

# Models of Civil Society

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“Ambassadors for Change: Individual Liberty and  
Personal Responsibility”

Cairo, Egypt

August 16, 2006

# Themes

- Definitions
- Historical Origins in Europe and in the Middle East
- Relations of Civil Society to the State
- Relations of Individuals to Groups
- The Formation of Identity
- Challenges to Formation of Civil Society in the Middle East

# Definitions

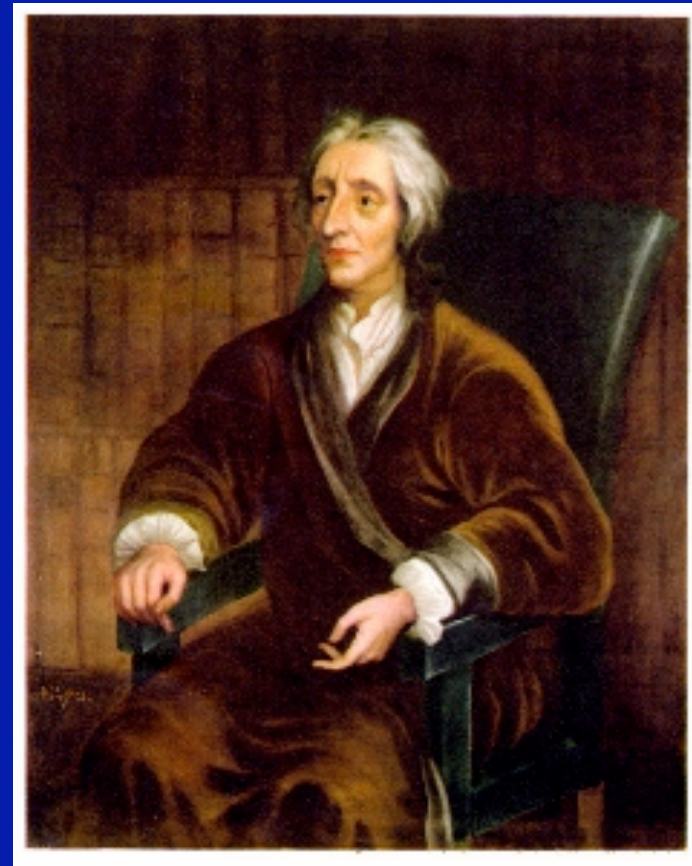
- Does “Civil” Society distinguish the civil parts of society from the uncivil parts, or civil societies from uncivil societies?
- What role does motivation of actors play in defining civil society?
- Civil Society in its historical manifestations

# Definitions, continued

- The confusion of defining civil society by motivation
  - Hegel and Marx: civil society is motivated only by self-interest
  - Barber and Kymlicka: civil society is motivated only by lack of self-interest
- Such definitions bifurcate human life and lead to confusion

# Defining Civil Society by Relations Among Persons

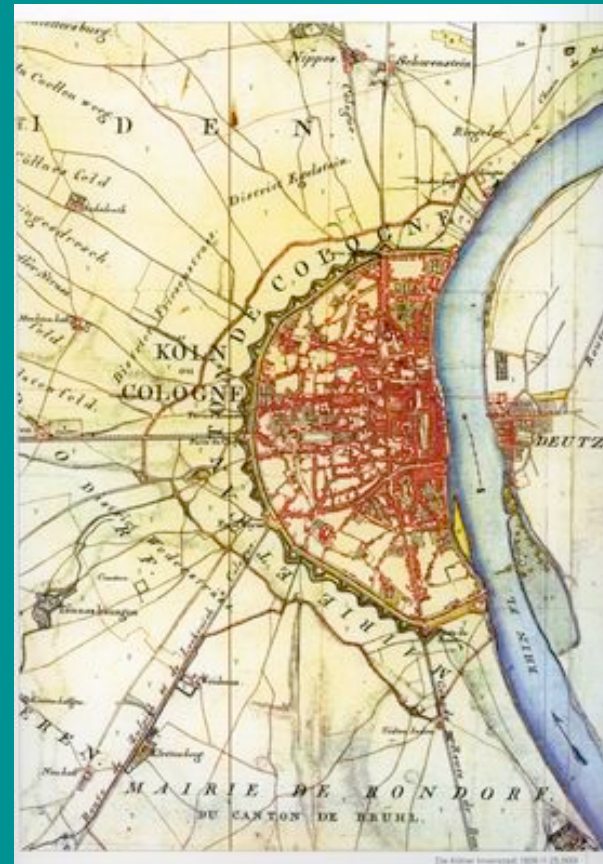
- “Those who are united into one Body, and have a common establish’d Law and Judicature to appeal to, with Authority to decide Controversies between them, and punish Offenders, are in Civil Society one with another....”
  - John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, §87



John Locke

# Civil Society in Europe Emerged from the Medieval “Communes” – Independent Cities

- “Stadtluft macht frei, nach Ablaufe von Jahr und Tag.”
- “City air makes you free, after the lapse of a year and a day.”



