

Living from 1588 to 1679, Thomas Hobbes, an English philosopher, expounded his unique perspective on the need for government in his book, *Leviathan* (1651). Hobbes believed that a society driven by self-interest could only be managed with a large government, and that only a fearful, all-powerful sovereign could maintain civility. For example, Ringling Bros abused its circus animals, acting in self-interest and disregarding the suffering of the animals. Just as Ringling Bros. enacted their desires on animals, people act on their animalistic desires without thinking about the wellbeing of the community. Without a legislative government body with enough authority and prudence to govern people, Hobbes believed that only anarchy could ensue. Moreover, Hobbes placed obedience to the all-powerful sovereign at the highest priority - members of the state must give up even their rights and liberties for the sake of security and safety as an obligation to the sovereign for protection. For instance, leaders of today's sovereign states such as Cuba, promise protection from foreign and domestic threats for its members in exchange for varying degrees of obedience. Hobbes believed that a large government body was imperative to manage people's self-interest against the needs of the many. In addition, Hobbes emphasized the necessity of obeying the all-powerful sovereign, as he believed that a country's stability was solely in the hands of the authority wielded by its sovereign.