

## **Thomas Hobbes, "The Leviathan"**

### **A. Chapter 13: Of the Natural Conditions of Mankind a Concerning their Felicity and Misery**

#### **a. Nature of Human Beings:**

##### **i. Characteristics**

1.

a.

b.

2.

3. .

##### **ii. End of Human Beings**

1. .

2. .

##### **iii. Incentives to attain peace**

1. .

2. .

3. .

##### **iv. Reasons for Quarrel**

1. .

2. .

3. .

b. State of Nature

i. State of War

1. Define and Justify

2. What does Hobbes mean by saying that in the State of Nature life of man would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”?

a. What disciplines or crafts could not be developed in the State of Nature? Why?

3. Characteristics

a. Justice:

b. Property:

*B. Chapter 14: Of the First and Second Natural Laws and Of Contracts*

a. Right of Nature v. Law of Nature

i. Right of Nature (define):

ii. Law of Nature (define):

1. Explain the difference between a right and a law:

b. What is the condition of man in the State of Nature?

c. Laws of Nature:

i. First Law of Nature (define):

ii. Second Law of Nature (define):

1. What are the two modalities of *laying down* rights? Explain the difference.

2. What rights cannot be laid down?

3. What is the goal of laying down rights?

iii. Contracts:

1. Where does the force/validity of contracts come from?
2. What is the objective of renouncing rights and creating a contract (voluntary actions)?
3. What are the signs of contracts?
4. Where are contracts valid? Explain your answers.
  - a. State of Nature or Civil Society?

C. Chapter 15: Of the Laws of Nature

a. Third Law of Nature (define):

- i. Explain why this law is the “fountain and original of Justice”?

- ii. Why does Hobbes claim that there can be no reference to justice in the State of Nature?
  - 1. If the definition of justice is “the constant will to give every man his own” it is impossible that it exists in the State of Nature. Why? Explain Hobbes’s argument.
  - 2. What is the connection between justice, contracts, commonwealth and property?

- iii. What happens if someone breaks a contract within a civil society? Explain.

- b. Explain how the rest of the Laws of Nature relate to the First Law of Nature.

*D. Chapter 16: Of Persons, Authors and Things Personated*

- a. Person (define):
- b. Author or natural person (define)
- c. Actor or artificial person (define)

- d. What is the relationship between the author and an actor?
- e. What is the meaning of the word *authority* according to Hobbes?
- f. What happens if “the actor maketh a covenant by authority”? Why?
- g. What happens if the actor does not “maketh a covenant by authority”? Why?
- h. How does Hobbes connect the concepts of author and actor to the concept of representation of a multitude in government?

E. Chapter 17: Of the Causes, Generation and Definition of a Commonwealth

- a. Why do humans impose a “restraint upon themselves”?
- b. Paraphrase the first paragraph of this chapter.

- c. Hobbes states that humans are not social animals. Why? Explain his analogy to bees and ants.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. What is, according to Hobbes, “the only way to erect such a common power, as may be able to defend them from invasion of foreigners, and the injuries of one another...”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e. What is a Leviathan? Why does he give the government the name of Leviathan?

*F. Chapter 18: Of The Rights of Sovereigns by Institution*

- a. What are the rights of the sovereign?
  - 1. .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 2. .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 3. .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 4. .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - 5. .

6. .

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11.