*Medieval City of Cologne (Roman/Latin “Colonia”)*

# Civil Society's Two Linguistic Roots in European Languages

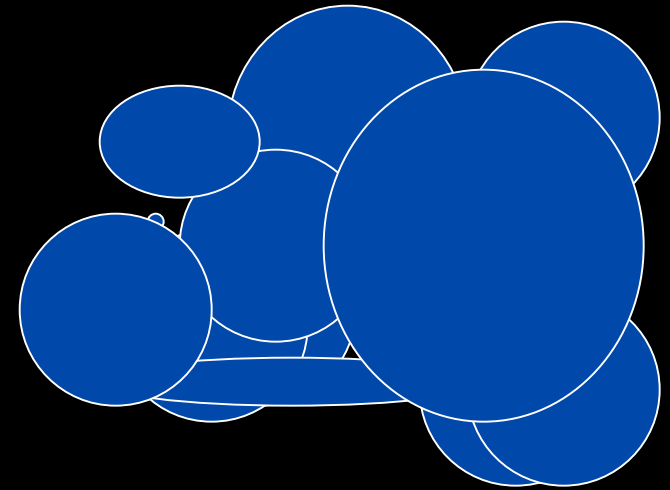
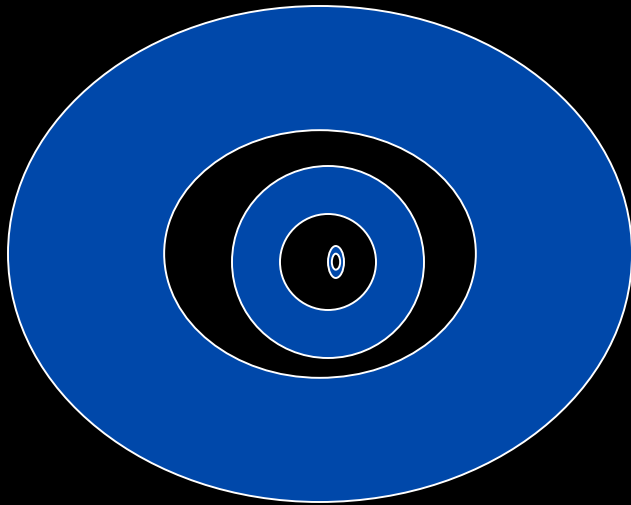
- Latin *Civitas*: a city understood as a legal association, not as a mere place (Urb)
  - From *Civitas* we derive “civilization” and “civil behavior”
- German *Burg*: a fortified or strong and defended place
  - From *Burg* we derive “bürgerlich” (Marx: “Bürgerliche Gesellschaft”), “bourgeois,” “burgher,” “borough,” “Pittsburg,” etc.

# Relations of Civil Society to the State

- The Officers of the State are Limited in their Functions and have only *Enumerated Powers*
  - Example: U.S. Bill of Rights, Amendment Ten
- The Members of Civil Society have *Unenumerated Rights*
  - Example: U.S. Bill of Rights, Amendment Nine



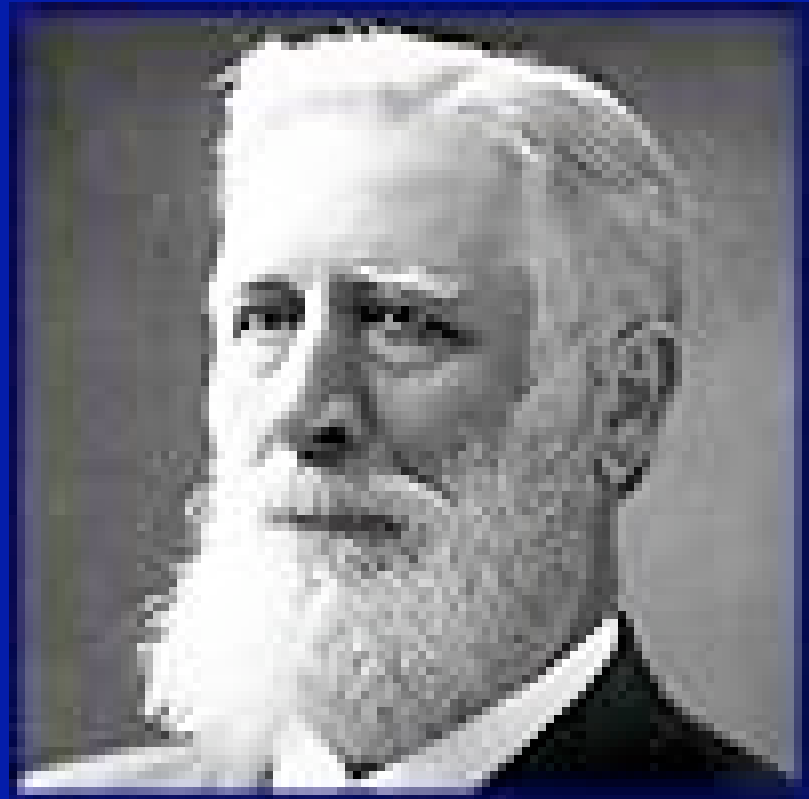
# Relations of Individuals to Groups



- In a Collectivist Order, the Individual is (Allegedly) Completely Absorbed by the Group
- In a Civil Society, the Individual is a Member of Many Groups, none of which Absorb Him or Her Completely

