

DISCUSS: Martin Luther King, Legal Injustice and Aquinas's theory of Natural Law

Purpose

The purpose of this discussion is to get you to think critically about Aquinas's theory of natural law and how it is still applied in the world today.

This assignment aligns with the following learning outcomes:

- Understand how Martin Luther King appealed to Aquinas's thought on law to justify civil disobedience
- Understand the contemporary relevance of Aquinas's natural law theory

Tasks

1. Read Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" if you have not already done so. If you have already read it, you may want to review the sections which pertain to the prompt below.

Please respond to the following prompt with a post of 400 words or less.

1. Explain how MLK uses **Aquinas's ideas** in his letter. Identify the challenge that is posed to him by his critics and how he employs Aquinas's theory to address it.
2. Do you think there are any laws in the US today which Aquinas would see as violating the natural law? To respond to this question, you should (1) identify a law and (2) explain how it violates one of Aquinas's precepts of the natural law. Your explanation of how the natural law precept is violated should clearly identify *both* the precept *and* the relevant human inclination upon which the precept is based.

Criteria for Success

Follow these guidelines to be successful on this discussion.

- You have completely responded to both questions in the prompt.
- You have posted your response to the prompt above (due Sunday 11:59pm).
- You have responded to at least two of your peers (due Tuesday 11:59pm).