

-With Biography of Thomas Hobbes 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. 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. In 1648, a few short years before Hobbes published Leviathan, many of the major powers in Europe signed The Peace of Westphalia. One of the tenants of these various treaties was that all parties would recognize the Peace of Augsburg that was originally signed in 1555. The Peace of Augsburg was essentially a treaty based on the principle of cuius region eius religio or Whose realm, his religion. Essentially this meant that the religion of the ruler dictated the religion of the ruled. This is important in terms of political philosophy because prior to the principle of cuius region eius religio, the various monarchies across Europe were sanctioned by the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) in a coronation ceremony. This ceremony reinforced the idea that the kings were appointed by God to rule over their kingdoms (divine right). However, the principle of cuius region eius religio - whose realm, his religion presented a new problem in political philosophy. If the king was no longer anointed by the church and appointed by God, then from where do these monarchs derive their power? In Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes major concern was the structure of society and its legitimate government - essentially, what makes governments legitimate and from where do they derive their power. Hobbes theory of government is regarded as one of the earliest and most influential examples of social contract theory. For Hobbes, the social contract is the foundation of states and legitimate governments. Hobbes comes to the idea of the social contract by stripping away all of the layers of society and reducing man to a state of nature. According to Hobbes, in order to understand why we have society and government, we must first establish how it came into being - we must move beyond our conceptions of government and start over from a foundation that predates government. Hobbes begins Leviathan from a very mechanistic understanding of human nature. He explains what it would be like without a society or a government and calls this condition of man a state of nature. In this state of nature, each and every person on the planet has a right or a license to everything in the world - we humans can do whatever we want to whomever we want with impunity. This condition of man in a state of nature, according to Hobbes, would lead to a war of all against all and as a result, our lives would be solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. Because the war of all against all in this state of nature would not be beneficial to anyone, mankind must seek a way to escape this perpetual state of war. In order to do this, men living in a state of nature agree to a social contract and establish a civil society. For Hobbes, a society is the population of a people beneath a sovereign authority and that the population gives up their natural rights that exist in a state of nature for the sake of mutual protection. by William Matthew McCarter

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Editorial Reviews. About the Author. Thomas Hobbes (5 April – 4 December),
Leviathan(annotated) - Kindle edition by Thomas Hobbes. Download.

IT was well known to all students of philosophy and history in Oxford, and to many others,
that. W. akaiho.com Smith had been for many years engaged.

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