Six Models of Society: Part 1

1. Aristotle
2. Thomas Hobbes
3. Adam Smith
4. Karl Marx
5. Emile Durkheim
6. Max Weber

<u>Definition of Society</u>- Largest group of people occupying a specific common territory. A complex network of human relationships that share a common culture and way of life.

For each model we will think about:
- Human nature
- Chief function of government
- Best form of government
- Characteristics of leaders

1) Aristotle (470-399 B.C.E.)
- community is a natural setting for humans
- basis of community is cooperation amongst friends
- basic social unit is family
- state is responsible for education and security
- education= intellectual development and moral development
- humans are social animals and are naturally cooperative and capable of ethical judgment and behavior
- society's responsibility to help people find telos (or purpose in life) and happiness
- advocates republic form of government, representative democracy
- does not advocate pure democracy because not all are capable of good decisions

2) Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
- human nature is that people are selfish and greedy
- society is a means of getting needs met
- people are anti-social, competitive and driven by self preservation
- "psychological determinism"= our psychological state determines how we live and self preservation rules
- "live is brutish and short"
- "Social contract" we give up defending ourselves and have an authority settle disputes
- People elect absolute sovereign for life

3) Adam Smith (1723-1790)
- "Wealth of Nations" economic book author
- Agrees with Hobbes that people are selfish, competitive, sympathetic, but Smith thought we were capable of curbing these impulses based on sympathy and compassion
- Agree on social norms, strong monarch not necessary
- Advocates businesses reinvest profits and discourages acumulation of wealth, economic laws run society
- Government should be natural liberty, advocated democracy
- Against government regulation of economy or business, believed in self-regulating government
- Believed people would do the right thing if left alone