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#### **Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679): Leviathan, Part II: "Of ...**

Leviathan or The Matter, Forme and Power of a Commonwealth Ecclesiasticall and Civil, commonly referred to as Leviathan, is a book written by Thomas Hobbes and published in 1651. Its name derives from the biblical Leviathan. The work concerns the structure of society and legitimate government, and is regarded as one of the earliest and most influential examples of social contract theory. Written during the English Civil War, it argues for a social contract and rule by an absolute sovereign. Hobb

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According to Hobbes (Leviathan, 1651), the state of nature was one in which there were no enforceable criteria of right and wrong. People took for themselves all that they could, and human life was "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." The state of nature was therefore a state... Read More; laughter

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The state as monster The Bible speaks of the "Leviathan" as a literal animal, alternately like a crocodile, serpent, or some sort of monstrous sea creature. But Leviathan was also considered to be a dragon, however the biblical writers might have conceived of such a beast.

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Leviathan is now recognised as a cornerstone of Western political philosophy, particularly in its ideas of a 'social contract' between ruler and ruled.

#### **Hobbes's Leviathan - The British Library**

The frontispiece to the first edition of Leviathan, which Hobbes helped design, portrays the commonwealth as a gigantic human form built out of the bodies of its citizens, the sovereign as its head. Hobbes calls this figure the "Leviathan," a word derived from the Hebrew for "sea monster" and the name of a monstrous sea creature appearing in the Bible; the image constitutes the definitive metaphor for Hobbes's perfect government.

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Leviathan is a creature with the form of a sea serpent from Jewish mythology. It is referenced in several books of the Hebrew Bible, including Psalms, the Book of Job, the Book of Isaiah, and the Book of Amos; it is also mentioned in the apocryphal Book of Enoch. The Leviathan of the Book of Job is a reflection of the older Canaanite Lotan, a primeval monster defeated by the god Baal Hadad. Parallels to the role of Mesopotamian Tiamat defeated by Marduk have long been drawn in

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In case of the intelligence agency, it is a state within the state that is supposed to serve the state it's the part of. However, had the intelligence agency become too powerful and enters the political level and starts affecting state and society directly, the Leviathan can no longer be defeated, nor kept hidden in the sea.

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The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes offers significant academic value to those interested in Schmitt's political writings historically, and even biographically. George Schwabb

suggests in the introduction, and perhaps I am taking too much freedom in my interpretation of this, that the work is a kind of apology for Schmitt's support of the Nazi regime.

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