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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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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 'mortal god' that is the modern state thus emerges as an imaginative construct made and maintained by its active citizen-subjects.

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