

Thomas Hobbes (part-1)

Hobbes's theories reflect political ideology of the incipient capitalist market society characterised by the doctrine of 'possessive individualism' and the ethic of cut-throat competition and self-aggrandisement. His method was deductive and geometrical and rather than empirical and experimental. According to Hobbes the root cause of conflict in the state of nature are the passions of desire and aversion. Since goods are limited, there is ruthless competition and a struggle for power to retain what is acquired. Conflict is inherent in human nature and blind pursuit of self-interest. Another thing that Hobbes points out is that each man has liberty to use his own power as his will for preservation of his own nature and life. This he calls natural right. But at times he equates natural right with power, at times with absence of obligations or with liberty to do that which right reason prescribes.