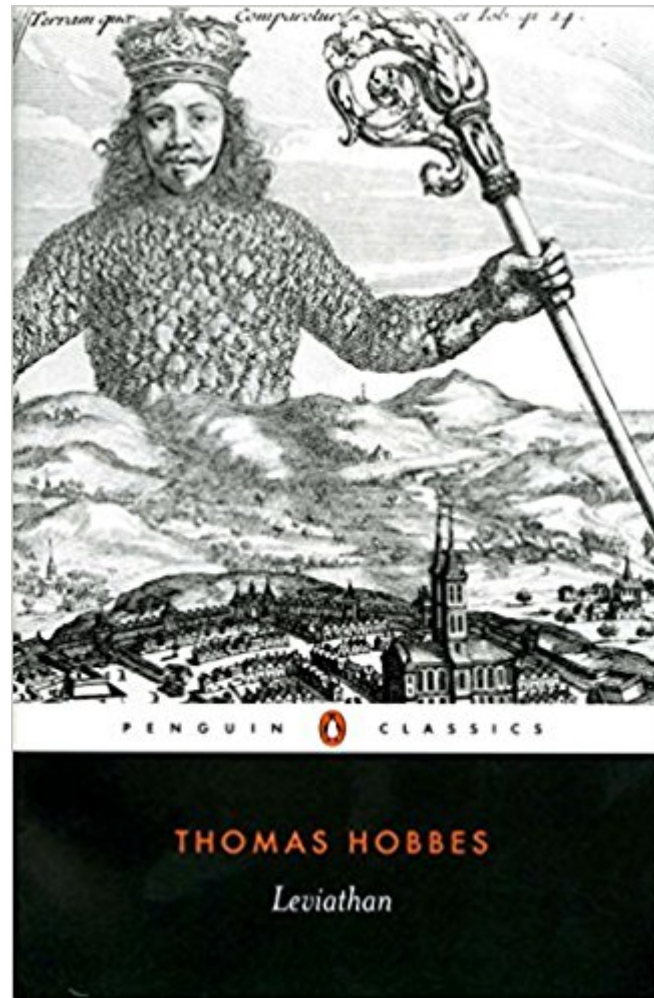




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Leviathan (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

"During the time men live without a common Power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called Warre"Written during the turmoil of the English Civil War, *Leviathan* is an ambitious and highly original work of political philosophy. Claiming that man's essential nature is competitive and selfish, Hobbes formulates the case for a powerful sovereign "or *Leviathan*" "to enforce peace and the law, substituting security for the anarchic freedom he believed human beings would otherwise experience. This worldview shocked many of Hobbes's contemporaries, and his work was publicly burnt for sedition and blasphemy when it was first published. But in his rejection of Aristotle's view of man as a naturally social being, and in his painstaking analysis of the ways in which society can and should function, Hobbes opened up a whole new world of political science. Based on the original 1651 text, this edition incorporates Hobbes's own corrections, while also retaining the original spelling and punctuation, to read with vividness and clarity. C. B. Macpherson's introduction elucidates one of the most fascinating works of modern philosophy for the general reader. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Internationally renowned Hobbes scholar A.P. Martinich has produced the definitive version of *Leviathan* for student use. Handsomely turned out by Broadview Press, this edition features a highly informative introduction, a brief chronology of Hobbes's life, as well as some useful notes on the text itself. Of special value are seven appendices drawn from the writings of contemporary critics of Hobbes's thought, including Filmer, Lawson, Bramhall, Hyde and others. Martinich has made a difficult but essential text as accessible to students as it is likely ever to become.

George Wright, University of Wisconsin
An admirably accessible edition of Hobbes's masterpiece. The work is presented clearly, in its entirety, and with generous excerpts from Hobbes's formidable contemporary critics.

Kinch Hoekstra, Balliol College, Oxford University
This very readable edition of Hobbes's *Leviathan* is an excellent resource for students of political philosophy and its history. The collection of published responses to *Leviathan* by some of Hobbes's most prominent contemporaries provides insight into the historical context in which he was writing, and philosophically challenging commentary on this great work of political

philosophy.
Thomas Christiano, University of Arizona
--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Library of Liberal Arts title. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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 though 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 [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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