

**TEXTE 8 : JOHN RAWLS (1921-2002)**

The question of tolerating the intolerant is directly related to that of the stability of a well-ordered society regulated by the two principles. We can see this as follow. It is from the position of equal citizenship that persons join the various religious associations, and it is from this position that they should conduct their discussions with one another. Citizens in a free society should not think one another incapable of a sense of justice unless this is necessary for the sake of equal liberty itself. If an intolerant sect appears in a well-ordered society, the others should keep in mind the inherent stability of their institutions. The liberties of the intolerant may persuade them to a belief in freedom. This persuasion works on the psychological principle that those whose liberties are protected by and benefit from a just constitution will, other things equal, acquire an allegiance to it over a period of time. So even if an intolerant sect should arise, provided that it is not so strong initially that it can impose its will straightway, or does not grow so rapidly that the psychological principle has no time to take hold, it will tend to lose its intolerance and accept liberty of conscience. This is the consequence of the stability of just institutions, for stability means that when tendencies to injustice arise other forces will be called into play that work to preserve the justice of the whole arrangement.

J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1971, Chap. IV "Equal Liberty", §35 "Toleration of the Intolerant".

**1/TRADUCTION :**

- Etablir un lexique anglais-français comprenant les termes les plus difficiles du texte.
- Traduire soigneusement le texte en français.

**2/ QUESTION :**

- Quel est l'argument de Rawls en faveur de l'idée qu'il nous faut tolérer, dans une certaine mesure, même les sectes les plus intolérantes ? Quel est le présupposé « psychologique » de cet argument ?

