17.03. Introduction to Political Thought

I. Liberty of subjects
   A. Negative v. positive liberty
      1. Negative liberty: absence of external impediments, sphere within which individual is free from interference
      2. Critique of positive or republican liberty: liberty as collective self-government
   B. Liberty of subjects consistent with unlimited power of the sovereign
   C. Sovereign’s putting to death an innocent subject is iniquity, not injustice (148)
   D. Liberties of subjects include
      1. liberty to defend their own bodies, even against those that lawfully invade them
      2. liberty to refuse self-incrimination
      3. liberty to refuse to fight in war
   E. Greatest liberty of subjects lies in the silence of the laws
   F. When obligation of subjects is dissolved

II. Property
   A. Where no government, no property (in contrast with Locke)
   B. No right of property against sovereign
      1. Sovereign may redistribute wealth/intervene in economy to secure peace
      2. Sovereign’s duty to the poor
         a. Safety of the people not just “bare Preservation, but also other Contentments of life” (231)
         b. Public charity

III. Punishment
   A. Basis of sovereign’s right to punish: “not given, but left to him” (214)
   B. Aim of punishment
      1. Not retribution but rather…
         2. “that the will of men may thereby the better be disposed to obedience” (214) or “correction either of the offender, or of others by his example” (240)
   C. Distinguishes between legitimate punishment and acts of hostility
   D. Progressive notion of punishment, picked up by later reformers (Jeremy Bentham)

IV. Sources that weaken or dissolve government
   A. Want of absolute power
   B. Private judgment of good and evil
   C. Subjecting the sovereign to the laws
   D. Attributing absolute property rights to subjects
   E. Dividing the sovereign power
   F. Imitation of neighboring nations, and the Greeks and Romans
      1. Advocates use of “solid Reason” over histories of the ancient Greeks and Romans (cf. Machiavelli)

V. Educating subjects