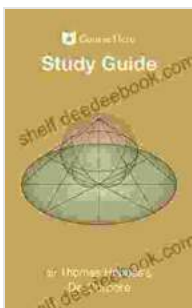


# Study Guide for Thomas Hobbes' *De Corpore*: A Comprehensive Exploration of His Materialist Philosophy

Thomas Hobbes' *De Corpore* is a seminal work in the history of philosophy, offering a comprehensive and influential exposition of his materialist philosophy. Published in 1655, *De Corpore* presents a systematic account of the physical world, grounding all phenomena in matter and motion. This study guide provides a detailed overview of the key concepts and arguments presented in *De Corpore*, serving as a valuable resource for students, scholars, and anyone interested in Hobbes' groundbreaking ideas.

## Chapter 1: Of Body

In the first chapter, Hobbes defines the fundamental concept of "body" as anything that occupies space and is capable of motion. He argues that all bodies are composed of matter, a substance characterized by extension and impenetrability. Hobbes rejects the Aristotelian notion of an immaterial substance, asserting that matter is the ultimate reality underlying all physical phenomena.



## Study Guide for Thomas Hobbes's *De Corpore*

by Terry Deary

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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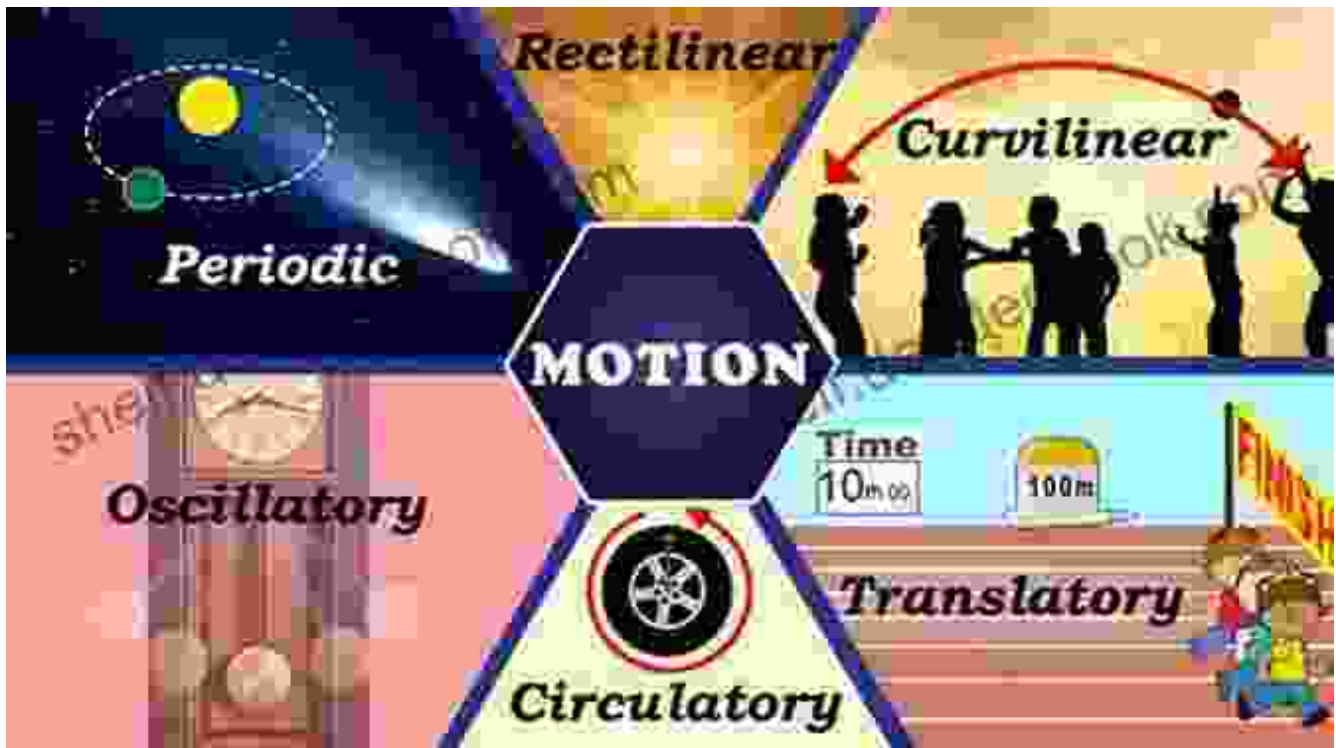
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## Chapter 2: Of Motion

Chapter 2 explores the nature of motion, arguing that it is an essential property of matter. Hobbes defines motion as any change in the position of a body over time. He distinguishes between absolute and relative motion,

the former being motion relative to an external reference point and the latter being motion relative to another moving body.



