

Thomas hobbs argument

Government



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Within the Leviathan, the author Thomas Hobbes makes distinct claims based off his view of humanity and man's nature. By answering multiple questions along the way Hobbes depicts in his book the Leviathan that humanity needs an answer for their deceptive being. The only answer Hobbes finds to keep the peace is to instill absolute power. Thomas Hobbes' distinct claims on Man's Nature come in a package of five with a quickly followed definite answer that man needs a contract to adhere to. His means of that contract can not be fully trusted in all circumstances of the State. Hobbes's claims that (1) man is competitive by nature to seek after honor and dignity which then only ensues hatred and envy, (2) that for man there is a difference in his private good verses the good for everyone in the community, and (3) that because we are looking for distractions in stead of solutions any State we develop has a high chance of being thrown into civil war. Within these first three there is a sadly depicted man. A selfish, ignorant and almost brutish man. After developing the first three he quickly moves onto the next two stating that (4) men are deceptive by nature in pursuit of their own wants and desires and finally that (5) men are problematic when restless. Thomas Hobbes puts forth the answer to mans nature and the need for peace in the hands of an absolute government that has the law and punishment at their hands. He goes on to full declare that the only chance of civilization humanity has is at the hand of a sovereign power that is the means of manifesting liberty. On the contrary if we were to accept " Y" which is Hobbes claims on the nature of man than " Z" surely would not be an absolute government. The chance of a tyrannical power hunger sovereign leader (s) is to great within the realm of what he just placed on man. By accepting " Y" which is the Hobbian view of man needs a means of peace for

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its evil nature- the " Z" Hobbes answers it with is not going to work. Even if the government instilled acted within the means of the Hobbian view, once there was a state of crisis in the State the monarchical reign would turn into a tyrannical one. To answer it with a more accurate " Z", there would have to be safety nets in place and a separation of the power you are bestowing onto such an evil creature. One of direct claims states this- for man with only a tad smaller bit of reason than animals: the private good is different than the common good. So how can a government who has an almost a private government be able to make decisions of peace for the common? Hobbes declares the only escape of mans nature is to enter into contracts they can be held to by fear of punishment. Which again is an accepted " Y" , to offer a more accurate " Z" then the stray from a totalitarian reign must start we must start realizing that aside from these clams the needs of man will always be very different. There is no way to make an exhausted claim of government prosper under the previous inferences. For the common good to prosper it would have to be apart of the law not just the reason for the law. In having a government more equated to the people without out sovereignty but still the fear of punishment there can be an implement established. The implement of the want of the fear of punishment because the man becomes the one in control. The common good can then become the private good because the majority of the common are the majority of the private. Hobbes gives the power of the many to the few or to the one in hopes of less dissension and peace, but it instead would give the potential for the State to have to much control (Which has to be good control or bad control.) Within that control over the masses there is a greater chance of that control being misguided if we strictly accept " Y" (the nature of man).

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