

## The Enlightenment and Social Contract Theory

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### Thomas Hobbes (1588 - 1679)

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- \* "The life of man was solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."
- \* Wrote Leviathan in 1658
- \* Believed that human nature was rooted in corruption
- \* Believed humans to be driven by self-interest, greed, and desire for power
- \* Supported absolute monarchy
- \* Wanted government to hold absolute and undemocratic power
- \* Believed social contract served to prevent a return to uncivilized nature

### John Locke (1632 – 1704)

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- \* Influenced by the Glorious Revolution
- \* Wrote Second Treatise of Government in 1690,
- \* Beliefs heavily diverged from Hobbes