

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822937203321
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Titolo	Made with words [[electronic resource] ] : Hobbes on language, mind, and politics // Philip Pettit
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2008
ISBN	1-282-12975-9 1-4008-2822-8 9786612129759
Edizione	[Core Textbook]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (191 p.)
Disciplina	192
Soggetti	PHILOSOPHY / Mind & Body
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [169]-175) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Mind in nature -- Minds with words -- Using words to ratiocinate -- Using words to personate -- Using words to incorporate -- Words and the warping of appetite -- The state of second, worded nature -- The commonwealth of ordered words.
Sommario/riassunto	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 <i>Made with Words</i> , and it critically shapes Hobbes's 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. The invention, in Hobbes's story, is a double-edged sword. It enables human beings to reason, commit themselves as persons, and incorporate in groups. 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. Still, if language leads into this wasteland, according to Hobbes, it can also lead out. 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. 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.

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