Spinoza’s Political Treatise

Spinoza’s Political Treatise constitutes the very last stage in the development of his thought, as he left the manuscript incomplete at the time of his death in 1677. On several crucial issues – for example, the new conception of the “free multitude” – the work goes well beyond his Theological-Political Treatise (1670), and arguably presents ideas that were not fully developed even in his Ethics. This volume of newly commissioned essays on the Political Treatise is the first collection in English to be dedicated specifically to the work, ranging over topics including political explanation, national religion, the civil state, vengeance, aristocratic government, and political luck. It will be a major resource for scholars who are interested in this important but still neglected work, and in Spinoza’s political philosophy more generally.


Hasana Sharp is Associate Professor of Philosophy at McGill University. She is author of Spinoza and the Politics of Renaturalization (2011), and coeditor of Between Spinoza and Hegel (2012) and Feminist Philosophies of Life (2016).
SPINOZA’S
Political Treatise
A Critical Guide

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This book is dedicated to all of those refugees who seek a commonwealth in which they can live guided more by hope than by fear.
Contents

List of Contributors  page ix
Acknowledgments  xii
List of Abbreviations  xiii

Introduction  1
YITZHAK Y. MELAMED AND HASANA SHARP

1 What Is Real about “Ideal Constitutions”? Spinoza on Political Explanation  12
MICHAEL A. ROSENTHAL

2 Statesmen versus Philosophers: Experience and Method in Spinoza’s Political Treatise  29
JULIE E. COOPER

3 The Condition of Human Nature: Spinoza’s Account of the Ground of Human Action in the Tractatus Politicus  47
MOIRA GATENS

4 Politically Mediated Affects: Envy in Spinoza’s Tractatus Politicus  61
SUSAN JAMES

5 Longing (desiderium) for Vengeance as the Foundation of the Commonwealth  78
CHANTAL JAQUET

6 Family Quarrels and Mental Harmony: Spinoza’s Oikos–Polis Analogy  93
HASANA SHARP

7 Spinoza on National Religion  111
MOGENS LÆRKE

vii
viii Contents

8 Religion and the Civil State in the *Tractatus Politicus* 128
   Daniel Garber

9 Spinoza on Aristocratic and Democratic Government 145
   Theo Verbeek

10 When Having *Too Much* Power Is Harmful: Spinoza on Political Luck 161
   Yitzhak Y. Melamed

11 Spinoza and Political Absolutism 175
   Justin Steinberg

12 The Revolutionary Foundation of Political Modernity: Machiavelli, Spinoza, and Constituent Power 190
   Filippo del Lucchesi

Bibliography 204

Index 213
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Abbreviations

**Descartes’s Works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td><em>Oeuvres de Descartes</em>. Edited by Adam and Tannery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSM</td>
<td><em>The Philosophical Writings of Descartes</em>. Edited and translated by Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch (third volume also edited by A. Kenny).</td>
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**Spinoza’s Works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td><em>Cogitata Metaphysica</em> (an appendix to Spinoza’s DPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPP</td>
<td><em>Renati des Cartes Principiorum Philosophiae Pars I &amp; II</em> (<em>Descartes’s Principles of Philosophy</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ep.</td>
<td><em>Epistolae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td><em>Korte Verhandeling van God de Mensch en deszelfs Welstand</em> (<em>Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIE</td>
<td><em>Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td><em>Tractatus Politicus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTP</td>
<td><em>Tractatus Theologico-Politicus</em></td>
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References to Spinoza’s original Latin and Dutch texts rely on *Spinoza Opera*, edited by Carl Gebhardt. 4 volumes (1925), and follow this format: volume number/page number/line number. Hence “II/200/12” stands for volume 2, page 200, line 12.

Passages in Spinoza’s *Ethics* are referred to by means of the following abbreviations: a-(xiom), c-(orollary), e-(xplanation), l-(emma), p-(roposition), pref-(ace), s-(cholium), and app-(endix); “d” stands for either “definition” (when it appears immediately to the right of the part of the book) or “demonstration” (in all other cases). The five parts of the *Ethics* are cited by Arabic numerals. Thus “Etید” stands for the third definition of part 1 and
List of Abbreviations

“E1p16d” for the demonstration of proposition 16 of part 1. Passages from DPP are cited using the same system of abbreviations used for the Ethics. Passages from Oeuvres de Descartes, edited by Adam and Tannery, are cited by volume and page number. Thus “AT VII 23” stands for page 23 of volume 7 of this edition.