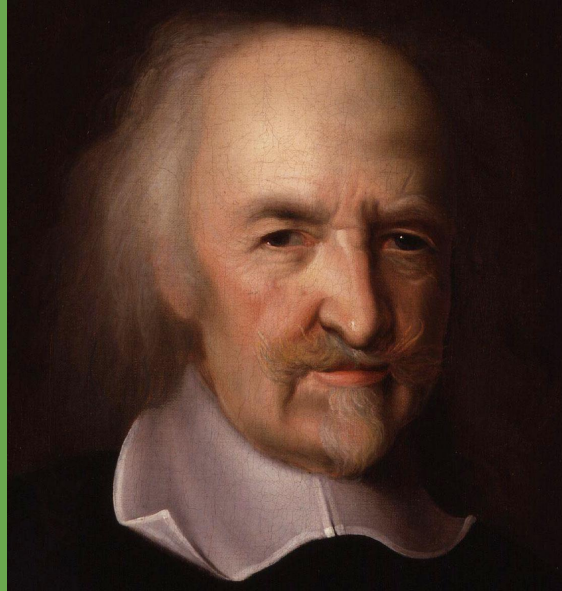


Thomas Hobbes



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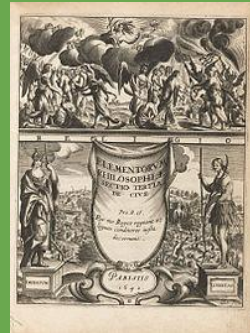
Basic information

- born April 5th 1588 West,Wiltshire
- died December 4th 1678 Derbyshire, United Kingdom
- His father left him and his other two brothers behind
- His uncle paid for his education and was a excellent student
- Went to Magdalen Oxford university to study

Most famous works

Leviathan- Name comes from biblical term leviathan, it was published in 1651, it talked about the structure of society and the legitimate government. Leviathan argues for a social contract and rule by an absolute sovereign(Hobbes moral and political philosophy). It is compared to Machiavelli's The Prince.

De Cive- was originally published in Latin from Paris in 1642. It was the first book of three books which was about human knowledge. He describes man's natural condition, dealing with the natural law.



Main Objective

- Hobbes believed that everything in the universe could be explained in motion and interaction with things. He did not believe that the mind was separate from the body or the soul. He even thought that human thoughts and emotions were part of physical laws.
- He thought that society worked the same way Hobbes hoped to establish similar laws of motion to explain the behavior of human beings, he hoped to prove this using geometry.

Audience

Thomas Hobbes audience would be the same people that Niccolo Machiavelli, Aristotle, and Tacitus would appeal too. These are people that influenced Hobbes. He thought that people needed to know the truth about about what he wrote about in the leviathan. But Hobbes does not specify his audience in his books. Some believed it was meant for students while others believed it was meant for rulers, and some think for any Random person that wanted to read the book.

Hobbes “Just Society”

- Hobbes argued that the solution to life outside society being “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short” (Hobbes) was to put some powerful individual in charge.
- Hobbes was an absolutist that believed that laws are pointless if there isn’t someone or something powerful enough to make everyone follow them.
- He imagined society as a human body in which the monarch served as the head and the individual subjects together made up the body.



Government vs. Individual

- Hobbes believed that “all of us seek power over others, whether we realize this or not” (Warburton) and if society broke down then you would have to live in “a state of nature” without laws or authority to in force them.
- The solution would be to inflict ‘sovereign’ in which it would be given the right to administer severe punishment on anyone who stepped out of line.
- An absolute monarch would be able to dispense laws on its people and in return, one will be safe and live in peace with one another.
- “No man's error becomes his own law; nor obliges him to persist in it” (Hobbes).

The Ruler

- Hobbes argued that the ruler must be able to enforce laws that would actually help the society
- Keep individuals safe
- Maintain the peace between individuals in the society
- Maintain order in the society



The People

- Hobbes conceived the idea that in order for peace and safety, the individuals in the state of nature would have to enter a 'social contract'

Social Contract:

An agreement to give up some of their freedoms for the sake of safety.

- To the individual, safety was far more important than freedom
- Hobbes deemed that fear of death would have driven people to do deranged things
- He also believed that they would be better off with a powerful authority that will end their fears

State Of Nature

- Humans are naturally selfish and greedy; we could do whatever we desire (when in absence of authority)
- People are solely born with one right; life
- Every human action is motivated by a tendency to better one's situation and satisfy as many needs as inclined
- Humans are mechanical, programmed to pursue their desires without regard for anything other than avoiding pain and consuming pleasure
- Humans are reasonable; rationality is pure instinct
- The state must exist in order to prevent men from succumbing to his natural desire for conflict

Government

- Believed that an absolute monarchy was the most effective government
- Thought that government was a device needed to ensure security
- Opposed to distribution of powers; it led to chaos

Social Contract

- Derived from the hypothetical State of Nature
- An agreement in which the people agreed to relinquish their absolute freedom to embody a Sovereign under one absolute power and authority
- A way for man to escape abiding warfare and conflict

Religion and State of War

- Believed religious unity was vital towards providing order
- The Sovereign laws may often contradict God's laws
- Argues that true Christian doctrine supports his political philosophies
- Christian beliefs like those of intangible spirits are false

State of Nature is the State of War

- State of war triggered chaos, insecurity, and resulted in unwanted, brutish and nasty lives
- Conflicts and disagreements about religion, morality and judgement will stimulate war
- Without an absolute power nor common authority, disputes will not be resolved

Education, Society and Revolt

- Humans did **NOT** have the right to revolt, for it would lead to further mayhem
- People could not betray their king and in turn substitute his power with that of another man or group of men
- Education is pivotal to avert the reproduction of unnecessary and improper interests, interest that would disrupt the social order

Society

- Education is the key to social order
- Society is not substantial on its own