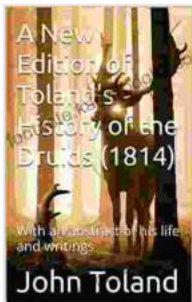


Thomas Hobbes: A Leviathan of Philosophy

Thomas Hobbes, one of the most influential philosophers of the 17th century, is renowned for his incisive political philosophy and his pessimistic view of human nature. His magnum opus, Leviathan (1651), remains a landmark in the history of political thought.



A New Edition of Toland's History of the Druids (1814): With an abstract of his life and writings by Kevin Thomas

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 49037 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 450 pages

Lending : Enabled



The Life and Times of Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes was born in Malmesbury, England, in 1588. He received a classical education at Oxford University, where he studied logic, rhetoric, and mathematics. After graduating, he traveled extensively throughout Europe, where he encountered the ideas of some of the most important thinkers of his day, including Galileo Galilei and René Descartes.

In 1640, the English Civil War broke out, and Hobbes fled to Paris, where he remained for the next 11 years. During this time, he wrote some of his most important works, including Leviathan and De Corpore (On the Body).

After the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Hobbes returned to England, where he lived until his death in 1679. He continued to write and publish until the end of his life.

Hobbes's Philosophy

Hobbes's philosophy is characterized by its materialism, its pessimistic view of human nature, and its emphasis on the importance of the state. He believed that the world is composed entirely of matter in motion, and that there is no such thing as immaterial substances like the soul or God.

Hobbes also believed that humans are inherently selfish and competitive. He argued that, in the state of nature, before the establishment of civil society, life is "nasty, brutish, and short." To escape this state of chaos, individuals must enter into a social contract, creating a sovereign state to protect them from one another.

Hobbes's theory of the state is absolutist. He believed that the sovereign has absolute authority over its citizens, and that it is not subject to any higher power, including the church. This theory has been influential in the development of modern political thought, and it has been used to justify both tyranny and democracy.

Hobbes's Legacy

Thomas Hobbes is one of the most important philosophers in the Western tradition. His ideas have had a profound impact on political philosophy, ethics, and the philosophy of mind. He is considered one of the founders of modern philosophy, and his work continues to be studied and debated today.

An Abstract of Hobbes's Life and Writings

Hobbes's life was marked by both controversy and achievement. He was a brilliant thinker who made significant contributions to philosophy, but he was also a controversial figure whose ideas were often met with hostility. However, his work has stood the test of time, and he is now recognized as one of the most important philosophers of all time.

Hobbes's writings cover a wide range of topics, including political philosophy, ethics, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of religion. His most famous work, *Leviathan*, is a treatise on political philosophy that sets out his theory of the state. Other important works include *De Corpore*, a treatise on the philosophy of mind, and *De Cive*, a treatise on ethics.

Hobbes's writings are characterized by their clarity, precision, and rigor. He was a master of logic, and his arguments are often presented in a syllogistic form. However, his writing style can also be dry and pedantic, and he is not always easy to read.

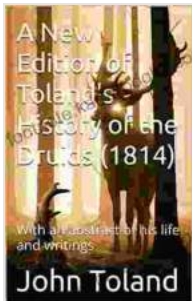
Despite the challenges of his writing style, Hobbes's ideas have had a profound impact on Western thought. He is one of the founders of modern philosophy, and his work continues to be studied and debated today.

Thomas Hobbes was a giant of philosophy who made significant contributions to our understanding of politics, ethics, and the human condition. His ideas have had a profound impact on Western thought, and they continue to be relevant today.

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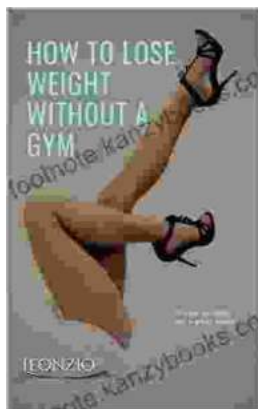
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