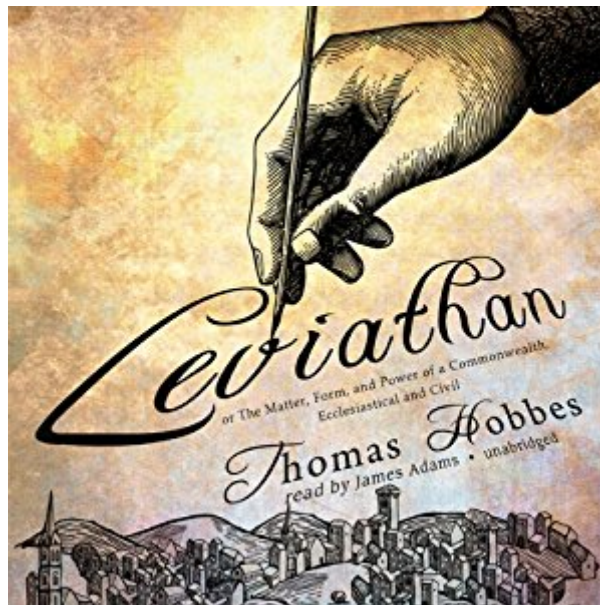




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Leviathan: Or The Matter, Form, And Power Of A Commonwealth, Ecclesiastical And Civil



Synopsis

The Leviathan is the vast unity of the State. But how are unity, peace, and security to be attained? Hobbes' answer is sovereignty, but the resurgence of interest today in Leviathan is due less to its answers than its methods: Hobbes sees politics as a science capable of the same axiomatic approach as geometry. Written during the turmoil of the English Civil War, Leviathan was, in Hobbes' lifetime, publicly burnt and even condemned in Parliament as one of the causes of the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its current appeal lies not just in its elevation of politics to a science, but in its overriding concern for peace, its systematic analysis of power, and its convincing apologia for the then-emergent market society in which we still live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very small print. Interesting subject matter. I notice the influence he had on future leaders and thinkers.

good

Find yourself eating up philosophies of political economy? Edify yourself by delving into a few sections of this book. I'd suggest finding a companion book or FAQ to help explain it even though it is straightforward. The intricacies of Hobbes abound under the right scrutiny. Those who have libertarian leanings might find this especially enjoyable.

Using book for My Masters Degree in History & Political Science. Great Value

It seems a little dishonest to me for Norton not to reveal on the cover of this book that it is an abridged version. In fact, the only way to know that is to read the footnote in the Table of Contents, or the preface. It happens that, in my view, the Leviathan can use the abridging, and it is very possibly that you think so too. But readers should be told that before they buy. So I am telling you. I'm a bit disappointed with the secondary materials, too, but not quite disappointed enough to grouse about it too much. Still, it seems like the editors could have made up for all those lost pages in the main text to get more ambitious in the secondary materials. I still give it four stars because I like the abridged version.

As stated above this is a tough read however you should read it none the less because it gives you an in depth look at a part of history we know little about and it's through someone else's eyes and mind!

Hobbes is an important author for a reason, and he makes interesting points in the Leviathan. While you do not want to take his advice to heart too much, he definitely makes one think about the human condition.

This review is for the free Kindle edition. This is a basic edition with no hyperlinks, though the [Kindle Go To](#) function does bring up a useful table of contents. There are also real page numbers. Not bad at all for a freebie. This is taken from the Pelican Classics edition, which was prepared from the first edition. As a result, the spelling is 17th century English. There is little consistency and the same word is spelled differently throughout the book. It started out as hard to read, but I was able to breeze through the different spelling after only a few chapters. The book itself was very interesting. Hobbes was arguing for a strong central government and he used history, tradition, logic and the Bible to argue his points. He was obviously a clear thinker and his arguments made sense. I was especially interested in his interpretation of the Bible; he obviously knew it very well. Recommended for those interested in the history of thought and the philosophy of government.

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