

POLITICAL SCIENCE

HOBBS, Thomas. *De Cive: The English Edition entitled in the first edition Philosophical Rudiments Concerning Government and Society*. A Critical Edition by Howard Warrender. 299 pp. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1983. \$53.00. The Clarendon Edition of the Philosophical Works of Thomas Hobbes.) No ISBN

CONTENTS and REVIEW:

In each generation, new critical editions of major writers' works are published based on the findings of new manuscript materials, new historical interpretations, or from one asking new questions dealing with older materials. Oxford University Press is now publishing a new edition of Thomas Hobbes' collected works which will replace William Molesworth's edition first published back in 1839-1845.

Thomas Hobbes' *De Cive* was the first version of his political philosophy to be published and the first of his major works to be published in Latin in 1642 followed by two more Latin editions in 1647 and an English edition in 1651. Warrender has compiled a new critical edition of *De Cive* from the two variant English forms and Latin editions. He believes that Hobbes, not someone else, translated the Latin version into English which would account for the differences between this work and his other two works *Leviathan* or *Elements of the Law* which were written directly in English (pp. 6-7). As part of the critical edition, Warrender provides cross references to parallel passages of both works in the margins of *De Cive*, maintains Hobbes' spelling and explains variations of text among the English and Latin versions.

The text in English is divided into three sections on liberty, dominion, and religion followed by appendixes containing a dedicatory epistle that appeared in one version, a conversion table between Molesworth's edition and the current one, bibliography, index to editorial matters, and an index to the Latin and English versions based on chapter-paragraph references.

Howard Warrender has provided an important critical edition of the Latin and English editions of *De Cive*. As a major political writer Hobbes' works

are important for research in the fields of jurisprudence and English history. This work (and the series) is recommended for large law library collections.

—Joel Fishman

The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party: Minutes and Resolutions 1983-39. Ed. by George Breitman. 400 pp. Index. Glossary. Illus. (Monad Press. 1982. \$30.00; 8.95 pbk.) ISBN 0-913460-90-7; ISBN 0-913460-91-5 pbk.; LC 82-82052

CONTENTS:

Preface; Part I - Introductions, Now and Then; Part II - First National Convention; Part III - Chicago Convention Resolutions; Part IV - SWP National Committee Plenum (April 1938); Part V - SWP National Committee Plenum (November 1938); Part VI - Second National Convention; Part VII - New York Convention Resolutions; Glossary; Index.

REVIEW:

According to editor George Breitman, who was personally involved in the founding of the SWP, these documents probably can serve as no more than an "educational tool" for students of Marxism and of the SWP. But that is an overly modest disclaimer; this material also should interest students of American politics, of American political thought, and of international affairs (e.g., see the resolutions on the coming of World War II, the nature of the Soviet state, the Spanish Civil War; Japanese Imperialism, and American imperialism in Latin America). And, regardless of utility, this is a fascinating "period piece" in its own right. Ideally, most lawyers would benefit from exposure to the SWP's critical appraisal of the American political - and thus by extension the legal - system; realistically, this compendium probably will have little appeal either to lawyers or to law libraries. The volume has satisfactory typography and format, and its noteworthy features include a section placing the founding of the SWP in historical (and ideological) perspective; a number of late 1930's photographs; a glossary of people, groups, and periodicals; and index.

—Martin Meadows