

# THOMAS HOBBES LEVIATHAN

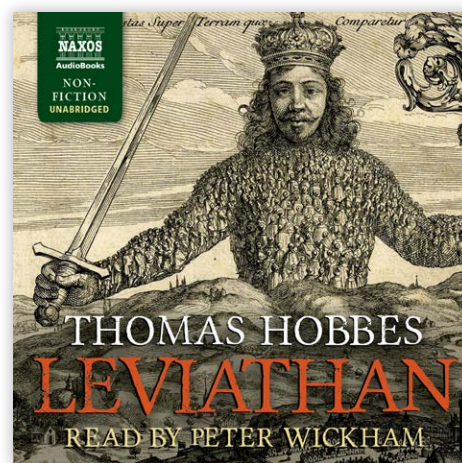
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Born out of the political turmoil of the English Civil War, *Leviathan* stands out as one of the most influential political and philosophical texts of the 17th century. It argues for the restoration of the monarchy, in light of the Republic, and calls for a commonwealth ruled by an authoritative, autocratic figure with absolute sovereignty. This would put an end to all controversy, war and fear, and establish peace via social contract. Over the course of the book Hobbes targets Christianity and contemporary philosophic methods, rejecting the idea of spirits and souls, and arguing for a philosophy to end divisiveness and provide indisputable conclusions. These highly controversial theses led to book burnings in 1666 and Hobbes being dubbed the 'Monster of Malmsbury'.



**Peter Wickham** was born in New Zealand and studied for the theatre at the Rose Bruford College in England. He has worked as an actor in the West End, and in theatres all over the UK and abroad, from Venezuela to Laos. He has performed in television and film, and has written a successful series of introductions to Shakespeare for the BBC World Service. He was a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company, where reading short stories and serials started his audiobook career.



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|    |     |   |       |    |     |  |       |
|----|-----|---|-------|----|-----|--|-------|
| 📄  | 🎧   |   |       |    |     |  |       |
| 1  | 1-1 | <b>Leviathan</b>                                      | 3:03  | 25 | 4-3 | <b>Chapter 15</b>                                    | 9:57  |
| 2  | 1-2 | <b>The Introduction</b>                               | 5:26  | 26 | 4-4 | A just man therefore, is he that taketh...           | 10:50 |
| 3  | 1-3 | <b>Part 1: Chapter 1</b>                              | 4:42  | 27 | 4-5 | On this law, dependeth another...                    | 10:45 |
| 4  | 1-4 | <b>Chapter 2</b>                                      | 13:55 | 28 | 4-6 | <b>Chapter 16</b>                                    | 10:07 |
| 5  | 1-5 | <b>Chapter 3</b>                                      | 11:43 | 29 | 5-1 | <b>Part 2: Chapter 17</b>                            | 10:53 |
| 6  | 1-6 | <b>Chapter 4</b>                                      | 10:09 | 30 | 5-2 | <b>Chapter 18</b>                                    | 10:22 |
| 7  | 1-7 | When two names are joined together...                 | 11:33 | 31 | 5-3 | Seventhly, is annexed to the sovereignty...          | 10:16 |
| 8  | 1-8 | <b>Chapter 5</b>                                      | 13:23 | 32 | 5-4 | <b>Chapter 19</b>                                    | 11:59 |
| 9  | 2-1 | But yet they that have no science...                  | 3:30  | 33 | 5-5 | Though the kinds of sovereignty...                   | 12:24 |
| 10 | 2-2 | <b>Chapter 6</b>                                      | 13:20 | 34 | 5-6 | <b>Chapter 20</b>                                    | 16:52 |
| 11 | 2-3 | Fear, without the apprehension of why, or what...     | 11:53 | 35 | 6-1 | To these places may be added also that...            | 3:56  |
| 12 | 2-4 | <b>Chapter 7</b>                                      | 7:42  | 36 | 6-2 | <b>Chapter 21</b>                                    | 13:01 |
| 13 | 2-5 | <b>Chapter 8</b>                                      | 12:45 | 37 | 6-3 | To come now to the particulars of the true...        | 12:21 |
| 14 | 2-6 | Dejection, subjects a man to causeless fears...       | 14:55 | 38 | 6-4 | <b>Chapter 22</b>                                    | 9:32  |
| 15 | 2-7 | <b>Chapter 9</b>                                      | 1:37  | 39 | 6-5 | The variety of bodies politic, is almost infinite... | 8:22  |
| 16 | 2-8 | <b>Chapter 10</b>                                     | 7:57  | 40 | 6-6 | If the commonwealth impose a tax...                  | 10:29 |
| 17 | 3-1 | To imitate, is to honour; for it is vehemently...     | 12:38 | 41 | 6-7 | <b>Chapter 23</b>                                    | 11:02 |
| 18 | 3-2 | <b>Chapter 11</b>                                     | 8:26  | 42 | 6-8 | <b>Chapter 24</b>                                    | 5:04  |
| 19 | 3-3 | Frugality, (though in poor men a virtue)...           | 7:56  | 43 | 7-1 | For seeing the sovereign, that is to say...          | 9:13  |
| 20 | 3-4 | <b>Chapter 12</b>                                     | 14:32 | 44 | 7-2 | <b>Chapter 25</b>                                    | 8:16  |
| 21 | 3-5 | Lastly, to the prognostics of time to come...         | 14:41 | 45 | 7-3 | As the difference of counsel from command...         | 9:36  |
| 22 | 3-6 | <b>Chapter 13</b>                                     | 11:10 | 46 | 7-4 | <b>Chapter 26</b>                                    | 10:37 |
| 23 | 4-1 | <b>Chapter 14</b>                                     | 12:24 | 47 | 7-5 | 7. that law can never be against reason...           | 8:55  |
| 24 | 4-2 | He that performeth first in the case of a contract... | 12:51 | 48 | 7-6 | If therefore a man have a question of injury...      | 11:13 |



