

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

# The Social Contract

Read by **Neville Jason**

Translated by **Ian Johnston**

*Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.*

In *The Social Contract*, Rousseau explores the concept of freedom and the political structures that may enable people to acquire it. He argues that the sovereign power of a state lies not in any one ruler, but in the will of the general population, and that the ideal state would be a direct democracy where executive decision-making is carried out by citizens who meet in assembly, as they would in the ancient city-state of Athens.

The thoughts contained in the work were instrumental to the advent of the American Revolution and became sacred to those leading the French Revolution.

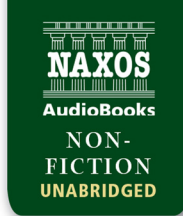
With traces of Aristotle and echoes of Plato's *Republic*, *The Social Contract* is an exhilarating look at society and the definition of democracy.



**Neville Jason** trained at RADA, where he was awarded the diction prize by Sir John Gielgud. He has been a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company three times, and may be heard in radio plays, documentaries and arts programmes. For Naxos AudioBooks his readings include Vasari's *Lives of the Great Artists*, *War and Peace*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *The Once and Future King*, *Evgenii Onegin*, *Wessex Tales* and *Remembrance of Things Past*, both unabridged and abridged.

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