Hobbes' distinction between absolute and relative motion.

### **Chapter 3: Of the First Grounds of Natural Philosophy**

In Chapter 3, Hobbes lays out the fundamental principles of his natural philosophy, which he believes can be derived from the properties of matter and motion. These principles include the laws of conservation of matter, momentum, and energy, as well as the principle of least action, which states that "Nature seeks the shortest path to its end."

### **Chapter 4: Of Sense and Imagination**

Chapter 4 examines the nature of sense perception and imagination. Hobbes argues that all sensory experiences are ultimately the result of

physical interactions between the body and the external world. He also analyzes the role of imagination in forming mental representations of the world.

## THOMAS HOBBS (1588-1679)



➤ Thomas Hobbes was born in London in 1588.

➤ He received his college education at Oxford University in England, where he studied classics.

➤ He was one of the founders of modern political philosophy.

➤ Hobbes traveled to other European countries several times to meet with scientists and to study different forms of government.

➤ During his time outside of England, Hobbes became interested in why people allowed themselves to be ruled and what would be the best form of government for England.

### Chapter 5: Of Human Nature

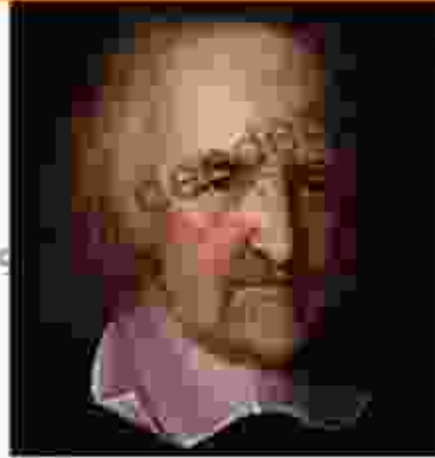
Chapter 5 delves into the nature of human beings, arguing that humans are essentially material beings driven by self-preservation and pleasure-seeking. Hobbes famously argues that humans are in a state of nature, where they are constantly competing for resources and power. This leads to a condition known as the "war of all against all," which can only be escaped through the formation of a social contract.

## Thomas Hobbes, 1588-1679

1642 The State of Nature

War of all against all

1642 Why does the state of nature prevent the emergence of societies?



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Hobbes' depiction of the state of nature as a condition of perpetual conflict.

### Chapter 6: Of the Commonwealth

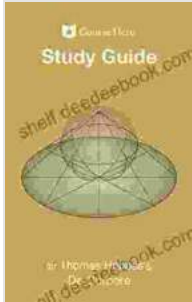
Chapter 6 examines the nature of political authority and the role of the state. Hobbes argues that the state is a necessary institution for maintaining peace and order. He advocates for a strong sovereign with absolute power, arguing that this is the only way to prevent a return to the chaos of the state of nature.



*De Corpore* is a challenging and thought-provoking work that has left an enduring mark on Western philosophy. Hobbes' materialist philosophy provides a radical departure from traditional Aristotelian and Platonic thought, emphasizing the importance of matter, motion, and natural laws.

This study guide has explored the key concepts and arguments presented in *De Corpore*, providing a comprehensive overview of Hobbes' influential

materialist philosophy. By understanding the ideas put forward in this seminal work, readers can gain a deeper appreciation for the development of modern philosophy and the enduring legacy of Thomas Hobbes.



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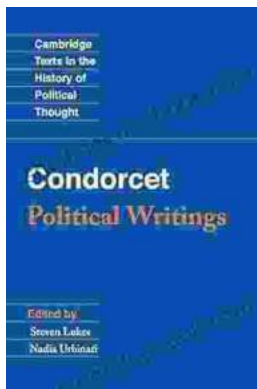
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