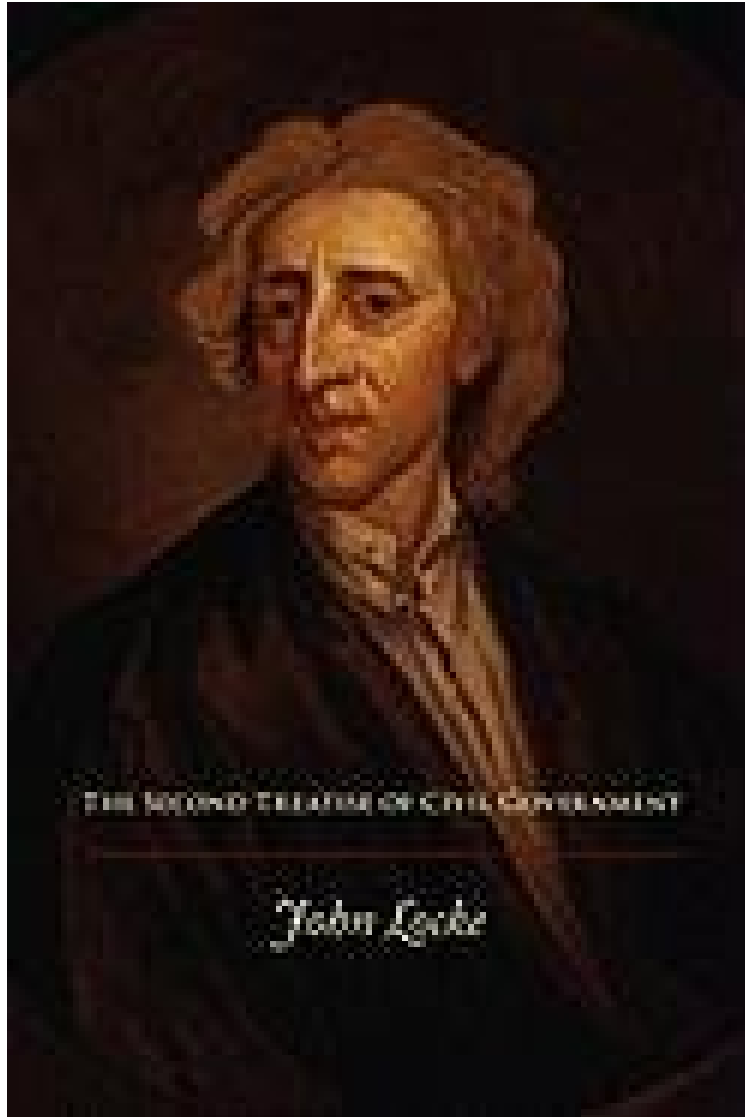


[Free] The Second Treatise of Civil Government

## The Second Treatise of Civil Government

*John Locke*

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**John Locke : The Second Treatise of Civil Government** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Second Treatise of Civil Government:

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John Locke's Second Treatise of Government was one of the most influential works read by America's Founding Fathers. As Thomas P. Peardon wrote, "John Locke [was] . . . a main source of the ideas of the American Revolution

of 1776. . . . So close is the Declaration of Independence to Locke in form, phraseology, and content, that Jefferson was accused of copying the Second Treatise. This, of course, he did not do. But the ideas of the Declaration are those ideas of English constitutionalism to which Locke had given expression. . . . Nor was Locke's influence confined to the Declaration of Independence; it was felt in the ideas and often the phrasing of State Declarations and Constitutions. He was quoted, too, in the Federal Convention of 1787 and often referred to thereafter. . . . Locke's Second Treatise is . . . the distillation of a wisdom derived from centuries of struggle for liberty and justice in government."

An excellent edition of Lockes classic text of political theory. The engaging and accessible introduction draws readers into Lockes life and work in politics and philosophy, as well as a number of the most important debates that his thought continues to spark. The annotated text offers a great aid to students learning to navigate an older language of politics. Torrey Shanks, University at Albany, SUNY Lockes Second Treatise is among the most influential texts in the history of political thought, and essential reading for students of politics. This edition has an accessibly written introduction that sets the context for the work, brings out its historical importance, and directs students to the most salient concepts and issues to be found in it. It also provides thoughtful questions that will usefully guide classroom discussion. Richard Vernon, University of Western Ontario With the passage of time, Lockes Second Treatise has become increasingly difficult for students to understand. The distinctive contribution of this edition, both in the introduction and the notes, is to go further in providing students with the tools to really engage with and understand the primary text. Alex Tuckness, Iowa State University From the Back Cover In this, the second of his Two Treatises of Government, John Locke examines humankinds transition from its original state of nature to a civil society. One can see the lasting influence of Lockes ideas through their familiarity to the modern readerthe roots of classical liberalism are here, and many of Lockes arguments foreshadow contemporary debates concerning government, liberty, and property rights. The introduction and annotations included in this edition are intended to contextualize the work and prevent misunderstanding, without advancing any particular scholarly interpretation or merely summarizing Lockes reasoning. This edition has its origin in the acclaimed Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought and adheres to the anthologys format and high standards of accuracy and accessibility. The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought is edited by Andrew Bailey (University of Guelph), Samantha Brennan (University of Western Ontario), Will Kymlicka (Queens University), Jacob Levy (McGill University), Alex Sager (Portland State University), and Clark Wolf (Iowa State University). About the Author Andrew Bailey is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph.