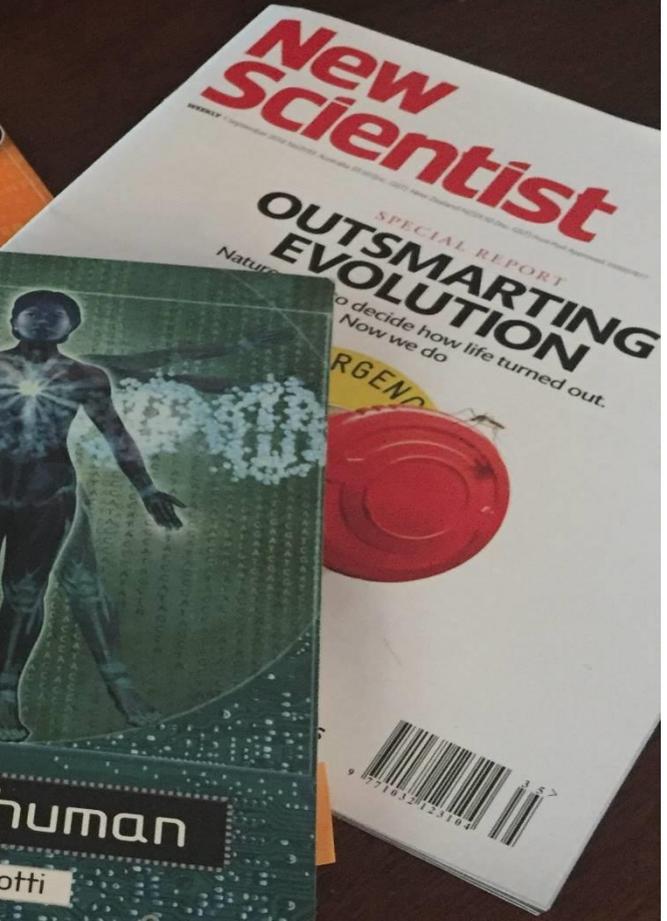
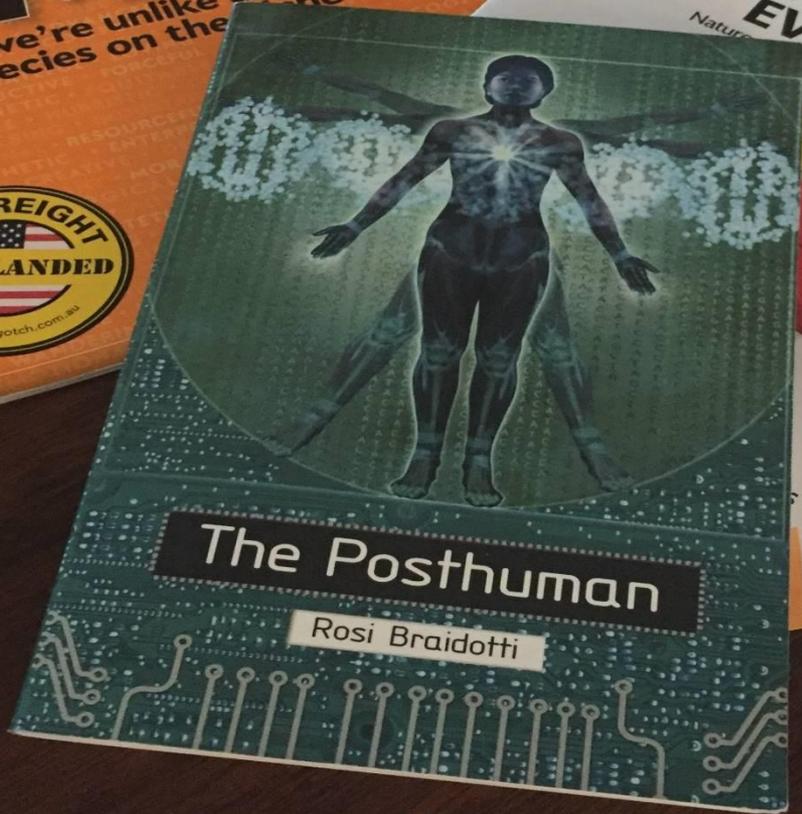
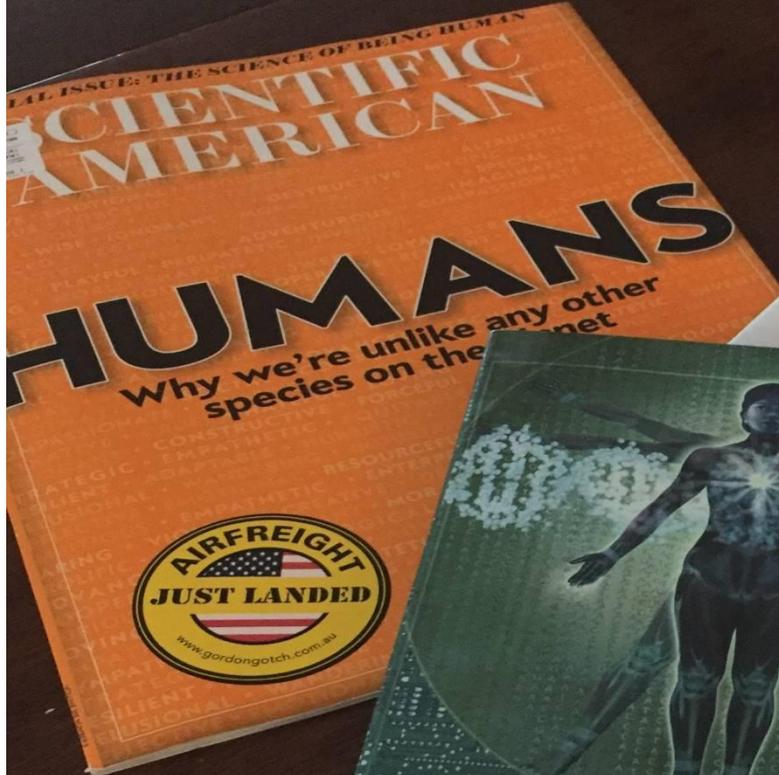


# Philosophy of the Human and the Posthuman

Class 2



# *Philosophy of the Human and the Posthuman*

Week 1: Introduction: What does it mean to be human?

Weeks 2 – 3: Humanism – renaissance; enlightenment;  
modernist values

Week 4: 'the death of man' – posthumanist thought

Week 5: *no class – Cup Day*

Weeks 6 - 7: the politics of exclusion: contested sites

Week 8: technology and the posthuman

# *Humanism:*

Man as

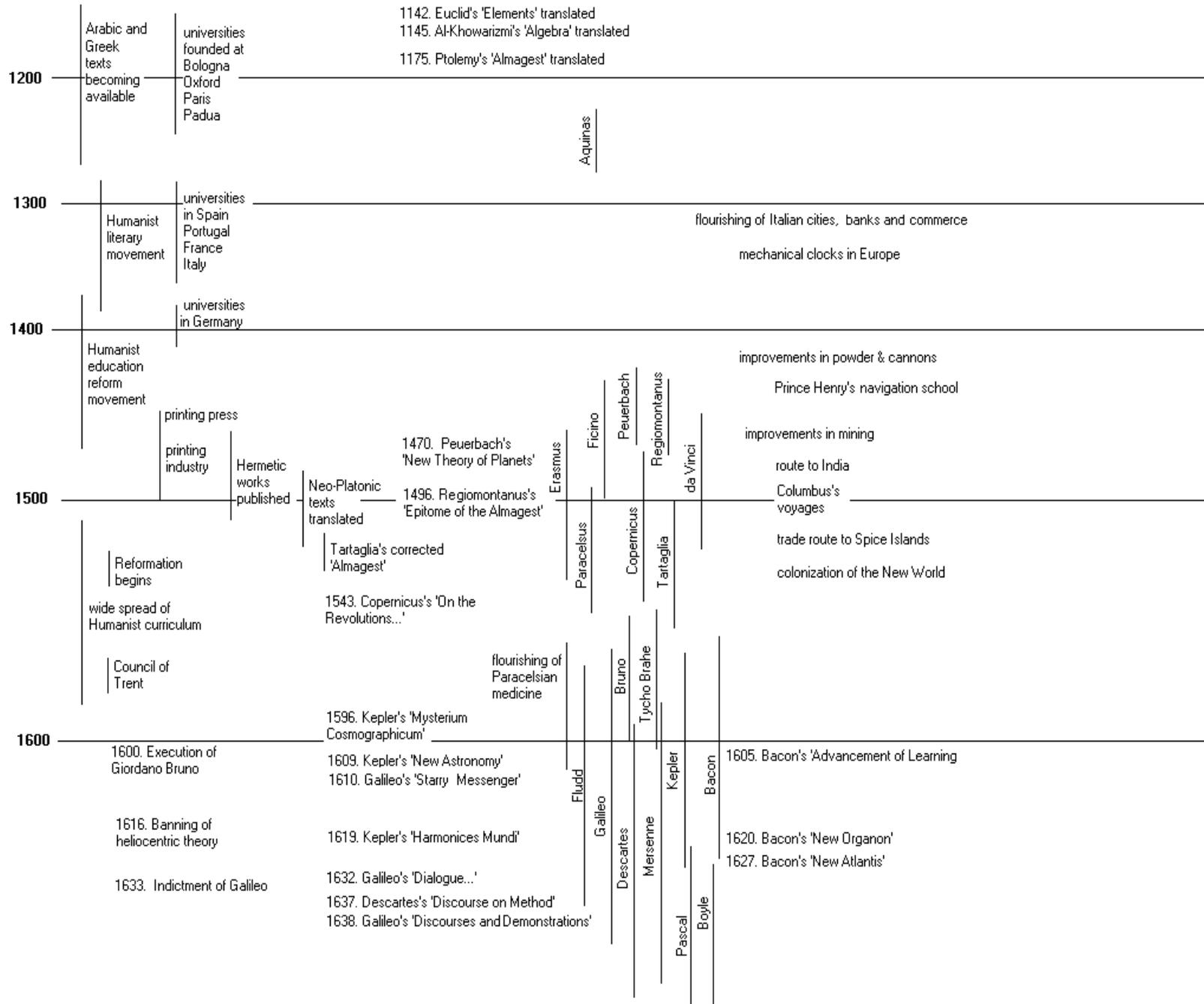
secular

rational

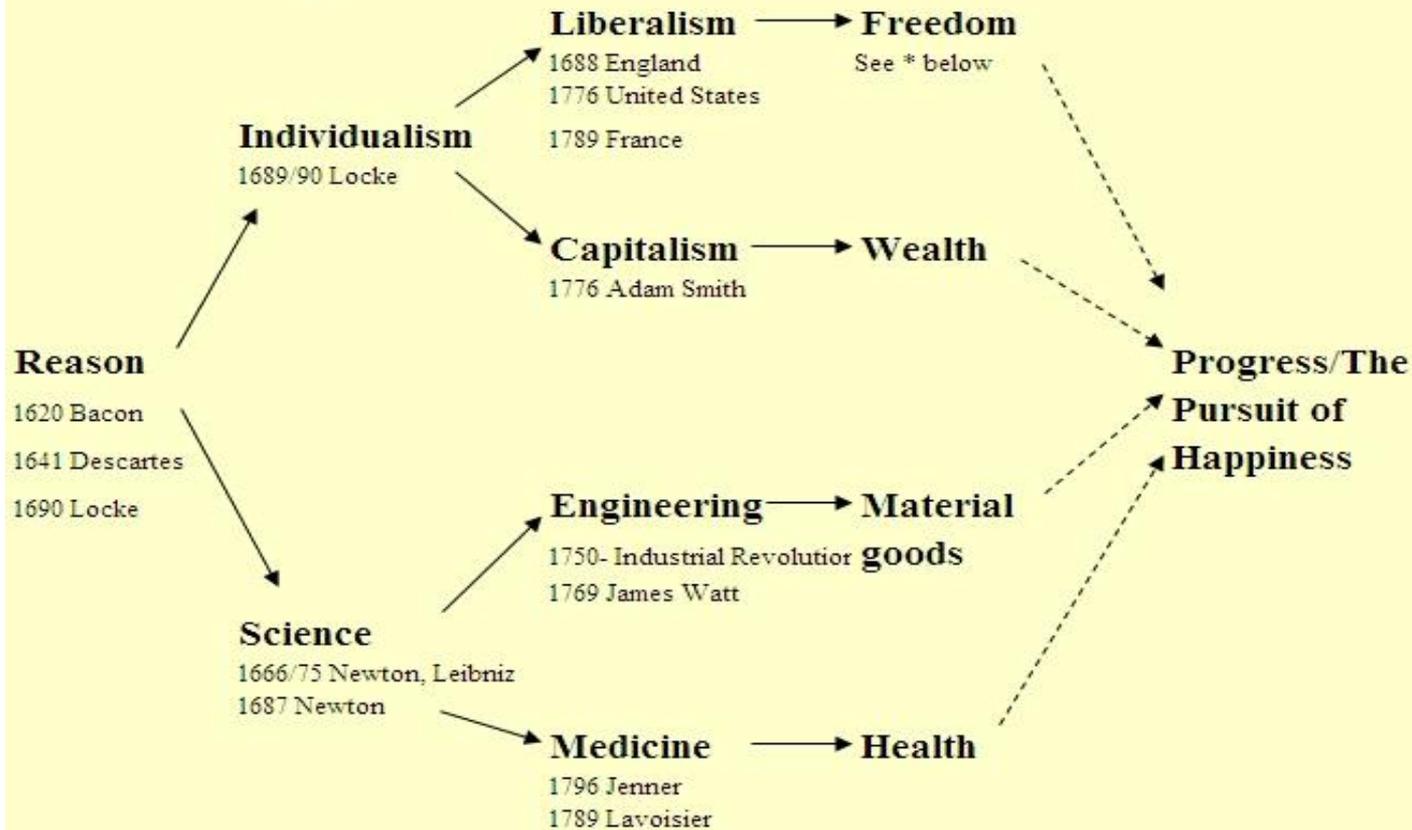
free

# Humanist values ...

- individualism; separateness; independence
- reason; rationality
- freedom; autonomy; agency
- human exceptionalism
- universalism
- hierarchical
- exclusionary



# The Enlightenment Vision



\* 1764 Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishment*

1780s: Last witches legally burned in Europe

1784 American Society for Abolition of Slavery

1787 British Society for Abolition of Slave Trade

1788 French Societ  des Amis des Noirs

1792 Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Stephen Hicks, 2004

*Explaining Postmodernism: Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault*

