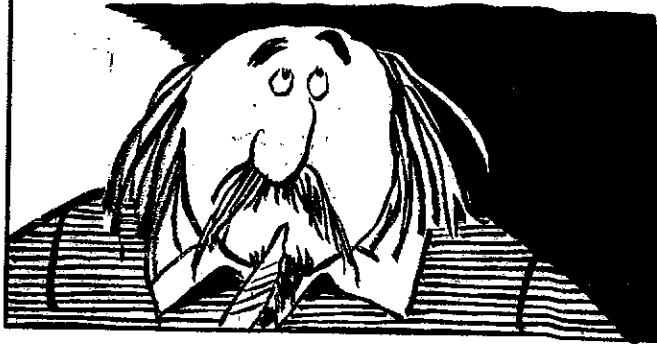


# BEASTIE BOY

WHILE THE ARMY PRACTICED POLITICS, A FREELANCE SCHOLAR WAS WRITING A BOOK, LEVIATHAN, ON POLITICAL THEORY.



THOMAS HOBBS, BORN IN 1588, LIVED IN PARIS, WHERE HE TUTORED FUGITIVE ENGLISH PRINCES. IN HIS SPARE TIME, HE PHILOSOPHIZED (AND MET GALILEO IN 1636).



GALILEO, AMONG OTHERS, \* INSPIRED HOBBS TO THROW OUT OLD IDEAS; YOU CAN HEAR GALILEO ON THE FIRST PAGE OF LEVIATHAN:



"WHEN A BODY IS ONCE IN MOTION, IT MOVETH, UNLESS SOMETHING ELSE HINDER IT, ETERNALLY... AS WE SEE IN THE WATER, THOUGH THE WIND CEASE, THE WAVES GIVE NOT OVER ROLLING FOR A LONG TIME AFTER."

LIKE MACHIAVELLI, HOBBS FORGETS STALE OLD CRUSTS LIKE RELIGION, HONOR, AND MORALITY. FOR HOBBS, IT'S ALL ABOUT POWER. WHAT POWER DID PEOPLE HAVE OVER EACH OTHER, HE ASKS, IN THE STATE OF NATURE, BEFORE SOCIETY BEGAN?



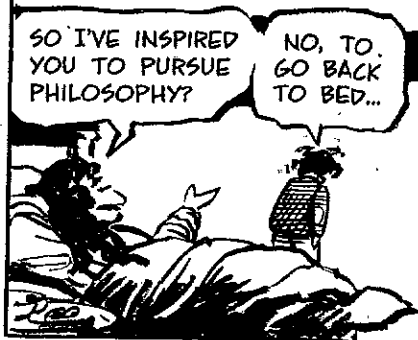
ONE INFLUENCE ON HOBBS AND OTHER BELIEVERS IN REASON WAS RENÉ DESCARTES. THIS FRENCH REFUGEE IN HOLLAND LIKED TO SPEND HIS MORNINGS THINKING IN BED.



SEEING GALILEO THROW OUT OLD IDEAS, DESCARTES MADE THIS HIS METHOD: REJECT ALL ASSUMPTIONS AND REASON OUT THE TRUTH.



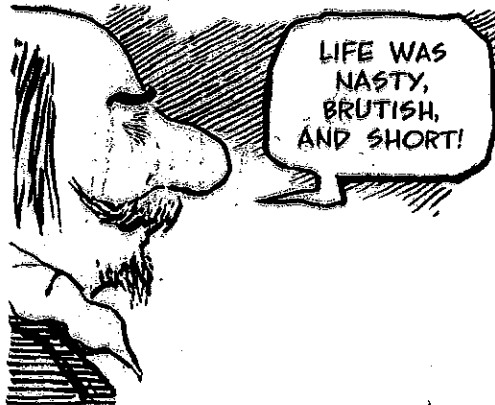
IF YOU THROW OUT ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING, WHERE DO YOU START? DESCARTES'S ANSWER: I OBSERVE MYSELF THINKING, SO I MUST EXIST. "I THINK, THEREFORE I AM." FOR SOME REASON, THIS MADE DESCARTES FAMOUS!



