Locke vs. Hobbes

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| Issue | Locke | Hobbes |
| Human Nature | Men mostly keep their promises and are peaceful, good, and pleasant | “Continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short |
| Works | *Second Treatise of Government* | *Leviathan* |
| Natural Law | Humans know right from wrong and should be trusted to govern themselves | In the state of nature people cannot know what is theirs and what is someone else’s. Property exists solely by the will of the state |
| Natural Rights | All men have natural and unalienable rights given to them by a creator | Morality is for the most part merely a command by some person or group or God, and law merely a momentary will of the ruler |
| Social Contract | We give up our rights to ourselves exact retribution for crimes in return for impartial justice backed by force. We retain the right to life and liberty, and gain the right to just, impartial protection of our property | You surrender your rights to a ruler in exchange for your life |
| Role of the Government | The only important role of the state is to see that justice is done | Whatever the state does is just by definition. All of society is a direct creation of the government and a reflection of the will of the ruler |