Reason; rationality

# René Descartes 1596-1650

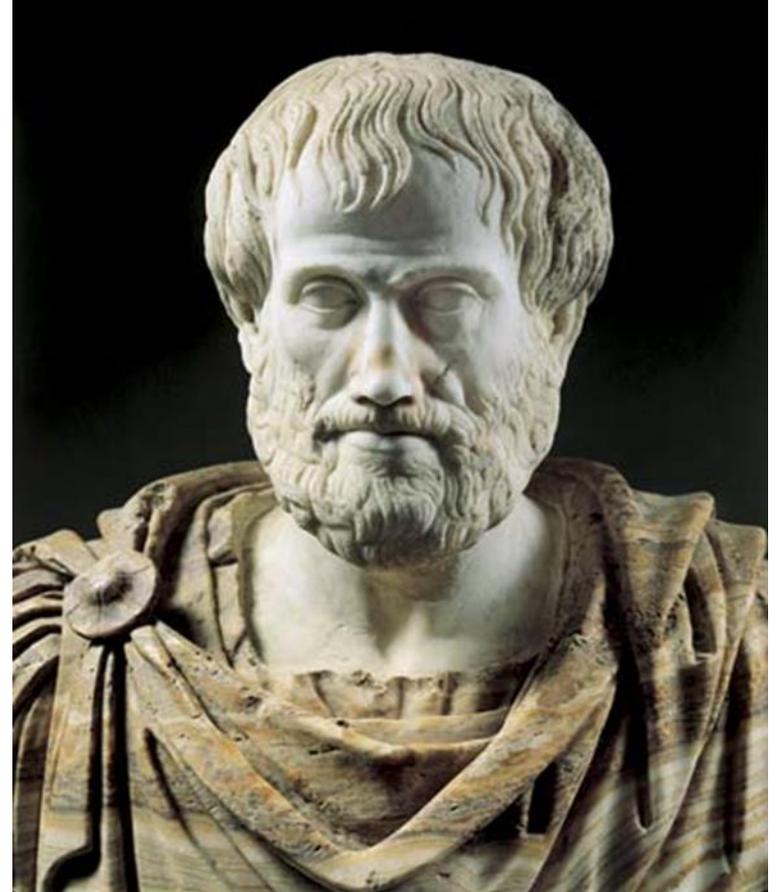
- I think, therefore I exist
- Mind-body dualism: “the ghost in the machine”
- Mind as capacity to think, reason
- Mechanical philosophy
- Animals, lacking mind, are automata



# Aristotle

Man.... A social animal

The good person = the  
good citizen



Humans

Animals

Plants

Vegetative  
Soul

Reproduction, Growth

Sensitive  
Soul

Mobility, Sensation

Rational  
Soul

Thought, Reflection

# Meanings of Reason, Rationality

Process of thinking – speculative and practical: *if....then....*

(unique) attribute of homo sapiens

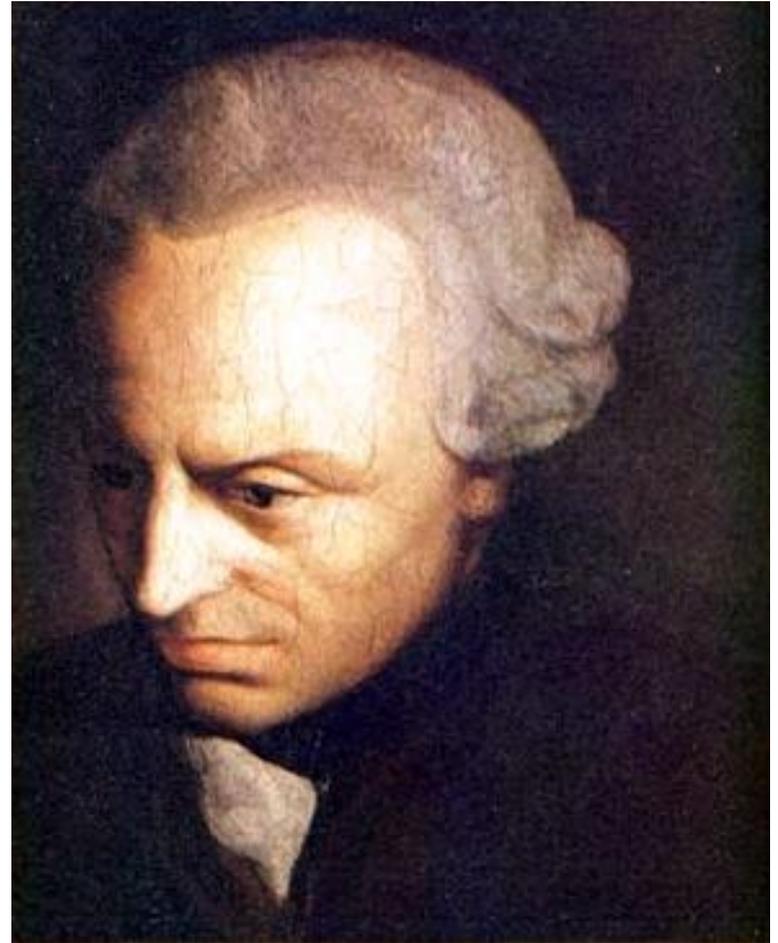
Deliberation **vs** emotion; instinct

# Immanuel Kant 1724-1804

practical reason:  
if...then...

the categorical  
imperative

universalism (anti-  
relativist)



# Kohlberg Dilemma

A woman was near death from a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. The drug was expensive to make, but the druggist who had discovered the drug was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, tried every legal means to borrow the money but was unable to do so. The druggist refused to lower the price. Heinz gets desperate and considers breaking into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife.