|    |      |   |       |
|----|------|---|-------|
| 49 | 7-7  | In written laws, men use to make a difference...        | 9:43  |
| 50 | 7-8  | Divine positive laws (for natural laws...)              | 5:54  |
| 51 | 8-1  | There is also another distinction of laws...            | 2:42  |
| 52 | 8-2  | <b>Chapter 27</b>                                       | 8:22  |
| 53 | 8-3  | From defect in reasoning, (that is to say,...)          | 10:02 |
| 54 | 8-4  | From these different sources of crimes...               | 8:50  |
| 55 | 8-5  | Those facts which the law expressly condemneth...       | 8:05  |
| 56 | 8-6  | <b>Chapter 28</b>                                       | 9:45  |
| 57 | 8-7  | Ignominy, is the infliction of such evil...             | 9:26  |
| 58 | 8-8  | <b>Chapter 29</b>                                       | 8:03  |
| 59 | 8-9  | It is true, that sovereigns are all subjects...         | 8:44  |
| 60 | 9-1  | For as in this disease, there is an unnatural spirit... | 8:41  |
| 61 | 9-2  | <b>Chapter 30</b>                                       | 8:45  |
| 62 | 9-3  | Second, they are to be taught...                        | 9:01  |
| 63 | 9-4  | The safety of the people, requireth further...          | 11:33 |
| 64 | 9-5  | Another business of the sovereign, is to choose...      | 7:14  |
| 65 | 9-6  | <b>Chapter 31</b>                                       | 9:21  |
| 66 | 9-7  | Honour consisteth in the inward thought...              | 8:34  |
| 67 | 9-8  | Concerning the actions of divine worship...             | 9:08  |
| 68 | 10-1 | <b>Part 3: Chapter 32</b>                               | 12:14 |
| 69 | 10-2 | <b>Chapter 33</b>                                       | 8:15  |
| 70 | 10-3 | The same is manifest by like arguments...               | 8:10  |
| 71 | 10-4 | The writers of the New Testament lived all in less...   | 9:58  |
| 72 | 10-5 | <b>Chapter 34</b>                                       | 9:36  |
| 73 | 10-6 | Genesis 2.7. it is said, 'God made man of the...'       | 12:32 |
| 74 | 10-7 | To mention all the places of the Old Testament...       | 9:01  |
| 75 | 10-8 | <b>Chapter 35</b>                                       | 4:05  |
| 76 | 11-1 | This covenant, at the foot of Mount Sinai...            | 7:48  |
| 77 | 11-2 | There be so many other places that confirm...           | 7:48  |
| 78 | 11-3 | <b>Chapter 36</b>                                       | 10:30 |
| 79 | 11-4 | The word of God, is then also to be taken...            | 7:45  |
| 80 | 11-5 | In what manner God spake to Adam, and Eve...            | 12:24 |
| 81 | 11-6 | God spake also many times by the event of lots...       | 8:56  |
| 82 | 11-7 | <b>Chapter 37</b>                                       | 8:14  |
| 83 | 11-8 | From that which I have here set down...                 | 9:25  |
| 84 | 12-1 | <b>Chapter 38</b>                                       | 11:30 |
| 85 | 12-2 | 'There is hope of a tree,'...                           | 9:05  |
| 86 | 12-3 | Seeing now there is none, that so interprets...         | 9:07  |
| 87 | 12-4 | The state of salvation is described at large, Isaiah... | 10:08 |
| 88 | 12-5 | <b>Chapter 39</b>                                       | 6:23  |
| 89 | 12-6 | <b>Chapter 40</b>                                       | 10:10 |
| 90 | 12-7 | 'Thou shalt set bounds'...                              | 7:29  |
| 91 | 12-8 | Having therefore rejected God, in whose right...        | 7:43  |
| 92 | 13-1 | <b>Chapter 41</b>                                       | 10:21 |
| 93 | 13-2 | As for the third part of his office...                  | 8:00  |
| 94 | 13-3 | <b>Chapter 42</b>                                       | 7:53  |
| 95 | 13-4 | Let us now consider the power itself...                 | 7:00  |
| 96 | 13-5 | Profession with the tongue is but an external...        | 9:36  |



