Thomas Hobbes is widely acknowledged to be the most important political philosopher to have written in English. *Taming the Leviathan* is a wide-ranging study of the English reception of Hobbes’s political and religious ideas. In the first book-length treatment of the topic for over forty years, Jon Parkin follows the fate of Hobbes’s texts (particularly *Leviathan*) and the development of his controversial reputation during the seventeenth century, revealing the stakes in the critical discussion of the philosopher and his ideas. Revising the traditional view that Hobbes was simply rejected by his contemporaries, Parkin demonstrates that Hobbes’s work was too useful for them to ignore, but too radical to leave unchallenged. His texts therefore had to be controlled, their lessons absorbed and their author discredited. In other words the Leviathan had to be tamed. *Taming the Leviathan* significantly revises our understanding of the role of Hobbes and Hobbism in seventeenth-century England.

**Jon Parkin** is Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of York. His previous publications include *Science, Religion and Politics in Restoration England* (Boydell & Brewer, 1999) and an edition of Richard Cumberland’s *A Treatise of the Laws of Nature* (Liberty Fund, 2005).
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Taming the Leviathan
The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

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For Fiona
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