 42 (textbook) Common understandings of education

- ✿ 1. Education is hierarchical (adult to child)
- ✿ 2. We must teach children the right way to think and act as they do not know this innately
- ✿ 3. Children learn by example
- ✿ 4. Cognitive development moves from concrete to abstract





# The Nature of Education

1. Virtue- (relationship with God, relationship with humanity) “A virtuous person was one who believed in and worshiped God and who treated other people with respect, dignity, care and so on”
2. Wisdom someone who can manage their own affairs in a fair and prudent manner

# The Nature of Education

3. Breeding- the well bred person is the person who behaves fairly and without condescension to “inferiors” and honesty with “superiors”
4. Learning- close to playing

# Quote

✿ “Education begins the gentleman, but reading, good company and reflection must finish him.”

~John Locke