

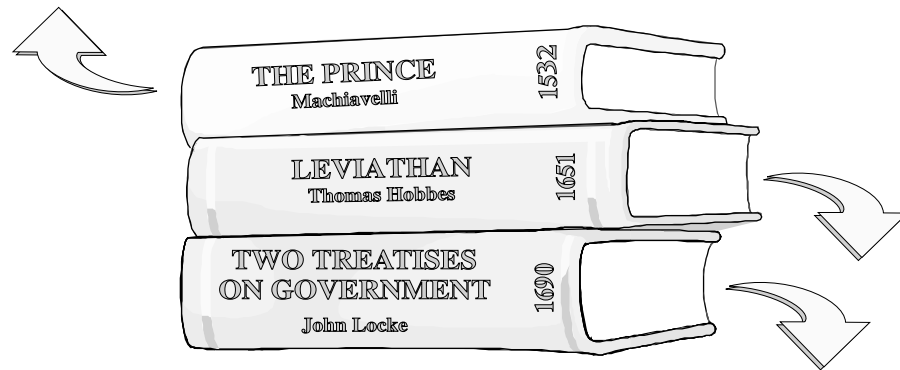
## Force & Conquest Theory

One person or group claimed control over an area and forced all within its borders to submit to that person's or group's rule. The state was born of force.



Excerpt: *For in truth there is no sure way of holding other than by destroying, and whoever becomes master of a City accustomed to live in freedom and does not destroy it, may reckon on being destroyed by it . . . I say, that in entirely new Princedoms where the Prince himself is new, the difficulty of maintaining possession varies with the greater or lesser ability of him who acquires the possession . . . when they depend upon their own resources and can employ force, they seldom fail.*

(Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 1532)



## Social Contract Theory

Humans lived in a “state of nature” in which no government existed and no one had superior power. Anything a person acquired was done so by force and a person was only as safe as his or her own physical strength. Humans voluntarily gave up their freedom to the state in exchange for protection and security. Individuals agreed to allow the state to protect their “natural rights” of “life, liberty and property” and in return they would abide by the laws of the state.

### Thomas Hobbes

In *Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes described the nature of the contract between man and state. In reference to government, Hobbes believed that the sovereign state has unlimited power in protecting the security of the people.



Excerpt: *And because the condition of man . . . is a condition of war of every one against every one, in which case every one is governed by his own reason, and there is nothing he can make use of that may not be a help unto him in preserving his life against his enemies, it followeth that in such a condition every man has a right to everything, even to one another's body . . . Whensoever a man transferreth his right or renounceth it, it is either in consideration of some right reciprocally transferred to himself, or for some other good he hopeth for thereby . . . The mutual transferring of right is that which men call “contract.”*

(Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1651)

### John Locke

While John Locke's ideas about the social contract are built on those of Hobbes, Locke disagreed with him about the extent of the state's power over its citizens. His *Two Treatises on Government* suggested that individual rights exist within the social contract between the individual and the community or state.



Excerpt: *Men being, as has been said, by Nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this Estate, and subjected to the Political Power of another, without his own Consent. The only way whereby any one divests himself of his Natural liberty and puts on the bonds of Civil Society is by agreeing with other Men to joyn and unite into a Community.*

(John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government*, 1690)