

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR *THE SOCIAL CONTRACT*

(part 2), Book 1, Chapter 5-Book 2, Chapter 2

1. In Book 1, Chapter 5 of *The Social Contract*, Rousseau states that a people who are ruled by one master are merely WHAT?
2. Rousseau describes the need for a people to establish themselves as an organized whole even if they do not agree on everything. He states, "The law of the plurality of votes is itself established by convention, and presupposes X, at least at one point in time?" In other words, what must be in place before the people vote on particular issues?
3. Describe what Rousseau calls " . . . the fundamental problem of which the social contract provides the solution."
4. What is the difference between Hobbes's theory of political organization and Rousseau's? In other words, to what do the people pledge obedience to in Hobbes's theory and to what do they pledge obedience in Rousseau's?
5. Rousseau stresses the need to use language correctly and with precision in order to avoid future conflict due to confusion. He writes, "But these terms are often confused and are mistaken for one another; it is sufficient to be able to distinguish them when they are used with precision."

Define the following terms according to Rousseau's definitions:

Republic/Body politic:

Sovereign:

State:

Power:

Citizens:

Subjects:

6. What does Rousseau think about the possibility of a citizen defying the Common Will?
7. By obeying the Common Will, what is the individual forced to do? What is he saved from?