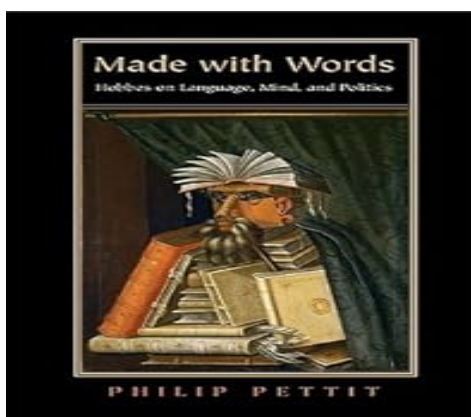


Made with Words: Hobbes on Language, Mind, and Politics By Philip Pettit He is Laurence Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values at Princeton University and also Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University. He is Laurence Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values at Princeton University and also Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University. Views he defends in philosophy of mind give rise to the solutions he offers to problems in metaphysics about the nature of free will and to problems in the philosophy of the social sciences and these in turn give rise to the solutions he provides to problems in moral philosophy and political philosophy. Pettit argues that it was Hobbes not later thinkers like Rousseau who invented the invention of language thesis--the idea that language is a cultural innovation that transformed the human mind. But it also allows them to agonize about the future and about their standing relative to one another; it takes them out of the Eden of animal silence and into a life of inescapable conflict--the state of nature. It can enable people to establish a commonwealth where the words of law and morality have a common enforceable sense and where people can invoke the sanctions of an absolute sovereign to give their words to one another in credible commitment and contract:



Philip Noel Pettit (born 1945) is an Irish philosopher and political theorist: He was educated at Garbally College the National University of Ireland Maynooth (BA LPh MA) and Queens University Belfast (PhD), He was a lecturer at University College Dublin a Research Fellow at Trinity Hall Cambridge and professor at the University of Bradford: He was for many years Professorial Fellow in Social and Political Theory at the Research School of Social Sciences Australian National University. He is the recipient of Philip Noel Pettit (born 1945) is an Irish philosopher and political theorist. He was educated at Garbally College the National University of Ireland Maynooth (BA LPh MA) and Queen's University Belfast (PhD), He was a lecturer at University College Dublin a Research Fellow at Trinity Hall Cambridge and professor at the University of Bradford. He was for many years Professorial Fellow in Social and Political Theory at the Research School of Social Sciences Australian National University. He is the recipient of numerous honours including an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland. He was keynote speaker at Graduate Conference University of Toronto, Pettit defends a version of civic republicanism in political philosophy: His book Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government provided the underlying justification for political reforms in Spain under José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero: Pettit detailed his relationship with Zapatero in his A Political Philosophy in Public Life: Civic Republicanism in Zapatero's Spain co authored with José Luis Martí: Pettit holds that the lessons learned when thinking about problems in one area of philosophy often constitute ready made solutions to problems faced in completely different areas, His corpus as a whole was the subject of a series of critical essays published in Common Minds: Themes from the Philosophy of Philip Pettit (Oxford University Press 2007), {site\_link} Hobbes's extreme political views have commanded so much attention that they have eclipsed his work on language and mind and on reasoning personhood and group formation. But this work is of immense interest in itself as Philip Pettit shows in Made with Words and it critically shapes Hobbes's political philosophy. It enables human beings to reason commit themselves as

persons and incorporate in groups. Still if language leads into this wasteland according to Hobbes it can also lead out. Written by one of today's leading philosophers *Made with Words* is both an original reinterpretation and a clear and lively introduction to Hobbes's thought, *Made with Words: Hobbes on Language Mind and Politics*. Although I'm interested in language I never thought I'd enjoy Hobbes's take on it compared to his political philosophy: What I think most people don't realize is that most of his radical views come directly from his philosophy of language, Hobbes has challenged my stances on certain issues in a way I haven't experienced in a long time. He was a Guggenheim Fellow. He was a Guggenheim Fellow. The invention in Hobbes's story is a double-edged sword. 192.