

Rousseau's objection and alternative account

Hobbes' mistake is to project man-in-society on to the state of nature.

Humans are not motivated by self interest, but by **compassion.**

Modern citizens would behave as Hobbes describes, but that is because we have been corrupted by society.

In the "state of nature", humans have:

Few desires – we are therefore less likely to compete for resources

No families – we would have lived a solitary life and so there would be no need for glory

No language – we would not have concepts like shame, honour, pride

This state of nature came to an end because:

Capacity for self improvement



Development of tools to fight scarcity



Cooperation



Leisure time



Luxury goods



Comparison of talents, pride, shame



Private property



Creation of the modern state