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Thoreau’s essay “Civil Disobedience” represents his view of the unjust laws that are going on during the Mexican-American War. He most likely calls his essay Civil Disobedience to represent his view of the unjust government at the time. He states: “The government itself, which is only the mode which the people have chosen to execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people can act through it”, (Thoreau, 1). He defines government as ‘that government is best which governs least’, here he explains that if there is a government it should be a limited government. He suggests that “we should be men first, and subjects afterward.” Which in this case is saying that we should act as a voice and as leaders against the government before we submit ourselves to the government. This is Thoreau’s main point of the essay and that is why he makes this suggestion. Thoreau also discusses his point of view of soldiers, captains, and generals. “The mass of men serve the state thus, not as men mainly, but as machines, with their bodies. They are the standing army, and the militia, jailers, constables, posse comitatus, etc.”, (Thoreau, 2). In that statement I don’t think that he necessarily looks down on the soldiers, but I think he looks down on how they seem to be machines or vessels for the government. He uses conscientious men as an example of explaining how they ended up basically giving into the government to where they are not really an enemy of the state. Thoreau pretty much argues that there are two ways laws are set in place: the laws that society sets and then the higher laws of God and mortality. I don’t agree with the way he handled things especially in the way he avoided paying his taxes. I agree with his fighting against slavery, but the other unjust ways he just seemed to do them criminally.