

A Comparative Study between the views of Imam Khomeini (in Shia School of Thought) and Thomas Hobbes (in liberal democracy) on the Legitimacy of Power

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Abstract

The research's main argument has been developed on the discussions of Vilayat-e Faqih (guardianship of the jurist) and tracing the origin of its theory. The researcher tries to answer questions such as: what is the position and responsibility of guardianship of the jurist in contemporary age? Are his duties compatible with systems of democracy in which people determine their own destiny? Do we impose limits on the free will of human being by accepting a man as the divine custodian of people? How are the rights of man defined in this system? Such questions, usually, attract the attention of any researcher launching investigations in this regard. Thus, the research aims to explain doubts and issues concerning the subject as much as possible and provide its readers with more knowledge to discover the truth. Considering that most of the western materialistic philosophies are the same in nature, philosophical views of Thomas Hobbes in liberal democracy has been selected by the researcher to be compared with Imam Khomeini's opinions on legitimacy of power in Shia school of thought.