

FYS 100

## Essay 2

Property. Compare how Rousseau and More present the problem of poverty and their solutions to the problem. Consider the problem of property as Rousseau and More define it in their works. Be sure to include private property and communal property in your essay.

Both Thomas More's <sup>Hallucinations</sup> Utopia and Jean Jacques Rousseau's Discourse on the Origins of Inequality serve as critiques of the society in which they lived in. Both authors

describe [what they see as flaws] in society and government and pose possible solutions to these [weaknesses] in government. Unlike Rousseau, More steers away from looking at the past and instead creates a perfect society that seems to only be attainable in the very

distant future. Rousseau however, believes that we have already experienced a time of fulfillment where inequality ceased to exist. Therefore because More and Rousseau look at their ideal societies through different lenses, they both have very different solutions to the problem of private property in society. Both More and Rousseau agree that private property is an enabler of inequality which in turn diminishes the happiness of society as a whole. - what is the contrast?

More uses Plato's view on the use of communal property as his justification as to why private property leads to inequality. More doubts that goods can be equitably shared if every individual has his own property; "however abundant things are, a few men will nonetheless divide everything amongst themselves, leaving everyone else in poverty" (47). The poverty that More describes stems directly from a few powerful people having large amounts of wealth and influence over others which allows them to distribute things amongst the few instead of the many. Rousseau has a similar idea that once man was

### Works Cited

More, Thomas. *Utopia*. 2nd. Translated by Clarence H. Miller. New Haven & London:

Yale University Press, 1516.

Rousseau, Jean, and Donald A. Cress. *On the Social Contract ; Discourse on the Origin of Inequality ; Discourse on Political Economy*. Indianapolis: Penguin Classics, 1983.

Esteban,

I think you have the basic similarities and differences in the two arguments. Here are some things I noticed:

- ① Maybe try expanding on ~~one~~ your explanation of each argument by connecting what they say to society in general - this will both beef up your essay and make for a more nuanced argument. - do this especially in your conclusion - this will up your word count
- ② Make sure you ~~also~~ include the compare and contrast in your thesis
- ③ Some minor issues with word choice and awkward phrasing that we can work on