***Locke’s State of Nature (summary)***

* 1. A number of points to take away:
     1. *Freedom* – to order their actions and dispose of their possessions and persons as they think fit, within the bounds of the law of nature, without asking leave or depending on the will of any other man. (para. 4)
     2. *Equality –* all power and jurisdiction is reciprocal, no one having more than another. Argument:

Any creatures of the same species and rank, born to the same advantages of nature and the use of the same faculties, should be equal one amongst another without subordination or subjection unless the lord and master of them all should, by any manifest declaration of his will, set one above another and confer on him, by an evident and clear appointment, an undoubted right to dominion and sovereignty.

* + 1. § 6: State of nature has a law of nature to govern it
       1. Reason is the law of nature.
       2. Reason “obliges everyone” – this is presumably what Locke means by saying that the law of nature “governs” the state of nature.
       3. What reason is said to teach is: “being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions”
    2. § 7: “In order that the law be observed, and that all be restrained from invading others rights, the execute on the law of nature is put into every man’s hands.”
    3. Not a state of war – though Locke not consistent about how bad it can be
  1. Locke will, of course, say that
     1. the legitimate ends of government are those purposes for which people who are naturally free would subject themselves to government.
     2. Therefore important to determine what naturally free people would want out of a government.

* + 1. Therefore important : What verifies Locke’s claims about the state of nature?