

## Two social contracts

There are two versions of the social contract: the commonwealth by institution (I) and the commonwealth by acquisition (A). Hobbes's theme is that there are no significant differences between them.<sup>1</sup> The two sections below reproduce the apparent differences that we listed in Monday's class.

### 1 Genuine differences, according to Hobbes

#### 1. How the sovereign is selected

(I) by a peaceful election

(A) by military conflict

#### 2. What subjects do

(I) 2 steps: (1) form a congregation then (2) vote for a sovereign

(A) 1 step: make an individual deal with the victor

#### 3. Who is a party to the social contract

(I) Subjects contract with one another, 'horizontal'

(A) Subjects contract with sovereign, 'vertical'

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<sup>1</sup> *Leviathan* ch. 20, ¶3 and ¶14; also "A Review and Conclusion," ¶8.

2 Not genuine differences, according to Hobbes

1. Validity of the social contract

(I) Agreement is fully voluntary and so valid

(A) Agreement is coerced and so invalid (compare ch. 20 ¶2)

2. Subjects' authorization

(I) Subjects authorize the sovereign's acts

(A) Subjects don't authorize the sovereign's acts (but see ch. 20 ¶13)

3. Sovereign's right of nature

(I) Sovereign surrenders right of nature

(A) Sovereign retains right of nature

4. Accountability

(I) Sovereign is accountable to the subjects

(A) Sovereign isn't accountable to the subjects

This one is tricky. We'll need to look at ch. 18 ¶4.