

Quentin Skinner

Paper: *Thomas Hobbes' evolving theory of freedom*
21st January 2008

Professor Skinner holds the Regius Chair of Modern History in the University and is a Fellow of Christ's College. He is a Fellow of many academic academies and has been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees. The author or co-author of more than 20 books, his works have been very widely translated, and his two-volume study, *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, was named by the Times Literary Supplement in 1996 as one of the hundred most influential books published since the second world war. His scholarship has won him many prizes, including the Isaiah Berlin Prize of the Political Studies Association, the Lippincott and David Easton Awards of the American Political Science Association, in addition to the Wolfson Prize for History in 1979 and a Balzan Prize in 2006.

Research Interests

I am chiefly interested in the intellectual history of early-modern Europe, and within this area I specialise in two related fields. One is the culture of the Renaissance, especially early Italian art and the evolution of humanist moral and political thought. The other is seventeenth-century political philosophy, in particular the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes, on which I have published two books and numerous articles.

I am also interested in a number of more purely philosophical issues. I have written on historical explanation, on the nature of interpretation more generally, and on several topics in contemporary political theory, in particular the concept of political liberty and the character of the State.

PUBLICATIONS

(1) BOOKS

1. *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought: Volume I: The Renaissance* xxiv + 305pp., Cambridge University Press, 1978. Translated into Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish.

2. *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought: Volume II: The Age of Reformation* vi + 405pp., Cambridge University Press, 1978. Translated into Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish. 3(a) *Machiavelli* vii + 102pp., Oxford University Press, 1981.
- 3 (b) *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction* [A revised version of 3 (a)] x + 110pp., Oxford University Press, 2000. Translated into Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Swedish. Kurdish translation forthcoming.
4. *Reason and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes* xvi + 477pp., Cambridge University Press, 1996 Translated into Chinese, Portuguese.
5. *Liberty before Liberalism* xiv + 142pp., Cambridge University Press, 1998. Translated into Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.
6. [with Yves-Charles Zarka], *Hobbes: The Amsterdam Debate*, ed. Hans Blom 87pp., George Olms, Hildesheim, 2001.
7. *Visions of Politics: Volume I: Regarding Method* xvi + 209pp., Cambridge University Press, 2002. Translated into Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
8. *Visions of Politics: Volume II: Renaissance Virtues* xix + 461pp.+12 colour plate, Cambridge University Press, 2002. Published in Italian as *Virtù rinascimentali* (Il Mulino, 2006).
9. *Visions of Politics: Volume III: Hobbes and Civil Science* xvii + 386pp., Cambridge University Press, 2002.
10. *L'artiste en philosophie politique* 187pp. (with colour plates), Editions de Seuil, Paris [Raisons d'agir Éditions], 2003.
11. *Hobbes and Republican Liberty* xxii+253pp. (with 19 illustrations), Cambridge University Press, February 2008.

(2) BOOKS EDITED

1. (Co-editor and contributor), *Philosophy, Politics and Society: Fourth Series* Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1972.
2. (Co-editor and contributor), *Philosophy in History* Cambridge University Press, 1984. Translated into Spanish.
3. (Editor and contributor), *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences*

Cambridge University Press, 1985. Translated into Greek, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish.

4. (Co-editor and contributor), *The Cambridge History of Renaissance Philosophy* Cambridge University Press, 1988.

5. (Co-editor), Machiavelli, *The Prince* (trans. Russell Price) Cambridge University Press, 1988.

6. (Co-editor and contributor), *Machiavelli and Republicanism* Cambridge University Press, 1990. Translated into Chinese.

7. (Co-editor and contributor), *Political Discourse in Early-modern Britain* Cambridge University Press, 1993. Translated into Chinese.

8. (Co-editor) *Milton and Republicanism* Cambridge University Press, 1995.

9. (Co-editor and contributor), *Republicanism: A Shared European Heritage* Volume I: *Republicanism and Constitutionalism in Early Modern Europe* Cambridge University Press, 2002.

10. (Co-editor and contributor), *Republicanism: A Shared European Heritage* Volume II: *The Values of Republicanism in Early Modern Europe* Cambridge University Press, 2002.

11. (Co-editor and contributor), *States and Citizens: History, Theory, Prospects* Cambridge University Press, 2003. Translated into Chinese.

12. (Co-editor), *Thomas Hobbes: Writings on Common Law and Hereditary Right* Edited by Alan Cromartie and Quentin Skinner (*The Clarendon Edition of the Works of Thomas Hobbes*, Volume XI) The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2005.

(3) UNCOLLECTED ARTICLES

1965: 'Hobbes on Sovereignty: an Unknown Discussion', *Political Studies* 13, pp. 213-18.

1966: 'The Limits of Historical Explanations', *Philosophy* 41, pp. 199-215.

1967a: 'Science and Society in Restoration England', *The Historical Journal* 10, pp. 286-93.

1970: 'Conventions and the Understanding of Speech Acts', *The Philosophical Quarterly* 20, pp. 118-38.