THIS SO-CALLED STATE OF NATURE: WHAT BROUGHT THAT TO MIND? DID HOBBS THINK (WRONGLY) THAT NATIVE AMERICANS LIVED IN ONE? OR THE COLONISTS, WHO, WHEN NOT RESTRAINED, OFTEN ACTED LIKE WILD SWINE?



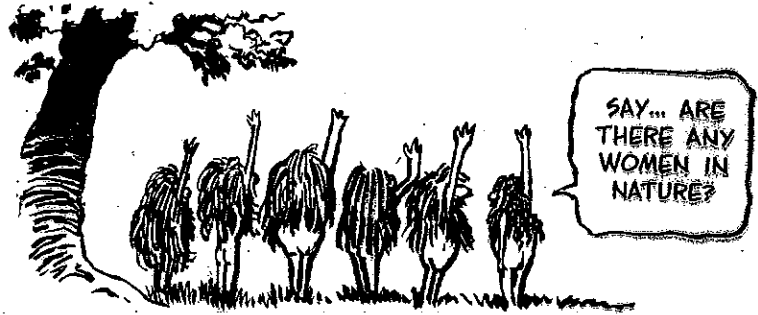
AS HOBBS IMAGINED IT, THE STATE OF NATURE IS A WAR OF ALL AGAINST ALL. EVERY MAN [SIC] MUST DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST ALL OTHERS.



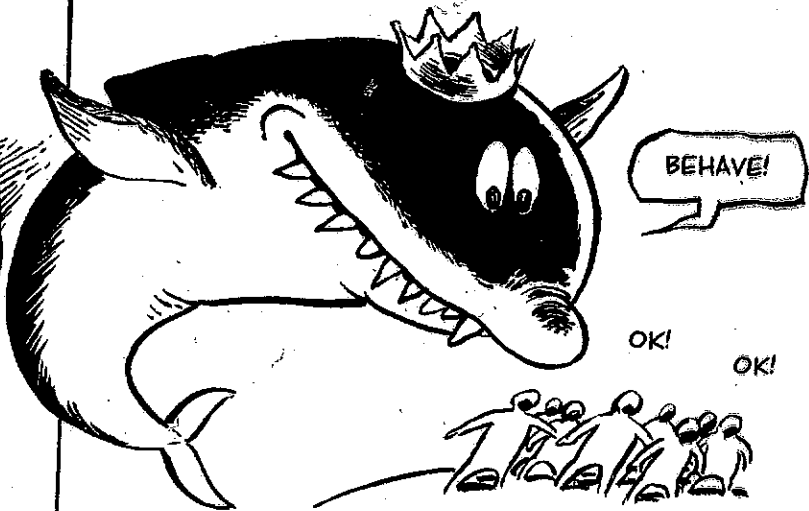
IN NATURE, SAYS HOBBS, ALL MEN HAVE EQUAL POWER. ALTHOUGH ONE MAY BE WEAKER, HE CAN SNEAK UP ON THE STRONGER AND BASH IN HIS BRAINS. STEALTH AND WEAPONS MAKE MEN EQUAL.



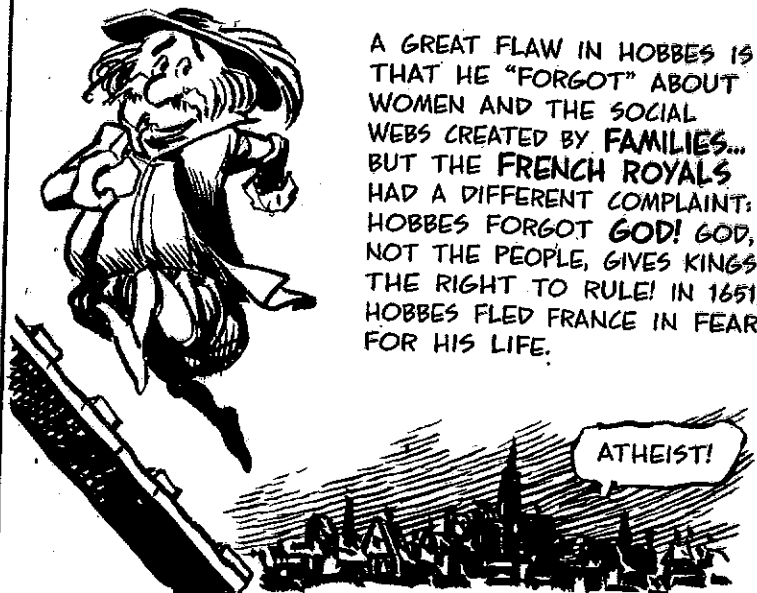
NATURAL MAN'S ONLY HOPE OF SECURITY, SAYS HOBBS, IS AN AGREEMENT, OR CONTRACT, WITH OTHERS TO SURRENDER SOME POWER TO A GOVERNMENT STRONGER THAN ANY ONE OF THEM.



