**John Locke**

"Government being for the preservation of every man's right and property, by preserving him from the violence or injury of others, is for the good of the governed.” (Locke,First Treatise, Chapter 9).

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

“What, then, is the government? An intermediary body established between the subjects and the sovereign for their mutual communication, a body charged with the execution of the laws and the maintenance of freedom, both civil and political.” (Rousseau, The Social Contract)

**John Stuart Mill**

The first element of good government, therefore, being the virtue and intelligence of the human beings composing the community, the most important point of excellence which any form of government can possess is to promote the virtue and intelligence of the people themselves. The first question in respect to any political institutions is, how far they tend to foster in the members of the community the various desirable qualities, moral and intellectual; …. The government which does this the best has every likelihood of being the best in all other respects, since it is on these qualities, so far as they exist in the people, that all possibility of goodness in the practical operations of the government depends.

We may consider, then, as one criterion of the goodness of a government, the degree in which it tends to increase the sum of good qualities in the governed, collectively and individually; since, besides that their well-being is the sole object of government, their good qualities supply the moving force which works the machinery. (Mill, Representative Government)

**Questions**

1. What is the role of government according to John Locke?
2. According to Rousseau, what is the purpose of government?
3. How does Mill support the ideas of Rousseau and Locke?

4. In your opinion, in what areas do these philosophers agree?