

Popular Sovereignty and Society: Formulations of Political Thought in the Age of Enlightenment

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Abstract. The Age of Enlightenment was full of critical class struggle and serious social and political changes. It represents a crucial epoch in the history of mankind, because it was a formative period of the bourgeois state system and its ideology. During this Age, numerous interesting ideas were propounded concerning the state and society, but amongst them, the idea of popular sovereignty was particularly important. This essay provides a critical analysis of basic texts and persistent themes in relation to the idea of popular sovereignty, developed within Enlightenment political thought during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.¹

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