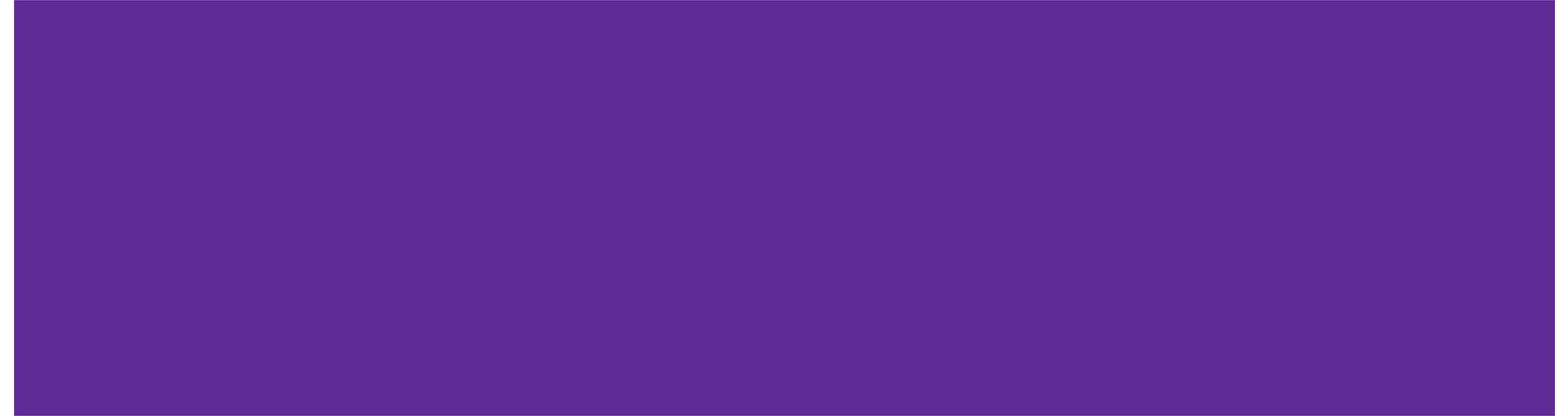


Examining the Role of Property Through John Locke and Karl Marx

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The Central Question



How do we define property?

“So when he [a human] takes something from the state that nature has provided and left it in, he mixes his labour with it, thus joining to it something that is his own; and in that way he makes it his property”- Locke, page 3

Resources- Locke

“God, who has given the world to men in common, has also given them reason to make use of it to the best advantage of life and convenience. The earth and everything in it are given to men for the support and comfort of their existence.” -Locke, 11

Consensual Transactions- Locke

“If the explicit consent of every commoner was needed for anyone to appropriate to himself any part of what is given in common, children couldn’t cut into the meat their father had provided for them in common without saying which child was to have which portion” -Locke, 12

Detriment to Proletariat- Marx

“Owing to the extensive use of machinery and to the division of labour, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character, and consequently, all charm for the workman. He becomes an appendage of the machine...” -Marx and Engels, 58

On a Societal Level- Marx

“Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other—bourgeoisie and proletariat.” -Marx and Engels, 51

Conclusion- Locke

A government should have “...an established, settled, known law, received and accepted by common consent as the standard of right and wrong and as the common measure to decide all controversies.” -Locke, 40

Conclusion- Marx

“In this sense, the theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property” -Marx and Engels, 67

So where does that leave us?



Thank you!
Any questions?