



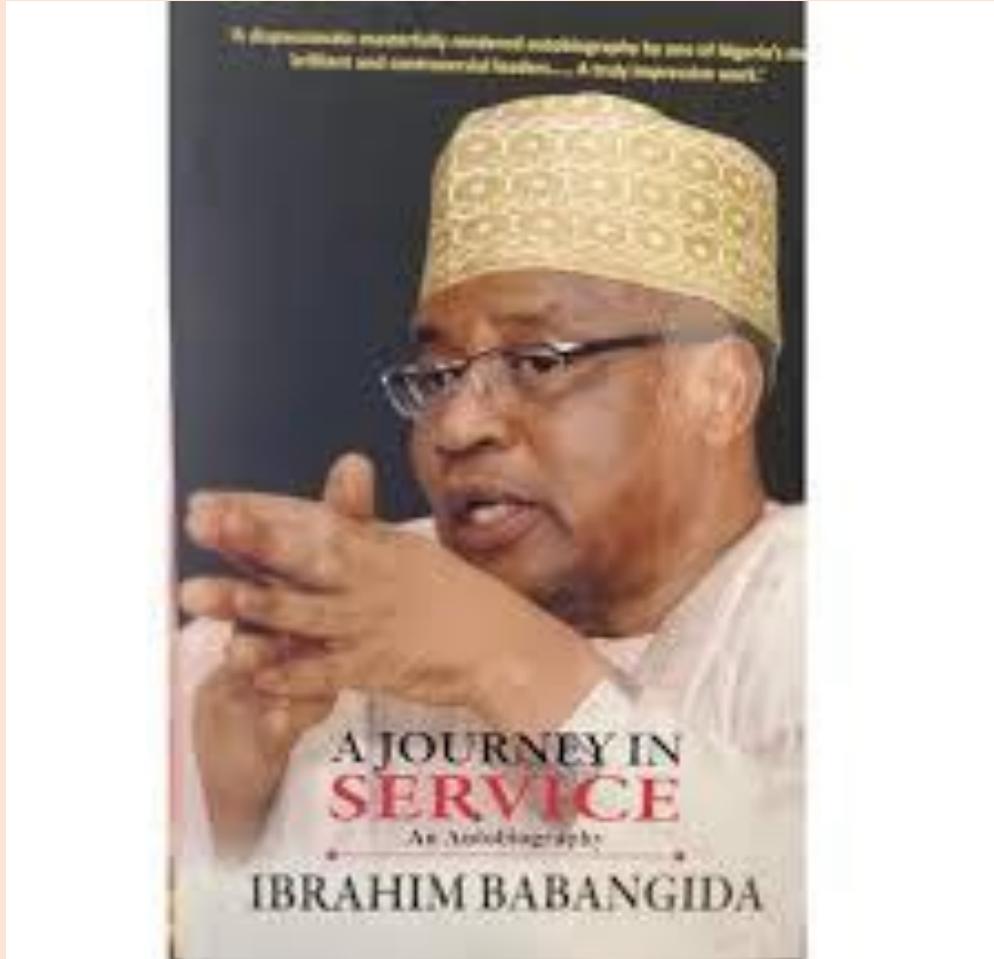
**ON HUMAN NATURE AND
POLITICAL DESIRES:
IS IT BAD TO LOVE POWER?**

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LAGOS ACC PI LECTURE

March, 2025

A Journey in Service



Why did I choose to speak about Power?

Human Nature

Desire

Key Terms

Bad

Love

Power

Rationality

- I draw attention to the confusing, conflicting and unending meaning and craving for power

What is Power?

- Ability to do something
- Ability to make someone do what they would not normally do
- Do you know who I am?
- Is power Tangible or Intangible?
- Can Love and Rationality be used in one sentence?



