

7

188-177

Week 28

BA-3, Paper-6, Unit 4(a2)Hobbes - State of Nature

Hobbes believed that essentially and basically men were unsocial, selfish and brute. In the state of nature man was without any society, art and culture. Insecurity was the only secure thing in that pre-state society. Man was secure as long as the sword spared him. Man-made laws were not justified in any code of conduct. Life and property were always at stake. Briefly, life was nasty, poor and brutish. T. H. Huxley has called those laws 'tiger laws'. There was no common law and no common lawgiver. Hobbes says in his Leviathan "In such conditions there is no place for industry, because fruit thereof is uncertain, and consequently no culture of the earth, no navigation, nor use of commodities that may be imported by sea..... no knowledge of the face of the earth..... no arts, no letters, no society and what is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death and the life of man solitary, poor and brutish."