Should Heinz steal the drug? Is it actually right or wrong for him to steal the drug?

# Stages of moral development

Kohlberg

*moral development is the development of an **autonomous self**, capable of being motivated by abstract principles understood as a kind of "mathematical" solution to conflicts of interests.*

Gilligan

*moral development is the development of a self-in-relation. Morality is understood in terms of the preservation of valuable **human relations**. Progress from stage to stage is motivated by increasing understanding of human relationships.*

# Stages of moral development

Kohlberg

**Model:** contract

**Emphasis on :**

*Reason and logic*

*Explicit principles*

*Impartiality*

*Autonomy*

*Rights/obligations*

*Self-reliance*

Gilligan

**Model:** caring relationship

e.g., parent-child relationship

**Emphasis on:**

*Relations*

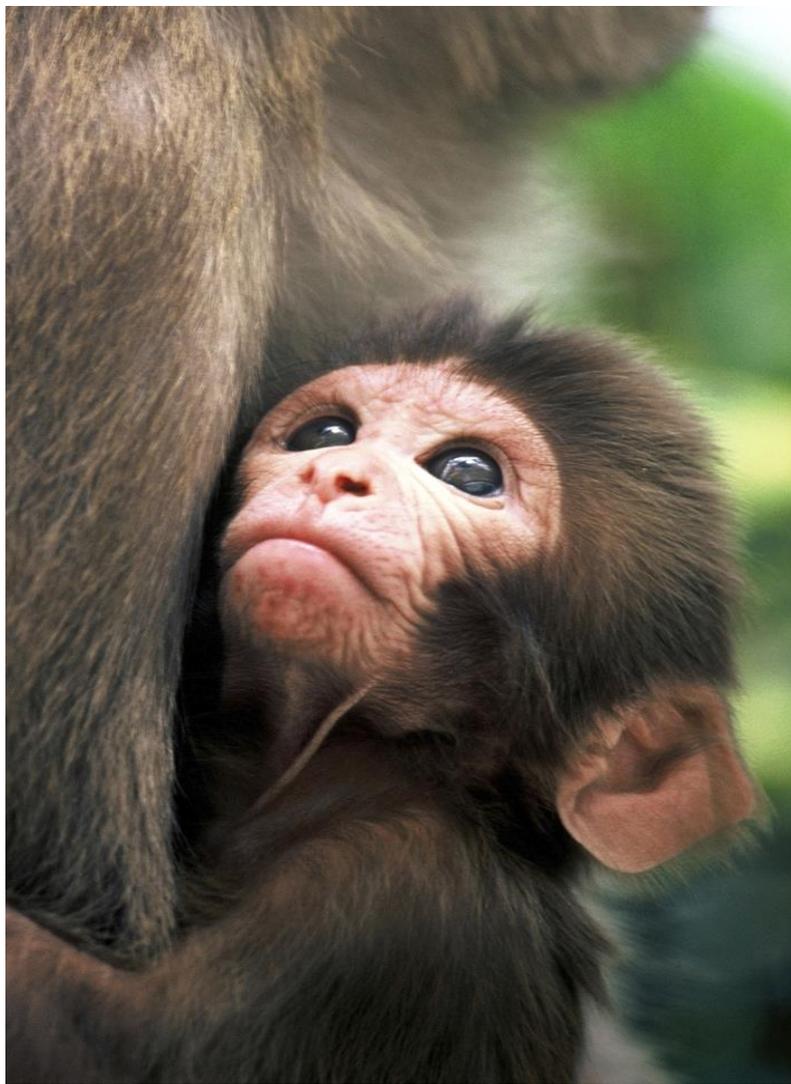
*Responsiveness to situations*

*Compassion, empathy*

*Inter-connectedness*

*Responsibilities*

*trust*



Implied contrast of

***Reason vs emotion***

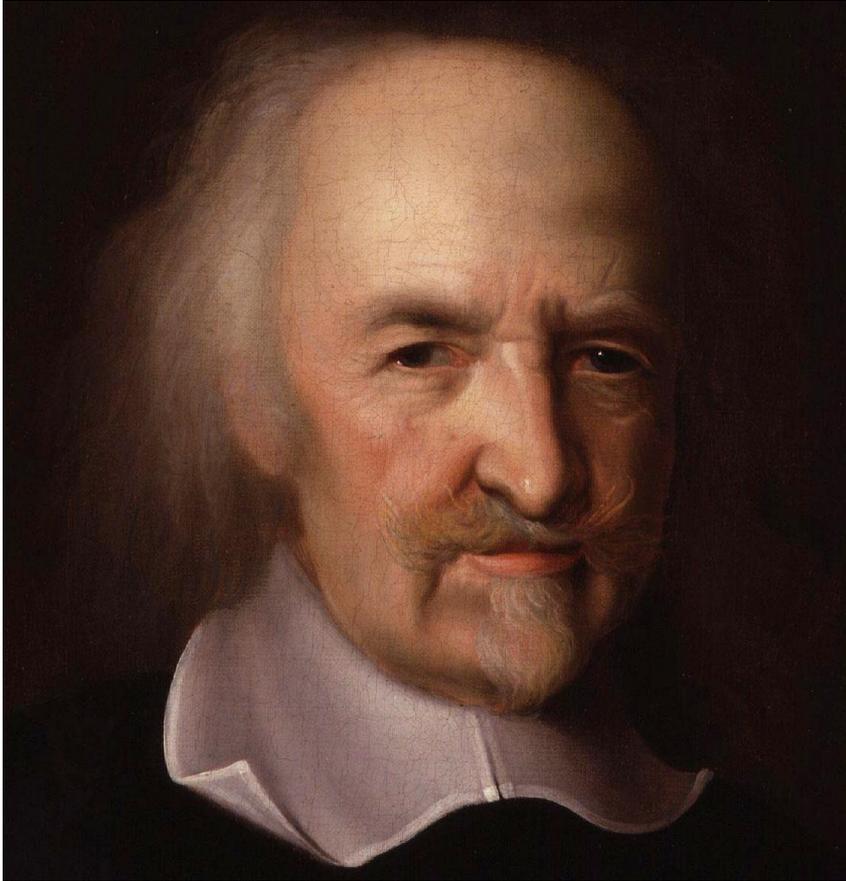
Reason = autonomy  
= independence  
= self-sufficiency  
= separateness

Implications for a ***theory of society***

## ***Social contract theory***

*the natural condition of mankind is a state of war:  
“where every man is Enemy to every man ... and  
the life of man, solitary, poor nasty, brutish and  
short.”*

# Thomas Hobbes 1588-1679



Life in the state of  
nature...

*....solitary, nasty,  
brutish, and short*

*Homo homini lupus* – “man is wolf to man”  
(old Roman proverb)



- *the natural condition of mankind is a state of war: “where every man is Enemy to every man ... and the life of man, solitary, poor nasty, brutish and short.”*
- *Society exists because it is in the interests of us all to have peace. (cf. William Golding’s view in *Lord of the Flies*)*
- “social contract”
- social atomism: egoistic rather than altruistic

# *Theories of human nature*

‘it’s a dog eat dog society’

VS

‘we are basically social animals – cooperative,  
and helping ...’

## *Relations with Others*

atomistic

relational

transactional  
(contract)

care; concern

customer; consumer;  
taxpayer

citizen; “we”; community

self-interest

communal interest;  
common good