

## **Nietzsche's Perfect State**

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### **The Author**

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He specialises in modern continental political thought and twentieth century democratic theory. His paper 'Nietzsche's perfect state' is an extract from his forthcoming book *Nietzsche's Great Politics*, under contract with Princeton University Press. Other relevant publications for this paper include "The time is coming when we will relearn politics", *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, Issue 39, Spring 2010, pp. 66-85 and 'Nietzsche and Politics', *Nietzsche-Studien*, Vol. 39, 2010, pp. 663-677.

### **The Paper**

What is Nietzsche's place in the history of political thought? This paper attempts to situate Nietzsche by contrasting him with two traditions: the social contract, in particular in its Hobbesian variety, which Nietzsche critically engages with in both 'The Greek State' and the *Genealogy*; and nineteenth century theories of the 'withering away of the state', which serve as an interesting counterpoint to Nietzsche's own view of the 'decay of the state'. In doing so, the paper challenges the view that Nietzsche does not offer a theory of the state, and should therefore not be considered a political thinker of any kind.