

The state



The state

What is '*the*' state?

- ∴ The existence of *a state* is usually taken for granted
- ∴ The state is *powerful*
Law enforcement; incarceration; military deployment
- ∴ The state has *final authority* in most matters
- ∴ The state is *distinct from government*
Government is the institution that organizes state behavior



The state

Max Weber on the state

- ∴ State is *compulsory*
- ∴ State represented by a *centralized government*
- ∴ State maintains a *monopoly* on the *legitimate use of force*
- ∴ State has jurisdiction within a certain *territory*

E.g. Canada and Wet'suwet'en

- ∴ Territory
States' reach is geographic
- ∴ Monopoly
Does not acknowledge multiple states
- ∴ Compulsory
No "opting out"
- ∴ Government
Omits social organization without formal government institution
- ∴ Legitimacy ...



RCMP helicopter lands at gates of Wet'suwet'en Unist'ot'en Village

Statelessness

Images of statelessness

“State of nature” Three visions of human society without a state

1 All against all

2 Natural law

3 Social institutions

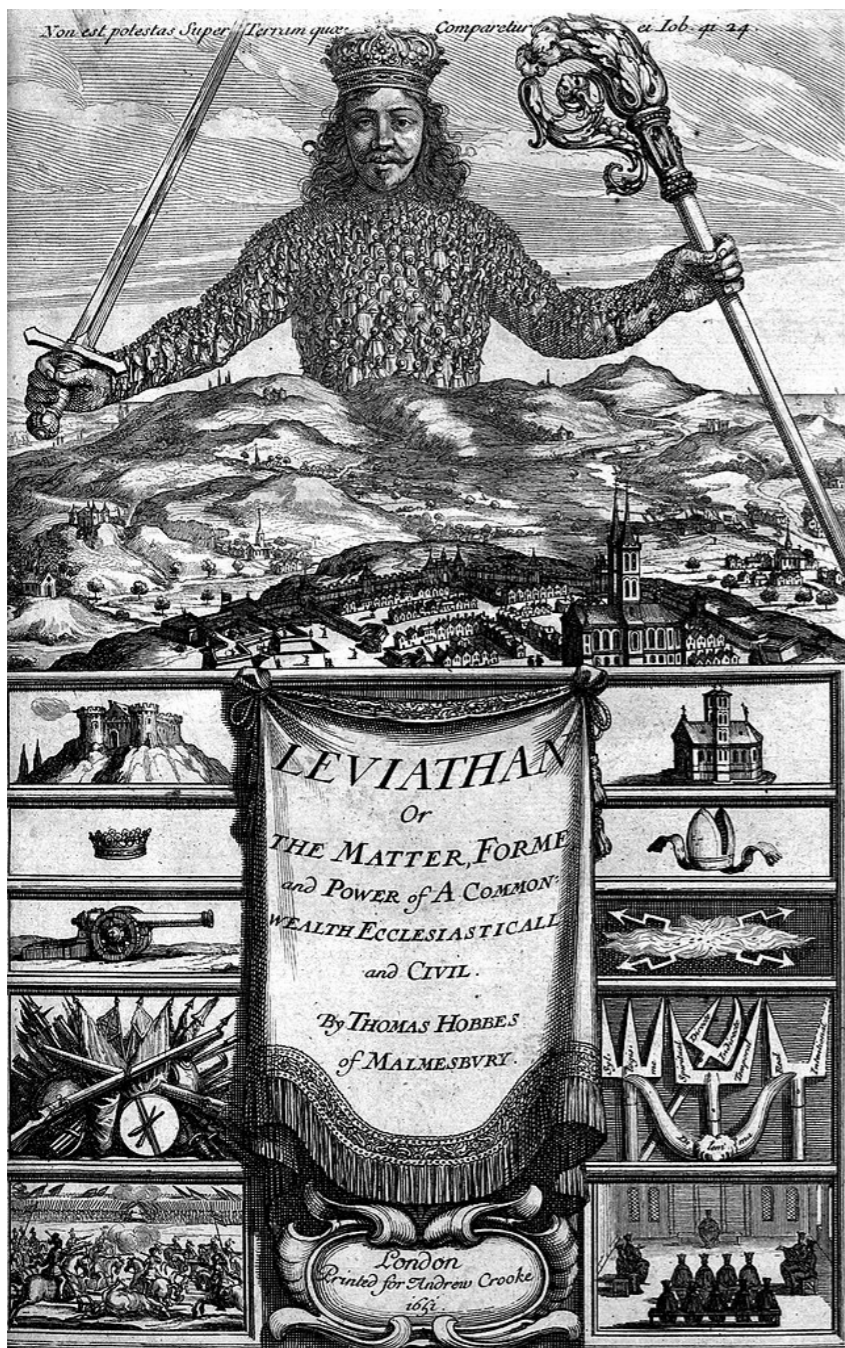
Images of statelessness

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Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651)

- ∴ *Hypothetical* (rhetorical) human history
- ∴ State of nature is *chaos*
- ∴ Interpersonal violence only resolution to conflict—
‘war of all against all’
- ∴ “continual fear and danger of violent death, and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

Images of statelessness

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John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (1689)

- ∴ Refers to *empirical* “states of nature” in human history
- ∴ Human *reason* exists without formal state
- ∴ Mutual respect for life, liberty, and property is rational and natural (*natural law*)
- ∴ State of nature not chaotic—governance emerges naturally

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Social anarchism (e.g. Peter Kropotkin)

- ∴ Proposed as *ideal state* of society—reject the idea of a natural, primordial “state of nature”
- ∴ Human society can *organize itself* without a formal state
- ∴ State is *inherently problematic*
- ∴ Instead: voluntary institutions, mutual aid, norms of collaboration

Images of statelessness



The Road Warrior (a.k.a. Mad Max 2)
(1981)

Images of statelessness



Hobbes Dominance by strongest
All against all
No lasting social order



Locke All humans equal
Subject to universal, natural law
Order from rational ideals of justice

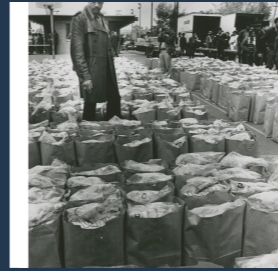


Social anarchist Social structures exist without state
Communities enforce norms
Order from voluntary cooperation

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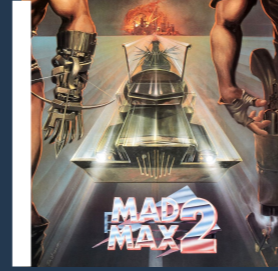
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[The Road Warrior \(1981\) official poster](#)



Photo by [Michael Toledano](#)



Still from [The Road Warrior \(1981\)](#)



The frontispiece of the book *Leviathan* by Thomas Hobbes; engraving by [Abraham Bosse](#)



Still from [The Road Warrior \(1981\)](#)



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