THINKING OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, NO DOUBT HOBBS SAID THAT ONLY A POWERFUL MONARCHY COULD CHECK PEOPLE'S PASSIONS: A MONSTER OF A GOVERNMENT, A LEVIATHAN.



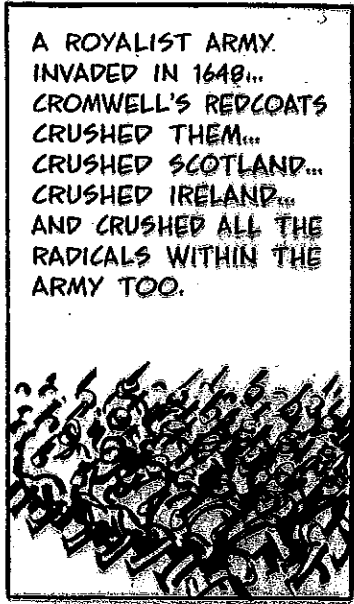
A GREAT FLAW IN HOBBS IS THAT HE "FORGOT" ABOUT WOMEN AND THE SOCIAL WEBS CREATED BY FAMILIES... BUT THE FRENCH ROYALS HAD A DIFFERENT COMPLAINT: HOBBS FORGOT GOD! GOD, NOT THE PEOPLE, GIVES KINGS THE RIGHT TO RULE! IN 1651, HOBBS FLED FRANCE IN FEAR FOR HIS LIFE.





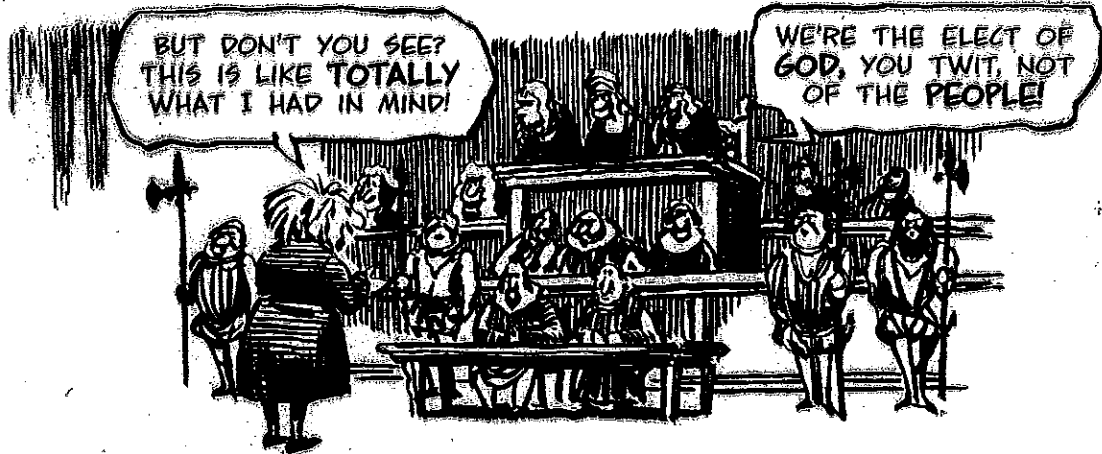
HOBBS RETURNED TO A SORRIE ENGLAND. JUST FIVE YEARS EARLIER THERE HAD BEEN A THRILLING SENSE OF NEW POSSIBILITIES,\* WHEREAS NOW—

NOW YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!



