

Thomas Hobbes

Author of Leviathan
England, 1651

Born into Fear:

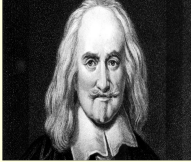
In 1588, the Spanish Armada sailed to England. The Spanish navy was going to invade England. The moment Hobbes' mother heard of the coming invasion, she prematurely gave birth. He later wrote, "My mother gave birth to twins: myself and fear."

His mother had reason to fear. One day her husband, a Protestant minister, took off, abandoning her with three children.

The Philosophy of Fear:

Thomas Hobbes believed that men are basically selfish.

- An individual is motivated by self-interest.
- Individuals are fearful and surrender their power to government.
- In return, government defends them from their worst fear = foreign attack.



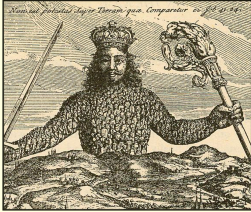
To Hobbes, the government was a great Leviathan (sea monster) that frightened men into doing what it wanted.

PREDICT: Think about what you have read about Hobbes. What form of government did Hobbes believe was the best form of government?

A) Democracy
B) Constitutional Monarchy
C) Absolute Monarchy

C)Absolute Monarchy

To Hobbes, the best ruler was an absolute monarch who frightened people into doing what he wanted.



Leviathan

Give examples of Absolute Monarchs that fit this description:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
