

THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF
HOBBS
ITS BASIS AND ITS GENESIS



BY **LEO STRAUSS**

Translated by Ellen M. Sankar

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Political Philosophy Of Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes



Political Philosophy Of Hobbes:

Leviathan - Revised Edition Thomas Hobbes, 2010-12-23 Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan* is the greatest work of political philosophy in English and the first great work of philosophy in English. Beginning with premises that were sometimes controversial such as that every human action is caused by the agent's desire for his own good, Hobbes derived shocking conclusions such as that the civil government enjoys absolute control over its citizens and that the sovereign has the right to determine which religion is to be practiced in a commonwealth. Hobbes's contemporaries recognized the power of arguments in *Leviathan* and many of them wrote responses to it: selections by John Bramhall, Robert Filmer, Edward Hyde, George Lawson, William Lucy, Samuel Pufendorf, and Thomas Tenison are included in this edition. *Leviathan* is divided into four parts. In the first part, *Of Man*, Hobbes presents a view of human beings and of the natural world in general that is materialistic and mechanistic. In the second part, *Of Commonwealth*, he defends the theory of absolute sovereignty, the view that the government has all the political power and has the right to control any aspect of life. In the third part, *Of a Christian Commonwealth*, he critiques concepts like revelation, prophets, and miracles in such a way that it becomes doubtful whether they can be rationally justified. In the fourth part, *Of the Kingdom of Darkness*, he explains various ways in which priestly religion has corrupted religion and transgressed the rights of the sovereign.

Leviathan (1651). by Thomas Hobbes, 2016-12-17 *Leviathan* or The Matter, Forme and Power of a Common Wealth Ecclesiasticall and Civil commonly referred to as *Leviathan* is a book written by Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) and published in 1651; revised Latin edition 1668. Its name derives from the biblical Leviathan. The work concerns the structure of society and legitimate government and is regarded as one of the earliest and most influential examples of social contract theory. *Leviathan* ranks as a classic Western work on statecraft, comparable to Machiavelli's *The Prince*. Written during the English Civil War (1642–1651), *Leviathan* argues for a social contract and rule by an absolute sovereign. Hobbes wrote that civil war and the brute situation of a state of nature, the war of all against all, could only be avoided by strong, undivided government.

Thomas Hobbes (5 April 1588 – 4 December 1679). In some older texts, Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury was an English philosopher best known today for his work on political philosophy. His 1651 book *Leviathan* established social contract theory, the foundation of most later Western political philosophy. Though on rational grounds a champion of absolutism for the sovereign, Hobbes also developed some of the fundamentals of European liberal thought: the right of the individual; the natural equality of all men; the artificial character of the political order, which led to the later distinction between civil society and the state; the view that all legitimate political power must be representative and based on the consent of the people; and a liberal interpretation of law which leaves people free to do whatever the law does not explicitly forbid. He was one of the founders of modern political philosophy and political science. His understanding of humans as being matter and motion, obeying the same physical laws as other matter and motion, remains influential, and his account of human nature as self-interested cooperation and of political communities as being

based upon a social contract remains one of the major topics of political philosophy. In addition to political philosophy, Hobbes also contributed to a diverse array of other fields including history, geometry, the physics of gases, theology, ethics, and general philosophy.

The Political Philosophy of Hobbes Leo Strauss, 1963. In this classic analysis, Leo Strauss pinpoints what is original and innovative in the political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes. He argues that Hobbes's ideas arose not from tradition or science but from his own deep knowledge and experience of human nature. Tracing the development of Hobbes's moral doctrine from his early writings to his major work *The Leviathan*, Strauss explains contradictions in the body of Hobbes's work and discovers startling connections between Hobbes and the thought of Plato, Thucydides, Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, and Hegel.

The Elements of Law, Natural and Politic Thomas Hobbes, 2022-05-29. In *The Elements of Law, Natural and Politic*, Thomas Hobbes explores the foundation of political philosophy through a meticulous examination of human nature, morality, and the structure of society. Written in a clear yet intricate style, this treatise unpacks the social contract theory, laying the groundwork for modern political thought. Hobbes employs a rationalist approach, interweaving his insights into natural law with an analysis of governance, ultimately arguing for the necessity of a powerful sovereign to maintain order and prevent conflict among self-interested individuals. This work is situated within the broader context of 17th-century Enlightenment thinking, reflecting the tumultuous political landscape of his time, particularly the English Civil War. Thomas Hobbes, an influential philosopher, was deeply affected by the chaos of his era, which instilled in him a profound distrust of human nature and a recognition of the inherent violence in humanity's quest for survival. His early experiences, particularly witnessing the breakdown of social order, galvanized his thoughts on the need for strong political authority. As a student of Aristotle's works, Hobbes melded classical philosophy with emerging Enlightenment ideals, which undoubtedly informed his vision in *The Elements of Law*. This seminal work is a must-read for scholars of political theory and philosophy. Hobbes's incisive insights into the human condition and the nature of power provide a thought-provoking framework for understanding contemporary political discourse. Readers will find themselves challenged to reflect on the balance between individual liberty and social stability, making this book a timeless addition to any intellectual library.

