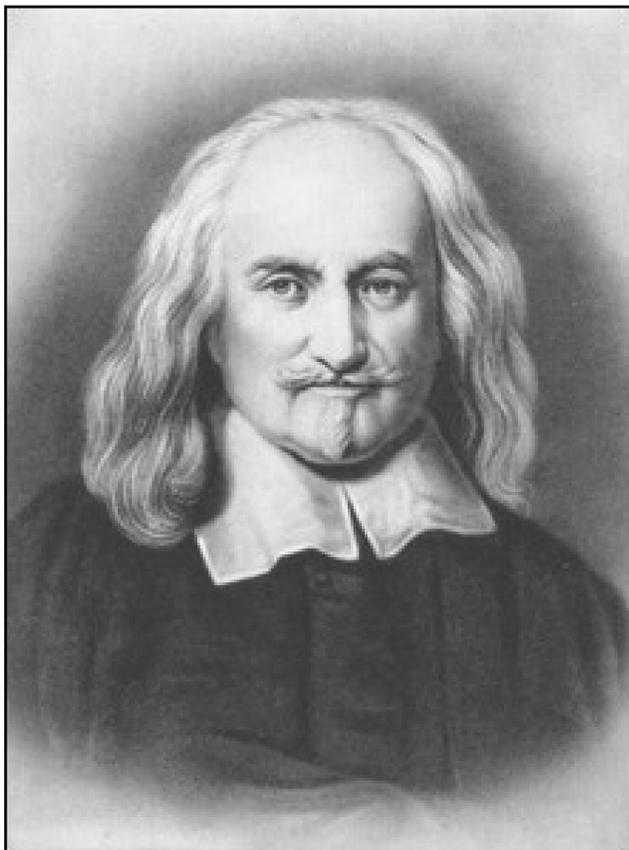


The Role of Power as Argued by Thomas Hobbes and Primo Levi

Clare Fogarty

Honors Scholars Program Capstone, Carroll College, Helena, Montana
cfogarty@carroll.edu

The Leviathan By Thomas Hobbes



“The passions that incline men to peace are fear of death, desire of things necessary to commodious living, and a hope by their industry to obtain them. Reason suggests convenient articles of peace upon which men may be drawn to agreement” (71).

References:

Hobbes, Thomas. *The Essential Leviathan*. Edited by Nancy A. Stanlick and Daniel P. Collette, Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2016.
Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Essential Questions:

- What is most necessary to improve the human condition?
- How do Hobbes and Levi view power within the individual and society as a means for survival?
- How do their ideas differ?

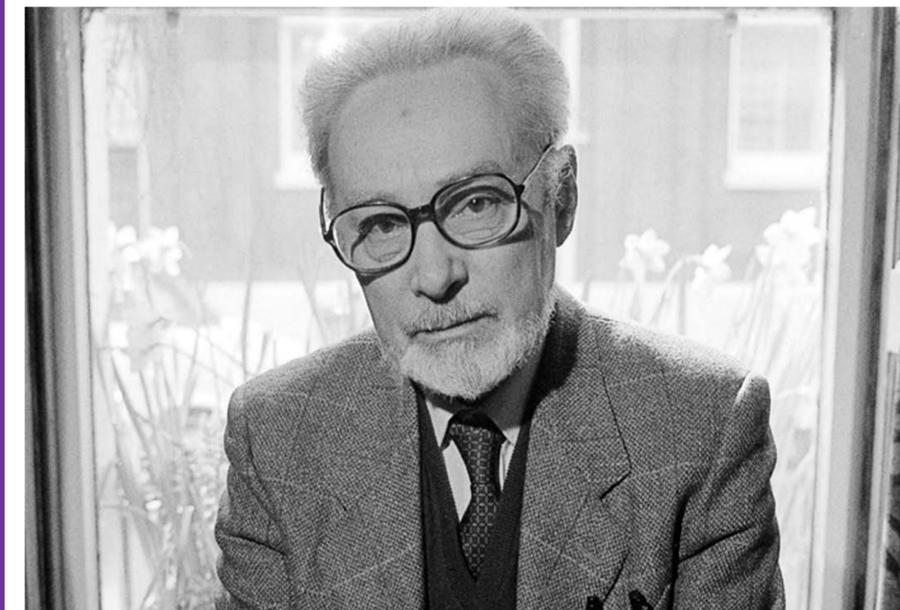
Abstract:

Through careful examination of the relationships between the individual and society throughout the works of both Hobbes and Levi, I seek to understand the role of and conflicting ideas of power, within the commonwealth and as a tool for survival.

Conclusions:

- Fear drives humankind into society in exchange for security and self-preservation
- Power comes from others and is the most necessary condition for self-preservation
- Power through the exploitation and use of human beings as a means to an end becomes morally incompatible with living beyond surviving, with humanity intact.

Survival in Auschwitz By Primo Levi



“Part of our existence lies in the feelings of those near to us. This is why the experience of someone who has lived for days during which man was merely a thing in the eyes of man is non-human.” (172).

Acknowledgements:

To Dr. William Parsons, Dr. Elivra Roncolli, Dr. Edward Glowienka, and the Honors Scholars class of 2020, thank you.

In Respectful Memory of all lives forever changed and lost in the concentration camps.