

- The Liberties granted to any exclude some others
- Paine: every chartered town is an aristocratically monopoly in itself

Context relevant to Power and Corruption

- Blake wrote the *Songs of Innocence* at a time when the Swedenborgian church was calling for new songs with a focus on the theme of praise, it is thought that many of the poems are a response to this call
- However the Swedenborgian church that Blake belonged to at the time had a great deal of internal tension some of it focused on the theological issues pertaining to the nature of atonement and to the degree which the church services included ritual ceremonies
- Swedenborgianism strongly repudiated any notion that Jesus paid the penalty for human sin by a substitutionary sacrifice
- Many Swedenborgians saw the songs of Innocence as exemplifying the philosophy of philanthropy and charity- Rix notes 'a radicalism of compassion not of subversion'

Other views

- Thompson suggests that Blake's experience in the church was *one of exalted enthusiasm followed by disillusionment and rejection*

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