Brisco Wood

Thoreau argues what makes a good government thus deserving our obedience to follow the law. Thoreau states that we should obey a government that acts as an expedient to individual’s goals and has no power over an individual unless the individual says it does. However, I believe that democracy works better than the individualism Thoreau proposes because the government is everyone’s not just a single individual’s

Thoreau says that an individual should not be used as another man’s tool but rather the government should be an individual’s tool and do only what that person sees as just. However, while it is safe to say everyone wants a government that works best for them and works as they see just, what one individual sees as just may be the opposite of what another person sees as just. Along with this Thoreau says that people with opinions that fit into the minority should not change their views to be part of the majority. But with so many people having so many different ideas of what the government should do how would it possibly be able to fulfil everyone’s needs without compromising ideas to help the most amount of people? This comprising of ideas is the key principle of democracy and is something needed for a government to truly serve every individual.

The government should be a tool that we can use to reach our full potential but it needs to be understood that it is not just one individual’s tool but rather everyone’s tool. For this to be done it takes the compromising of ideas to benefit a majority of people as opposed to just a single individual. That is why Thoreau’s concept of how government should function and the level of individualism he suggests is not a practical way to build a great society. The thought of changing your own idea should not be seen as caving into the majority but rather evolving your ideas to benefit the most amount of people.