|     |      |  |       |
|-----|------|--|-------|
| 97  | 13-6 | Another point of their commission, is to baptise...    | 7:58  |
| 98  | 13-7 | The use and effect of excommunication...               | 7:09  |
| 99  | 13-8 | That a man be liable to excommunication...             | 9:04  |
| 100 | 13-9 | Let us now consider the conversion itself...           | 6:42  |
| 101 | 14-1 | The judicial law, that is to say, the laws that God... | 8:09  |
| 102 | 14-2 | Seeing then our Saviour, and his Apostles...           | 7:56  |
| 103 | 14-3 | Amongst the officers magisterial, the first...         | 7:57  |
| 104 | 14-4 | We read (Acts 14.23.) that 'they ordained elders...'   | 7:54  |
| 105 | 14-5 | That the first deacons were chosen...                  | 8:15  |
| 106 | 14-6 | Hitherto hath been shown what the pastors...           | 8:27  |
| 107 | 14-7 | There is no doubt but any King, in case he were...     | 7:02  |
| 108 | 14-8 | We read also, that St. Paul had imposition...          | 9:20  |
| 109 | 14-9 | If the original of this text had been rigidly...       | 8:46  |
| 110 | 15-1 | The priests and scribes seeking to kill our Saviour... | 8:06  |
| 111 | 15-2 | To prove the Pope has power to make laws...            | 7:41  |
| 112 | 15-3 | The eighth place is, Timothy 3.2.                      | 8:58  |
| 113 | 15-4 | But this whole dispute, whether Christ...              | 7:40  |
| 114 | 15-5 | Lastly, He bringeth for argument, the testimony...     | 6:53  |
| 115 | 15-6 | Therefore as from subordination of an art...           | 8:16  |
| 116 | 15-7 | To this I say, the question is not of the danger...    | 7:28  |
| 117 | 15-8 | <b>Chapter 43</b>                                      | 9:29  |
| 118 | 15-9 | It is manifest, therefore, that Christian men...       | 9:23  |
| 119 | 16-1 | Thirdly, John 20.31.                                   | 8:52  |
| 120 | 16-2 | Now that I have shown, that all the obedience...       | 8:56  |
| 121 | 16-3 | <b>Part 4: Chapter 44</b>                              | 7:35  |
| 122 | 16-4 | Consequent to this claim of the Pope to Vicar...       | 9:48  |
| 123 | 16-5 | The like incantation, instead of consecration...       | 6:34  |
| 124 | 16-6 | This window it is, that gives entrance to the dark...  | 8:41  |
| 125 | 16-7 | As for the rites of consecration...                    | 8:17  |
| 126 | 16-8 | I have showed already, that the kingdom of God...      | 7:32  |
| 127 | 16-9 | But he allegeth other places...                        | 6:54  |
| 128 | 17-1 | The word baptism is used...                            | 7:37  |
| 129 | 17-2 | <b>Chapter 45</b>                                      | 7:56  |
| 130 | 17-3 | Our Saviour, immediately after the Holy Ghost...       | 9:33  |
| 131 | 17-4 | The places of Scripture pretended...                   | 8:05  |
| 132 | 17-5 | To worship an image, is voluntarily...                 | 7:16  |
| 133 | 17-6 | Besides the idolatrous worship of images...            | 7:48  |
| 134 | 17-7 | Seeing therefore there is no authority...              | 7:51  |
| 135 | 17-8 | <b>Chapter 46</b>                                      | 8:28  |
| 136 | 17-9 | The natural philosophy of those schools...             | 9:14  |
| 137 | 18-1 | And if it were so, that there were a language...       | 7:55  |
| 138 | 18-2 | Then for physics, that is, the knowledge...            | 8:20  |
| 139 | 18-3 | From Aristotle's civil philosophy...                   | 10:27 |
| 140 | 18-4 | <b>Chapter 47</b>                                      | 11:20 |
| 141 | 18-5 | I do not therefore blame the Emperor Frederick...      | 11:07 |
| 142 | 18-6 | <b>A Review and Conclusion</b>                         | 7:30  |
| 143 | 18-7 | The Romans used to say, that their general...          | 7:25  |
| 144 | 18-8 | The Law of Moses concerning him that enticeth...       | 9:56  |

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# The Registers of Science (Chapter 9)

