Discussion

Social Contract

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The area of philosophy is very broad and it comprises of various elements that define how a human should lead their lives morally and ethically. The subject of philosophy also entails the scope of society and informs a person how he or she should behave in a society so that there can be an equilibrium in social settings. The study of philosophy does not only bound an individual top follow specific rules and regulations but also guides a society or a community that how it should design its rules and regulations so that this equilibrium can be created and maintained.

In order to create this equilibrium or balance, philosophers have come up with the idea of the social contract. Social contract is a concept in moral and political philosophy that determines the legitimacy of authority of a government of a state over the people living in that state. It was first coined during the Age of Enlightenment. Social Contract Theory states that people live together in a society in accordance with some kind of agreement, which is based upon some policies, rules, and regulations. This social contract or agreement establishes or defines the behavioral patterns for individuals in terms of morals and politics. Some individuals think that if an individual leads their life according to the social contract, they can live their life morally by their own choice, no because a divine has ordered it.

The concept of social contract has also given birth to another theory known as “State of nature”. State of Nature is a theory that defines that what kind of lives people would have been leading before the societies came into being. This concept is used in both in moral and political philosophy, in addition to religion, social contract and international law.