# The Complexity of Civil Society

- “Our present system of association, which resembles a great number of infinitely intersecting circles, rests on the possibility of belonging with one part, one aspect of one’s individuality, perhaps with only one closely defined part of one’s range of ability, to one organization, and with others to others.”
  - Otto von Gierke, *Das Deutsche Genossenschaftsrecht*



Otto von Gierke

# Relations Among Individuals and Groups In Civil Society Are Like IKEA Furniture

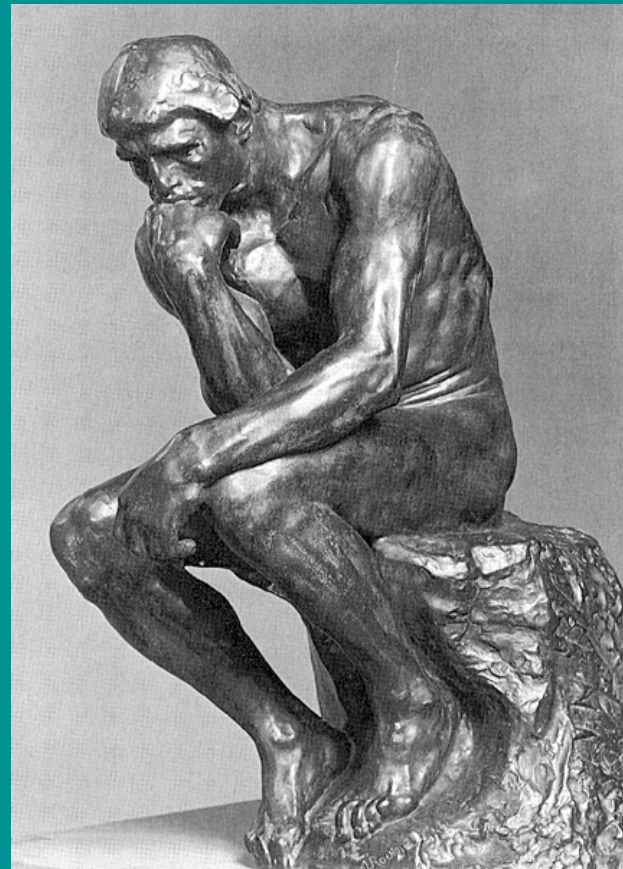


Ernest Gellner

- “There are firms which produce, advertise, and market modular furniture. The point about such furniture is that it comes in bits which are agglutinative: you can buy one bit which will function on its own, but when your needs, income or space available augment, you can buy another bit. It will fit in with the one acquired previously, and the whole thing will still have a coherence, aesthetically and technically. You can combine and recombine the bits at will. . . . What genuine Civil Society really requires is not modular furniture, but modular man.”
  - Ernest Gellner, *Conditions of Liberty: Civil Society and its Rivals*

# In Civil Society, Identities Are Complex

- Individuals Can Form Their Own Identities
  - Identity is partly given, but also partly created
    - Through Association
    - Through Fashion
    - Through Education
    - Through Choices



# Challenges to Civil Society

- Statist/Collectivist Ideologies
  - Nationalism
  - Racism
  - Intolerance
  - Sexism
  - Protectionism
  - Socialism
- Rentier States
  - The Resource Curse
  - The Foreign Aid Curse
    - Taxation Effect
    - Spending Effect (Patronage)
    - Group Formation Effect
    - Repression Effect

# Some Steps Toward Civil Society

- Establishing Gender Equality before the Law
- Protecting Religious and Social Pluralism
- Establishing and Defending an Independent Judiciary for a Law-Governed State
- Combatting Collectivist Ideologies
- Eliminating Bureaucratic Obstacles to Formation of Civil Associations, whether Non-Profit or For-Profit
- Freeing Trade from State and Elite Domination
- Freeing the Media
- Freeing Education
- Freeing Our Minds

# One Great Human Being Who Freed His Own Mind

- “The contest was now ended; the chain was severed; God and right stood vindicated. I was A FREEMAN, and the voice of peace and joy thrilled my heart.”

– Frederick Douglass,  
1817? - 1895

