**SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE**

**Basic Definition from Merriam Webster:**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

A state or doctrine of egalitarianism

**Thoreau, Henry David**

**b. 1817 - d. 1862**

*Henry David Thoreau, a philosopher, naturalist, social reformer and author, is best known for Walden, or Life in the Woods, his account of two years in the wilderness in his hometown of Concord, Massachusetts. There, in a small, self-built house, he observed nature and experimented with simple living. Thoreau studied at Harvard, taught grammar school, and with his mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson led the Transcendentalist movement. He was arrested in 1846 for refusing to pay the poll tax in protest against slavery and the Mexican-American War. His night in jail prompted him to write Civil Disobedience, an essay that contends individuals ought not to surrender their consciences to the majority or to the government. If a law “is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another,” he states, “then, I say, break the law.” Thoreau’s thinking on civil disobedience greatly influenced Leo Tolstoy, Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. King.*

**Source: http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/theme/4227**

**Expanded Definition from Wikipedia:**

**SOCIAL INJUSTICE**

**Social injustice** is a relative concept about the claimed unfairness or [injustice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice) of a [society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society) in its divisions of rewards and burdens and other incidental inequalities based on the user's worldview of humanity.