

# Thomas Hobbes

## Quotes

*Men, Law, War, Passion, Science, God, Desire, Philosophical, Thinking,  
Atheism, Ignorance, Leviathan, Liberty, Mind, May, Past, Philosophy, Political,  
Facts, Body*

A democracy is no more than an aristocracy of orators. The people are so readily moved by demagogues that control must be exercised by the government over speech and press.

~Thomas Hobbes

The condition of man... is a condition of war of everyone against everyone.

~Thomas Hobbes

Government is necessary, not because man is naturally bad... but because man is by nature more individualistic than social.

~Thomas Hobbes

Hell is Truth Seen Too Late.

~Thomas Hobbes

Humans are driven by a perpetual and restless desire of power.

~Thomas Hobbes

The right of nature... is the liberty each man hath to use his own power, as he will himself, for the preservation of his own nature; that is to say, of his own life.

~Thomas Hobbes

How could a state be governed, or protected in its foreign relations if every individual remained free to obey or not to obey the law according to his private opinion.

~Thomas Hobbes

Life in the state of nature is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.

~Thomas Hobbes

It is not wisdom but Authority that makes a law

~Thomas Hobbes

Curiosity is the lust of the mind.

~Thomas Hobbes

The original of all great and lasting societies consisted not in the mutual good will men had toward each other, but in the mutual fear they had of each other.

~Thomas Hobbes

The first and fundamental law of Nature, which is, to seek peace and follow it.

~Thomas Hobbes

The world is governed by opinion.

~Thomas Hobbes

And seeing every man is presumed to do all things in order to his own benefit, no man is a fit Arbitrator in his own cause

~Thomas Hobbes

Unnecessary laws are not good laws, but traps for money.

~Thomas Hobbes

Religions are like pills, which must be swallowed whole without chewing.

~Thomas Hobbes

All men, among themselves, are by nature equal. The inequality we now discern hath its spring from the civil law.

~Thomas Hobbes

The secret thoughts of a man run over all things, holy, profane, clean, obscene, grave, and light, without shame or blame.

~Thomas Hobbes

If I read as many books as most men do, I would be as dull-witted as they are.

~Thomas Hobbes

Sudden glory is the passion which maketh those grimaces called laughter.

~Thomas Hobbes

Fear of things invisible is the natural seed of that which everyone in himself calleth religion.

~Thomas Hobbes

For there are very few so foolish who would not rather govern themselves than be governed by others.

~Thomas Hobbes

The passions of men are commonly more potent than their reason.

~Thomas Hobbes

Leisure is the Mother of Philosophy.

~Thomas Hobbes

Silence is sometimes an argument of Consent.

~Thomas Hobbes

Such is the nature of men, that howsoever they may acknowledge many others to be more witty, or more eloquent, or more learned; yet they will hardly believe there be many so wise as themselves.

~Thomas Hobbes

The object of man's desire is not to enjoy once only, and for one instant of time; but to assure for ever, the way of his future desires.

~Thomas Hobbes

Fear of power invisible, feigned by the mind or imagined from tales publicly allowed, is religion; not allowed, superstition.

~Thomas Hobbes

It is fairer to tax people on what they extract from the economy, as roughly measured by their consumption, than to tax them on what they produce for the economy, as roughly measured by their income.

~Thomas Hobbes

Prudence is a presumption of the future, contracted from the experience of time past.

~Thomas Hobbes

Words are the counters of wise men, but the money of fools.

~Thomas Hobbes

For it is not the shape, but their use, that makes them angels.

~Thomas Hobbes

Science is the knowledge of consequences, and dependence of one fact upon another.

~Thomas Hobbes

Power as is really divided, and as dangerously to all purposes, by sharing with another an Indirect Power, as a Direct one.

~Thomas Hobbes

Passions unguided are for the most part mere madness.

~Thomas Hobbes

It's not the pace of life I mind. It's the sudden stop at the end.

~Thomas Hobbes

Where there is no common power, there is no law

~Thomas Hobbes

Immortality is a belief grounded upon other men's sayings, that they knew it supernaturally; or that they knew those who knew them that knew others that knew it supernaturally.

~Thomas Hobbes

Laughter is nothing else but sudden glory arising from some sudden conception of some eminency in ourselves, by comparison with the infirmity of others, or with our own formerly.

~Thomas Hobbes

During the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that conditions called war; and such a war, as if of every man, against every man.

~Thomas Hobbes

The end of knowledge is power ... the scope of all speculation is the performing of some action or thing to be done.

~Thomas Hobbes

The obligation of subjects to the sovereign is understood to last as long, and no longer, than the power lasteth by which he is able to protect them.

~Thomas Hobbes

I put for the general inclination of all mankind, a perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death.

~Thomas Hobbes

Nature itself cannot err

~Thomas Hobbes

The privilege of absurdity; to which no living creature is subject, but

man only.

~Thomas Hobbes

Life is nasty, brutish, and short

~Thomas Hobbes

Curiosity draws a man from consideration of the effect, to seek the cause.

~Thomas Hobbes

Appetite, with an opinion of attaining, is called hope; the same, without such opinion, despair.

~Thomas Hobbes

There is no such thing as perpetual tranquillity of mind while we live here; because life itself is but motion, and can never be without desire, nor without fear, no more than without sense.

~Thomas Hobbes

I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark.

~Thomas Hobbes

and where men build on false grounds, the more they build, the greater is the ruine

~Thomas Hobbes

If nobody makes you do it, it counts as fun.

