

"it could live together
in peace and

Government



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"It is not wisdom but Authority that makes a law." (Hobbes n. d) Thomas Hobbes was born in 1588 and died in 1679. He was a son of a disgraced village vicar, however his uncle saw potential in him and paid for his education. After attending Oxford, he went on to tutor several children of noble families. He even tutored Prince Charles III in math. Thomas Hobbes is best known for his political thoughts.

However, Hobbes was also known as a scientist, mathematician, translator of the classics, writer of laws, disputant in metaphysics and epistemology, and disputes on religious questions." (Garrath n. d) Thomas Hobbes wrote many books during his lifetime, some of the books include The Elements of Law, De Clue, and Leviathan. Hobbes was best known for De Clue and Leviathan.

His main concern was the problem of social and political order. He believed humans could live together in peace and avoid conflict, to develop harmony. Hobbes became a conservative after the English Civil War that lasted almost a decade. During this civil war, almost 200,000 people died. Hobbes's most important book was Leviathan. Hobbes wrote in the Leviathan that the people should give their compliance to the government, no matter what, so that civil war does not breakout. The Divine Right of Kings means that monarchs are divine, and the people should follow the Kings.

Divinity is from God thus if you were to follow God, you would follow the monarch. Unlike the Divine Right of Kings, the social contract theory argues that the right to rule is given from ordinary people. Thus, people would be loyal to the King, as long as they believed the King was for their health and

happiness. Hobbes thought that both theories had flaws. Hobbes was driven to write the Leviathan out of fear that another civil war would break out.

Hobbes wrote about the social contract theory, and how it goes hand in hand with obedience. He gathered information by, asking people to think about the history of man. His view of man's history was, the people running around in bear skins fighting each other and wreaking havoc, until men decided they needed order. They were tired of fighting and looked up to people of higher power to govern them. Then people wanted organized government due to the fear of war.

Hobbes wrote that the people had the duty to keep obeying the ruler with only one right to complain or revolt against the ruler. The only reason he felt people were allowed to revolt was the threat of death from their ruler. Otherwise, it was fine if the ruler increased taxes or ruined the economy. Hobbes believed that even if the ruler had outrageous plans, it would be the duty of the people to follow the orders. Hobbes's philosophy was based upon fear, however time and time again his philosophy is proven to be true.

I believe that Thomas Hobbes's philosophy fits into the ethics realm of philosophy. Hobbes's philosophy talks about how people should live, in order to make society less violent. I believe that Hobbes had a good philosophy, however I do not think the people should follow orders blindly. I think it is good for people to question authority and debate whether or not the ruler is fit for the people.

However, I believe there is a middle ground. We, the people, should not dispute every detail, and we should not fulfill every order. I think Hobbes's

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philosophy worked for his time era, but arevision could be made for the 21st century.