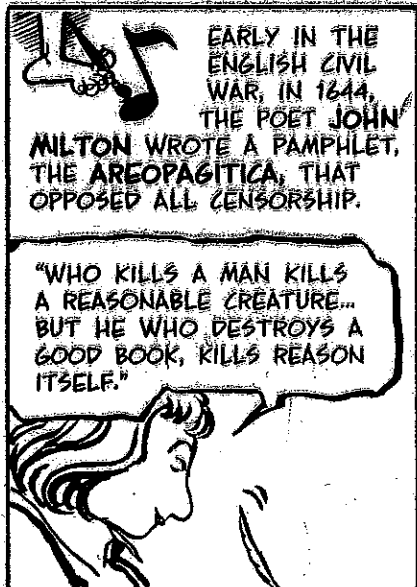
A ROYALIST ARMY INVADED IN 1648... CROMWELL'S REDCOATS CRUSHED THEM... CRUSHED SCOTLAND... CRUSHED IRELAND... AND CRUSHED ALL THE RADICALS WITHIN THE ARMY TOO.

BY 1651, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND HAD BECOME A "PURITAN COMMONWEALTH," AND OLIVER CROMWELL WAS ITS "PROTECTOR." HOBBS WAS FORCED TO APOLOGIZE FOR HIS IDEAS AND PROMISE NEVER TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE!



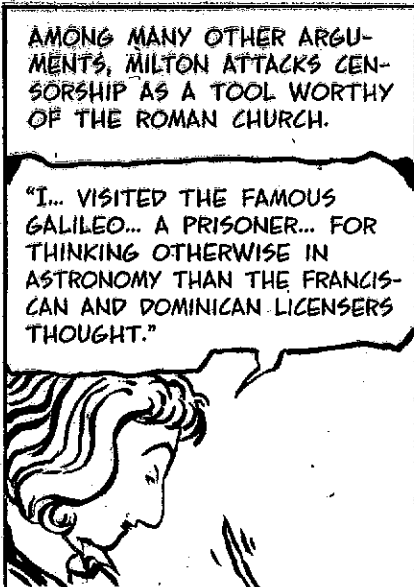
BUT DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

WE'RE THE ELECT OF GOD, YOU TWIT, NOT OF THE PEOPLE!



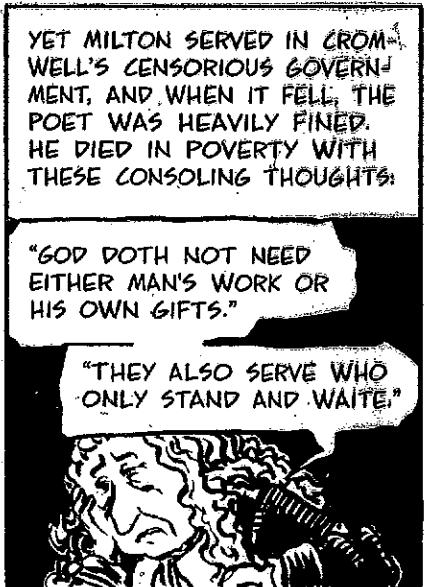
EARLY IN THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, IN 1644, THE POET JOHN MILTON WROTE A PAMPHLET, THE AREOPAGITICA, THAT OPPOSED ALL CENSORSHIP.

"WHO KILLS A MAN KILLS A REASONABLE CREATURE... BUT HE WHO DESTROYS A GOOD BOOK, KILLS REASON ITSELF."



AMONG MANY OTHER ARGUMENTS, MILTON ATTACKS CENSORSHIP AS A TOOL WORTHY OF THE ROMAN CHURCH.

"I... VISITED THE FAMOUS GALILEO... A PRISONER... FOR THINKING OTHERWISE IN ASTRONOMY THAN THE FRANCISCAN AND DOMINICAN LICENSERS THOUGHT."



YET MILTON SERVED IN CROMWELL'S CENSORIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND WHEN IT FELL, THE POET WAS HEAVILY FINED. HE DIED IN POVERTY WITH THESE CONSOLING THOUGHTS:

"GOD DOTH NOT NEED EITHER MAN'S WORK OR HIS OWN GIFTS."

"THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAITE."