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VOLUME 2

The Elements of Representation in Hobbes

Aesthetics, Theatre, Law, and Theology in the Construction of Hobbes's Theory of the State

By
Mónica Brito Vieira

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CONTENTS

Introductory Note .......................................................... vii
List of Figures ............................................................... ix
Acknowledgements .......................................................... xi
Abbreviations and Editions ................................................ xv

Introduction ................................................................... 1

1. Aesthetic Representation ............................................... 15
   Introduction ..................................................................... 15
   Resemblance vs. Representation ...................................... 18
   Representations or Perceptual Images .............................. 20
   Images of God ................................................................. 23
   The Sovereign as Image ................................................ 32
   Images of Saints ............................................................. 38
   The Eucharist: Presence or Representation? .................... 45
   Metaphors as Representations ........................................ 53
   The Representation of Objects in Perspective .................... 58
   Conclusion ..................................................................... 69

2. Dramatic Representation ................................................ 75
   Introduction: Hobbes and the Theatre ............................. 75
   The Man and the Person .................................................. 78
   The World as Stage ......................................................... 83
   Dis/simulating with Others ............................................. 90
   Actors and Hypocrites .................................................... 98
   Religious Play-Acting and the Power of Crowds .......... 102
   'Quixotic' Personalities and Republican Men ............... 108
   Theatre of Politics .......................................................... 118
   The Powers of Theatre ................................................... 131
   The Politics of Theatre .................................................... 136
   Conclusion ..................................................................... 142

3. Juridical Representation ................................................ 145
   Introduction ..................................................................... 145
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Monica Brito Vieira's *The Elements of Representation in Hobbes* breaks new ground in the study of that seminal thinker. Using the concept of representation as a window into his political thought, she shows how Hobbes's conception of representation relies not on imitation or mimesis but on the creative imagination to make one thing 'represent' another. For Hobbes representation is not passive but active, requiring creative imagination and an entirely 'new way of thinking'. From this perspective, political reality is actually created or constituted by modes of representation, whether aesthetic, legal, theatrical or theological. The 'mortall god' that is the modern state thus emerges as an imaginative construct made and maintained by its active citizen-subjects.

The Series Editors