Leviathan Thomas Hobbes, 2023-12-23. In his seminal work *Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes presents a compelling examination of human nature and the necessity of social contract theory in establishing a governing authority. Written during the turbulence of the English Civil War, Hobbes employs a precise and systematic style, intricately weaving together philosophy, political theory, and moral reasoning. The book starkly contrasts the state of nature, characterized by chaos and a war of all against all, with the order and security provided by a powerful sovereign, which Hobbes famously likens to a Leviathan, a metaphor for absolute authority that holds society together in a fragile peace. Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) stands as a prominent figure in political philosophy, with *Leviathan* reflecting his belief in the necessity of a strong, centralized power. His experiences during the civil strife of his time, coupled with his education and interactions in the court of Charles I, deeply influenced his thoughts on human behavior and

governance Hobbes pessimistic view of humanity as naturally self interested and conflict prone propels his argument for absolute sovereignty setting the groundwork for modern political theory Leviathan remains an essential read for anyone interested in the roots of political thought and the dynamics of human society It challenges readers to ponder the balance between freedom and security making it not only relevant in the context of its time but also a critical text for understanding contemporary political discourse Hobbes incisive insights invite thoughtful reflection ensuring its standing as a cornerstone of philosophical inquiry

Hobbes David Daiches Raphael,2003 Hobbes writing surprises shocks amuses and above all stimulates criticism both of himself and of our conventional wisdom This book which is both expository and critical concentrates on Hobbes s ethical and political theory but also considers the effect of these on his metaphysics Updated with a new preface and critical bibliography this book will be particularly useful as an introduction for undergraduates

Hobbes D D Raphael,D. D. Raphael,2014-06-03 First published in 1977 this book is both expository and critical and centres on Hobbes ethical and political theory but also considering the effect on these of his metaphysics Updated with a new preface especially for this re issue which brings together recent scholarship on Hobbes a particular useful feature of the book is the new critical bibliography

Leviathan Thomas Hobbes,2021-02-09 Written by one of the founders of modern political philosophy Thomas Hobbes during the English civil war Leviathan is an influential work of nonfiction Regarded as one of the earliest examples of the social contract theory Leviathan has both historical and philosophical importance Social contract theory prioritizes the state over the individual claiming that individuals have consented to the surrender of some of their freedoms by participating in society These surrendered freedoms help ensure that the government can be run easily In exchange for their sacrifice the individual is protected and given a place in a steady social order Articulating this theory Hobbes argues for a strong undivided government ruled by an absolute sovereign To support his argument Hobbes includes topics of religion human nature and taxation Separated into four sections Hobbes claims his theory to be the resolution of the civil war that raged on as he wrote creating chaos and taking causalities The first section Of Man discusses the role human nature and instinct plays in the formation of government The second section Of Commonwealth explains the definition implications types and rules of succession in a commonwealth government Of a Christian Commonwealth imagines the religion s role government and societal moral standards Finally Hobbes closes his argument with Of the Kingdom of Darkness Through the use of philosophical theory and historical study Thomas Hobbes attempts to convince citizens to consider the cost and reward of being governed Without an understanding of the sociopolitical theories that keep government bodies in power subjects can easily become complicit or allow society to slip into anarchy Created during a brutal civil war Hobbes hoped to educate and persuade his peers Though Leviathan was a work of controversy in its time Hobbes theories and prose has survived centuries shaping the ideas of modern philosophy This edition of Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes is now presented with a stunning new cover design and is printed in an easy to read font With these accommodations Leviathan is accessible

and applicable to contemporary readers **On the Citizen (de Cive)** Thomas Hobbes, 2015-12-16 Thomas Hobbes 5 April 1588 4 December 1679 was an English philosopher best known today for his work on political philosophy Although Hobbes was a strong believer in the right of sovereigns to rule absolutely Hobbes developed the political philosophy that laid the foundation for theories like social contract theory that have formed the backbone of Western democracy Hobbes also wrote about history mathematics physics ethics and philosophy writing at length about human nature and the strength of self interest often referred to as materialism Among Hobbes work his most famous and important is Leviathan titled after the Biblical character Hobbes Leviathan expounds at length upon the structure of society and legitimate government becoming one of the most influential political philosophies in the West's history Leviathan wedds social contract theory to an absolute sovereign calling upon legitimate government to protect the natural rights of its people Written during the English Civil War Hobbes argues a strong centralized government is necessary to avoid war and upheaval **Hobbes: On the Citizen** Thomas Hobbes, 1998-08-20 De Cive On the Citizen is the first full exposition of the political thought of Thomas Hobbes the greatest English political philosopher of all time Professors Tuck and Silverthorne have undertaken the first complete translation since 1651 a rendition long thought in error to be at least sanctioned by Hobbes himself On the Citizen is written in a clear straightforward expository style offering students a more digestible account of Hobbes political thought than even Leviathan itself This new translation is itself a very significant scholarly event

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