

Social compact.

Social contract, or compact. In political philosophy, a term applied to the theory of the origin of society associated chiefly with the names of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, though it can be traced back to the Greek Sophists. Rousseau (*Contract Social*) held that in the pre-social state man was unwarlike and timid. Laws resulted from the combination of men who agreed for mutual protection, to surrender individual freedom of action. Government must therefore rest on the consent of the governed.

Compact, adj. Closely or firmly united or packed, as the particles of solid bodies; firm; solid; dense, as a compact texture in rocks; also, lying in a narrow compass or arranged so as to economize space; having a small surface or border in proportion to contents or bulk; close, as a compact estate, or a compact order or formation of troops.

Compact, n. An agreement or contract between persons, nations or states. Commonly applied to working agreements between and among states concerning matters of mutual concern. A contract between parties, which creates obligations and rights capable of being enforced, and contemplated as such between the parties, in their distinct and independent characters. A mutual consent of parties concerned respecting some property or right that is the object of the stipulation, or something that is to be done or forborne. See also Compact clause; Confederacy; Interstate compact; Treaty.

Compact clause. Art. I, Section 10, Cl. 3, of U.S. Constitution provides: "No State shall, without the consent of Congress, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State . . ."

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