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Thomas Hobbes

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Man is naturally a social animal because man and society have to stick together in order to gain benefits and his personal interests and keep himself safe from war and danger. Every man has various behaviors, habits, ideas and desires. To maintain peace in the society, humans came up with some ideas to avoid turbulence in the state; such as appointing a leader and setting up the law<sup>1</sup>. Thomas Hobbes is one of the most famous political philosophers in the world who is interested in the nature of human beings, forms of government and the right of individuals. He is very well-known for his point of view about politics and his major concern is about human society and political structure The most interesting thing about political theory of Thomas Hobbes is his idea has a great effect on coexistence of human beings nowadays. This essay will discuss the three main arguments that show how Hobbes's theory affects human society. Firstly, Hobbes believed that people decided to live together as a state to protect themselves from wars and dangers. Secondly, Hobbes claimed that absolute monarchy is the best form of government. Lastly, Hobbes said that every society must have law in order to avoid chaos and maintain peace.

Human cannot survive without society and society cannot live without man. Human is considered to be the most intelligent creature on earth whose nature is a social animal. They cannot survive without other human beings. Their lives rely on other men and they

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<sup>1</sup> Bernard Gert. Hobbes Prince of Peace. 1992. P.31-32

have to do some activities together in order to create happiness, confidence and safety for themselves. Hobbes believed that humans are offensive and brutish<sup>2</sup>. The nature of human in his idea is that humans are selfish creatures who want honor and reputation, they fight for their personal interests and they have equal abilities in both physical and mental ways. Humans have fear of death which influences them to make an agreement to live together as state<sup>3</sup>-groups of human beings who receive the international recognition as an autonomous nation and state has groups of people living in the same area, language and defined boundary. Hobbes also believed that men's nature include the intention to live without troubles. He claimed that men naturally cannot live without a common power which is created to united people, because without it, men would be in the war and fight against each other all the time.

Nowadays, every kingdom must have its own form of government in order to maintain peace and stability. There are various forms of government that exist in many countries and one of them that Hobbes considered as the best form of government is called absolute monarchy<sup>4</sup> which has a ruler who has a power to control his country and people independently .This kind of government implies that there is no election process and the congress to legislate. Hobbes strongly had faith in the rule of the emperor because he thought that it is necessary for a country to have a leader who can provide some directions for the country<sup>5</sup>. He mentioned that because men are hoggish, greedy and brutal and if they are not strictly controlled by the form of absolute monarchy, they would fight, rob and do many bad things which can turn the country into a disorganized unit.

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<sup>2</sup> Jean Hampton. Hobbes and the social contract tradition. 1986. P.5-7

<sup>3</sup> Jeffery R. Collins. The allegiance of Thomas Hobbes. 2005. P.116-117

<sup>4</sup> Johann P. Sommerville. Thomas Hobbes Political ideas in Historical context. 1992. P.80-82

<sup>5</sup> Carl Schmitt. The Leviathan in the state theory of Thomas Hobbes. 1996. P. 82-84

Moreover, Hobbes believed that the government form of democracy-a system of government which allows people in the country to vote for their master-is not going to work because giving citizens the power will only lead to harmful situations such as wars and riots.

In the human society, everybody has different ideas and behaviors so there must be something that is used to control the society to remain in peace. Law is considered to be a system that is used to rule human's behaviors and maintain peace in the society. During Hobbes's life time, he had written a book that is concerned about the structure of law and society called Leviathan. In this book, he said that humans need peacefulness because they want safety<sup>6</sup>. For this reason, it has led to the social contract-the agreement among people in the state which ends with the orderliness of the society. His ideas about the social contract can be divided into two parts<sup>7</sup>. Firstly, the social contract avoids natural conditions which means although every man has freedom, only strong men can use that freedom efficiently. Therefore, humans began to live in the society together so they can avoid quarrels and wars. Secondly, the social contract has been created to give the power and authority to the state ruler which means that the citizens give the absolute power to the sovereign one, which consequently led to the law which is put into the legal papers and the law sets up rules for reigning people in the society.

Thomas Hobbes is a famous English political philosopher who is best known for his point of view about political theory and the nature of human beings. During his lifetime he had found many theories that related to the society of human beings. He had

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<sup>6</sup> S.A Lloyd. Ideas as interests in Hobbes's Leviathan. 1992. P.58-60

<sup>7</sup> Laurie M. Johnson Bagby. Hobbes's Leviathan. 1992. P.16-17

written a book called Leviathan which is about the human society and form of government and this book is also considered to be the best book that shows models of social contract theory. Hobbes's political idea has a great impact on the coexistence of human beings in the recent decades. Firstly, humans have made an agreement to live together as a state in order to protect themselves from wars and dangers. Secondly, Hobbes's theory said that absolute monarchy is the best form of government because human beings are naturally selfish, obnoxious, poor and brutal so they need a good leader to guide them and their country towards the right direction and strictly control people in the state from fighting and dominating each other. Lastly, Hobbes strongly believe that every state must have a law-which reflects people's idea in the society what is right or wrong-to rule man's behaviors and maintain peace in the human society. In conclusion, Thomas Hobbes's political ideas have been widely used and greatly affect the living of people in almost every country in the world.