~Thomas Hobbes

If any two men desire the same thing, which nevertheless they cannot both enjoy, they become enemies.

~Thomas Hobbes

The "value" or "worth" of a man is, as of all other things, his price; that

is to say, so much as would be given for the use of his power.

~Thomas Hobbes

All generous minds have a horror of what are commonly called 'Facts'. They are the brute beasts of the intellectual domain.

~Thomas Hobbes

The flesh endures the storms of the present alone; the mind, those of the past and future as well as the present. Gluttony is a lust of the mind.

~Thomas Hobbes

Force and fraud are in war the two cardinal virtues.

~Thomas Hobbes

Obligation is thralldom, and thralldom is hateful.

~Thomas Hobbes

For if all things were equally in all men, nothing would be prized.

~Thomas Hobbes

Every man may think his own cause just till it be heard and judged.

~Thomas Hobbes

Subjects have no greater liberty in a popular than in a monarchial state. That which deceives them is the equal participation of command.

~Thomas Hobbes

Understanding is nothing else than conception caused by speech.

~Thomas Hobbes

Time, and Industry, produce everyday new knowledge.

~Thomas Hobbes



A man cannot lay down the right of resisting them that assault him by force, to take away his life.

~Thomas Hobbes

Felicity is a continual progress of the desire from one object to another, the attaining of the former being still but the way to the latter.

~Thomas Hobbes

The Present only has a being in Nature; things Past have a being in the Memory only, but things to come have no being at all; the Future but a fiction of the mind.

~Thomas Hobbes

War consisteth not in battle only, or the act of fighting; but in a tract of time, wherein the will to contend by battle is sufficiently known.

~Thomas Hobbes

The praise of ancient authors proceeds not from the reverence of the dead, but from the competition and mutual envy of the living.

~Thomas Hobbes

No Discourse whatsoever, can End in absolute Knowledge of Fact.

~Thomas Hobbes

The disembodied spirit is immortal; there is nothing of it that can grow old or die. But the embodied spirit sees death on the horizon as soon as its day dawns.

~Thomas Hobbes

Desire of praise disposeth to laudable actions.

~Thomas Hobbes

Ignorance of the law is no good excuse, where every man is bound to take notice of the laws to which he is subject.

~Thomas Hobbes

It is many times with a fraudulent Design that men stick their corrupt Doctrine with the Cloves of other mens Wit.

~Thomas Hobbes

For all laws are general judgements, or sentences of the legislator; as also every particular judgement is a law to him whose case is judged.

~Thomas Hobbes

Intemperance is naturally punished with diseases; rashness, with mischance; injustice; with violence of enemies; pride, with ruin; cowardice, with oppression; and rebellion, with slaughter.

~Thomas Hobbes

When all the world is overcharged with inhabitants, then the last remedy of all is war, which provideth for every man, by victory or death.

~Thomas Hobbes

Do not that to another, which thou wouldst not have done to thyself.

~Thomas Hobbes

The Register of Knowledge of Fact is called History .

~Thomas Hobbes

So easy are men to be drawn to believe any thing, from such men as have gotten credit with them; and can with gentleness and dexterity take hold of their fear and ignorance.

~Thomas Hobbes

And as in other things, so in men, not the seller, but the buyer determines the Price.

~Thomas Hobbes

The best men are the least suspicious of fraudulent purposes.

~Thomas Hobbes

The Papacy is not other than the Ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof.

~Thomas Hobbes

Geometry is the only science that it hath pleased God hitherto to bestow on mankind.

~Thomas Hobbes

They that approve a private opinion, call it opinion; but they that dislike it, heresy; and yet heresy signifies no more than private opinion.

~Thomas Hobbes

The science which teacheth arts and handicrafts is merely science for the gaining of a living; but the science which teacheth deliverance from worldly existence, is not that the true science?

~Thomas Hobbes

Man is distinguished not only by his reason, but also by this singular passion, from all other animals.

~Thomas Hobbes

For after the subject is removed or the eye shut, we still retain an image of the things seen, though more obscure than when we see it...Imagination, therefore, is nothing more than decaying sense.

~Thomas Hobbes

Thoughts are to the Desires as Scouts and Spies, to range abroad, and find the way to the things Desired.

~Thomas Hobbes

For as to the strength of body, the weakest has strength enough to kill

the strongest, either by secret machination or by confederacy with others that are in the same danger with himself

~Thomas Hobbes

If men are naturally in a state of war, why do they always carry arms and why do they have keys to lock their doors?

~Thomas Hobbes

He that is taken and put into prison or chains is not conquered, though overcome; for he is still an enemy.

~Thomas Hobbes

I think, therefore matter is capable of thinking.

~Thomas Hobbes

As soon as a thought darts, I write it down.

~Thomas Hobbes

A man's conscience and his judgment is the same thing; and as the judgment, so also the conscience, may be erroneous.

~Thomas Hobbes

No man is bound by the words themselves, either to kill himselfe, or any other man.

~Thomas Hobbes

Let a man (as most men do) rate themselves as the highest Value they can; yet their true Value is no more than it is esteemed by others.

~Thomas Hobbes

For it is with the mysteries of our religion, as with wholesome pills for the sick, which swallowed whole, have the virtue to cure; but chewed, are for the most part cast up again without effect.

~Thomas Hobbes

A great leap in the dark

~Thomas Hobbes

Setting themselves against reason, as often as reason is against them.

~Thomas Hobbes

No mans error becomes his own Law; nor obliges him to persist in it.

~Thomas Hobbes

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