

**TOPICAL REVIEW**  
**THE BASICS OF GOVERNMENT**

- I.) **Government**
- a. **Definition**
    - i. the institutions and processes through which public policies are made for society
    - ii. the legitimate use of force w/i territorial borders to control human behavior
  - b. **Purposes**
    - i. **Maintain order**
      - 1. oldest objective: rule of law to protect life and property
      - 2. Hobbes- *Leviathon*: preservation of life is THE MOST important objective of government
      - 3. Locke- protection of private property
      - 4. often used to justify authoritarian rule
    - ii. **Provide public goods**
      - 1. benefits available to all citizens not likely to be produced voluntarily
      - 2. taxation
      - 3. tension btw gov. & private business
    - iii. **Promote equality**
      - 1. has not always been a concern
      - 2. grew out of industrialization, urbanization, and progressivism
  - c. **Why?**
    - i. to gain the benefits
    - ii. social contract- give up certain freedoms in order to gain protections
  - d. **Theories of Government**
    - i. **Pluralism**
      - 1. politics is a competition among groups w/ each pressing for their own beliefs
      - 2. competition ensures that no one group becomes too powerful
    - ii. **Elite & Class**
      - 1. societies are divided along class lines
      - 2. upper class elites will always possess more influence
    - iii. **Hyperpluralism**
      - 1. pluralism on crack
      - 2. too many groups w/ too many demands= ineffective government
- II.) **Political Ideologies**
- a. **Definition**
    - i. a consistent set of values and beliefs about the proper purpose and scope of democracy
  - b. **Political Spectrum**