



Patriarcha and other Political Writings [Annotated]

Robert Filmer

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Sir Robert Filmer's Patriarcha is considered to be the most complete articulation of the political theory for the Divine Right of Kings.

This collection of his works includes:

Patriarcha: The natural powers of the Kings of England asserted. [With a linked table of chapter contents.]

Observations upon Aristotle's Politics touching Forms of Government.

Directions for Obedience to Government in Dangerous or Doubtful Times.

Observations Concerning the Original of Government - Filmer's commentary on Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan, on John Milton's arguments for regicide, and on Hugo Grotius' De Jure Belli Et Pacis.

The Anarchy of a Limited or Mixed Monarchy.

Observations on Jean Bodin's The Necessity of the Absolute Power of All Kings.

A publisher's introduction for the modern reader.

A short biography of Robert Filmer.

Brief introductions to Filmer's main opponents.

Furthermore, great care has been taken to ensure that the presentation of this unique collection of Filmer's writings deserves the respect which he deserves, his writings having been ignored for over 350 years.

This collection of Filmer's works, written between 1630 and 1652, was counter to a variety of radical theories of government which arose during the English Civil War and the subsequent constitutional crisis leading to the execution of Charles I.

Filmer sets his sights on a wide range of opponents: the natural law theorists of the Catholic Church, Bellarmine and Suarez; and the Protestant Hugo Grotius; the new radical theories of Thomas Hobbes and John Milton, and the radical pamphleteers of Parliamentary opposition to the King.

Filmer's analysis of his opponents' arguments is learned, wide-ranging, detailed and authoritative. All of his opponents base the origin of political authority on some primal or historic consensus of the people, either by contract or by a common will or by the right of the powerful.

On the contrary, Filmer presents a strong case for scepticism regarding such theories, theories which have become treasured assumptions in the modern world. Filmer argues that the origin of political authority comes from the patriarch, the father, and is transmitted by natural physical succession.

Patriarcha was finally published in 1680, 30 years after his death, during the Exclusion Crisis in England and was considered to be of such persuasive power that John Locke's two treatises on government were written in answer to the arguments contained in Filmer's Patriarcha. Readers will find these works good ground for political debate.

This publication has a linked Tables of Contents, and a chapter index, as well as an Introduction, Biography and brief References.

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