Russell's Politically Important Desires

- **Primary Desires**

Food

Shelter

Clothing

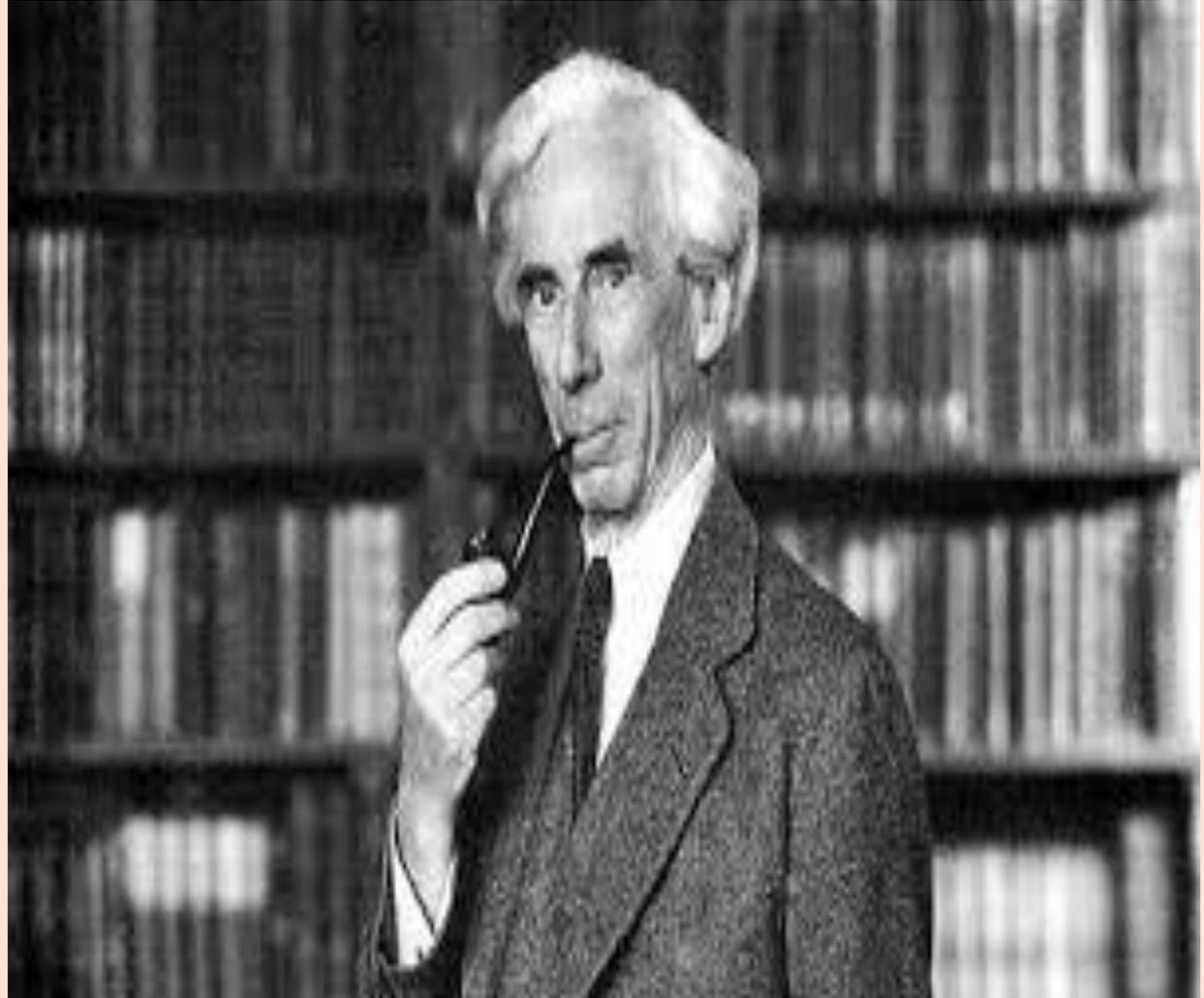
- **Secondary Desires**

Acquisitiveness

Rivalry

Vanity

Love of Power



Desires

All Human activity prompted by desire or impulse

Is it possible to resist desire in the interest of duty or moral principle?

Do Humans ever act out of a sense of duty?

Not all Desires have Political relevance

Russell's Politically Important Desires

Food

Primary Desires

Clothing

Shelter



Russell's Politically Important Desires

**Secondary
Desires**

Acquisitiveness

Rivalry

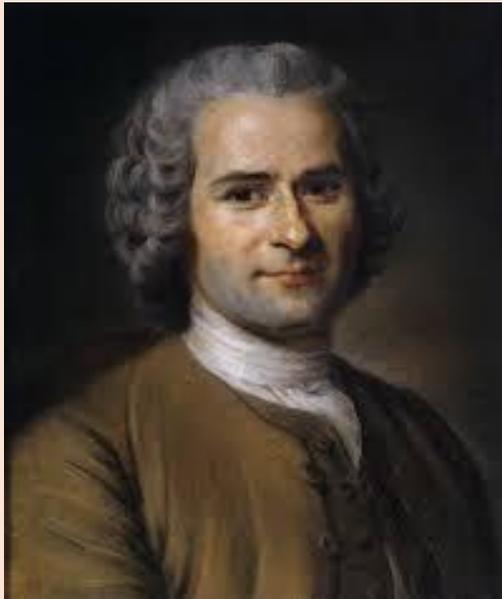
Vanity

Love of Power



Russell and Hobbes

- Russell agrees with Hobbes that most human behavior is motivated by desires that lead to conflicts and disputes
- Social Contract Theories
- Hobbes
- Locke
- Rousseau



UNDERSTANDING HUMAN DESIRES

KEY QUESTION

HOW DO THESE
DESIRES SHAPE
POLITICAL AMBITIONS?



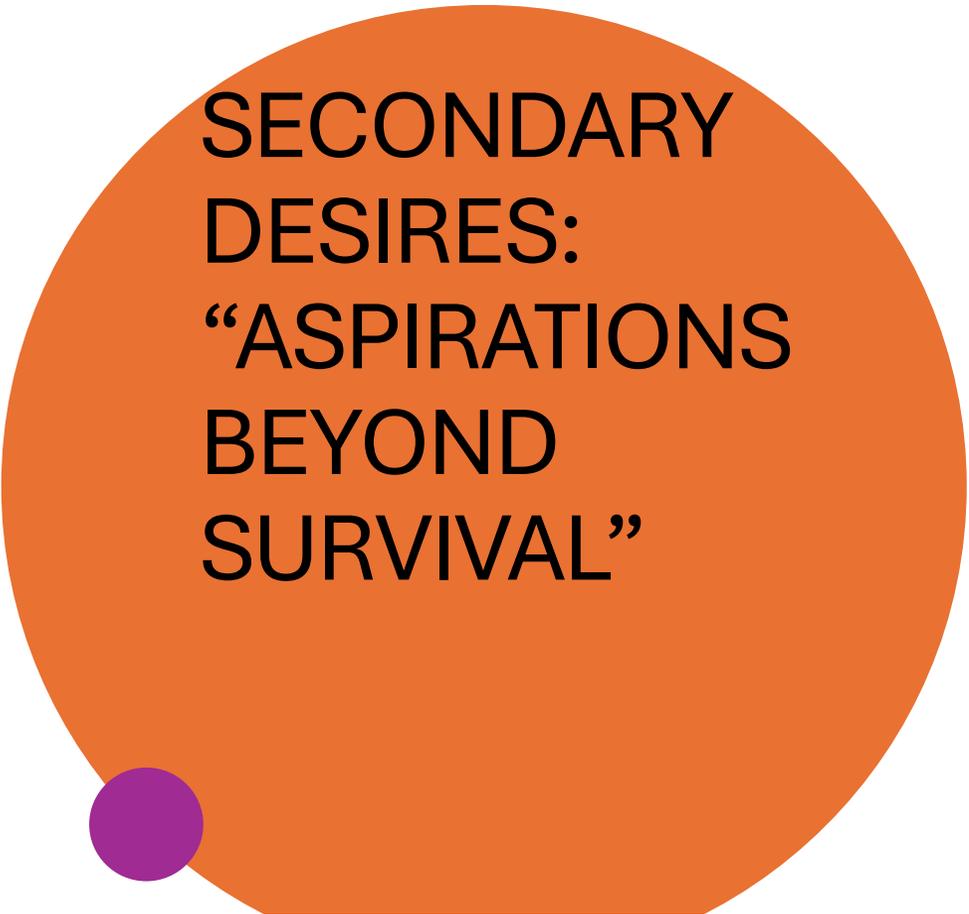
- Beware of Politicians Bearing Gifts

PRIMARY HUMAN DESIRES: “SURVIVAL AND SECURITY”

Primary desires are the basic needs that humans seek to fulfil, to survive and feel secure. Examples of primary desires:

- SHELTER
- FOOD
- SUSTENANCE FOR SURVIVAL
- WATER
- SLEEP
- SAFETY
- HEALTH

“society’s stability begins with meeting humanity’s most basic needs”



SECONDARY
DESIRES:
“ASPIRATIONS
BEYOND
SURVIVAL”

Secondary desires are the aspirations human pursue once their primary needs are met. Examples of secondary human desires:

- POWER
- LEGACY
- ACQUISITIVENESS
- FREEDOM
- CONTROL
- KNOWLEDGE/ CURIOSITY
- ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“When basic needs are met, human ambition take center stage, shaping societies and their future”

DEGENERATE DESIRE: “THE DARK SIDE OF AMBITION”

❑ VAINITY

❑ LOVE/HATE

❑ FEAR DRIVEN ACTIONS



Power vs. Authority

- Can the love of power ever be rational?
- Is it not better to love Authority?
- Why should I Love Authority instead of Power?



L'etat C'est Moi!

- Love of Power is Dangerous?
- Does that make it bad?

**IS IT BAD TO
LOVE
POWER
?**