- 1971: 'On Performing and Explaining Linguistic Actions', *The Philosophical Quarterly* 21, pp. 1-21.
- 1973: 'The Empirical Theorists of Democracy and their Critics', *Political Theory* 1, pp. 287-306.
- 1974: 'Some Problems in the Analysis of Political Thought and Action', *Political Theory* 2, pp. 277-303.
- 1975: 'Hermeneutics and the Role of History', *New Literary History* 7, pp. 209-32.
- 1978: 'Action and Context', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 52, pp. 57-69.
- 1980: 'The Origins of the Calvinist Theory of Revolution' in *After the Reformation*, ed. Barbara Malament, London, pp. 309-30.
- 1985: 'Introduction: The Return of Grand Theory' in *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences*, Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 1-20.
- 1986: 'The Paradoxes of Political Liberty' in *The Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, Volume VII, ed. S. McMurrin, Cambridge University Press, pp. 225-250. [Reprinted in *Liberty*, ed. David Miller, *Oxford Readings in Politics and Government* (Oxford, 1991) and in *Equal Freedom: Selected Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, ed. Stephen Darwall, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1995. Also available in Chinese.]
- 1988: 'Warrender and Skinner on Hobbes: A Reply', *Political Studies* 36, pp. 692-5.
- 1989: 'Il concetto inglese di libertà', *Filosofia politica* 3, pp. 77-102.
- 1992a: 'On Justice, the Common Good and the Priority of Liberty' in *Dimensions of Radical Democracy*, ed. Chantal Mouffe, London, pp. 211-24. [Also available in French]
- 1992b: 'Les idées républicains de liberté et de citoyenneté', *Rue Descartes* 3, pp. 125-44.
- 1992c: 'Liberty and Legal Obligation in Hobbes's *Leviathan*' in *Cambridge Essays in Jurisprudence*, ed. Ross Harrison, Oxford University Press, pp. 231-56.
- 1992d: 'The Italian City-Republics' in *Democracy: The Unfinished Journey*, ed. John Dunn, Oxford University Press, pp. 57-69.
- 1993: 'Two Concepts of Citizenship', *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*, pp. 403-19. [Also available in French.]
- 1994: 'Modernity and disenchantment: Some historical reflections' in *Philosophy in an age of pluralism*, ed. James Tully, Cambridge University Press, pp. 37-48. [Also available in German; reprinted in *The Politics of Postmodernity*, ed. James Good and

Irving Velody, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 49-60.]

1995: 'The Vocabulary of Renaissance Republicanism: a Cultural *longue-durée*?' in *Language and Images of Renaissance Italy*, ed. Alison Brown, Oxford University Press, pp. 87-110.

1996a: 'From Hume's Intentions to Deconstruction and Back', *Journal of Political Philosophy* 4, pp. 142-54.

1996b: 'Rede en retorica in de filosofie van Hobbes', contribution to 'Dossier Quentin Skinner' *Krisis* 64, pp. 9-16.

1998: 'Machiavelli's Political Morality' *European Review* 6, pp. 321-5.

2001a: 'Political Theory after the Enlightenment Project' in *Schools of Thought*, ed. Joan W. Scott and Debra Keates, Princeton University Press, pp. 15-24.

2001b: 'Why laughing mattered in the Renaissance', *History of Political Thought* 22, pp. 418-47. [Also available in French, Greek, Portuguese]

2002a: 'A Third Concept of Liberty', *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 117, pp. 237-68. [Also available in Chinese, Finnish, French, Greek, Spanish]

2002b: 'Classical Liberty and the Coming of the English Civil War' in *Republicanism: A Shared European Heritage*, Volume II: *The Values of Republicanism in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Martin van Gelderen and Quentin Skinner, Cambridge University Press, pp. 9-28.

2002c: 'Visions of Civil Liberty' in *The Future of the Past*, ed. Peter Martland, London, pp.104-12. 2003: 'States and the Freedom of Citizens' in *States and Citizens: History, Theory, Prospects*, ed. Quentin Skinner and Bo Stråth, Cambridge University Press, pp. 11-27. [Also available in Chinese, Greek]

2004a: 'Hobbes and the Classical Theory of Laughter' in *Leviathan After 350 Years*, ed. Tom Sorell and Luc Foisneau, Oxford University Press, pp. 139-66.

2004b: 'Considerazioni sulla libertà repubblicana' in *Libertà politica e virtù civile*, ed. Maurizio Viroli, Fondazione Agnelli, Torino, pp. 249-60.

2005a: 'The Generation of John Milton' in *Christ's: A Cambridge College Over Five Centuries*, ed. David Reynolds, London, pp. 41-72.

2005b: 'On Intellectual History and the History of Books,' *Contributions to the History of Concepts*, 1, pp. 29-36.

2005c: 'Hobbes on Representation', *European Journal of Philosophy* 13, pp. 155-84.

- 2006a: 'Rethinking Political Liberty in the English Revolution', *History Workshop Journal* 61, pp. 1-15.
- 2006b: 'Afterword' in *British Political Thought in History, Literature and Theory, 1500-1800*, ed. David Armitage, Cambridge University Press, pp. 278-85.
- 2006c: 'Surveying the *Foundations*: a retrospect and reassessment' in *Rethinking the Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, ed. Annabel Brett and James Tully, Cambridge University Press, pp. 236-61.
- 2006d-2007a; 'La teoría evolutiva de la libertad de Thomas Hobbes', *Revista de Estudios Políticos* 134 pp. 35-69 and 135, pp. 11-36.
- 2007b: 'Hobbes on Persons, Authors and Representatives' in *The Cambridge Companion to Leviathan* ed. Patricia Springborg, Cambridge University Press, pp. 157-80.
- 2007c: 'The Monarchical Republic Enthroned' in *The Monarchical Republic of Early Modern England*, ed. John F. McDiarmaid, Ashgate, pp. 233-44.
- 2007d: 'Wie ich Ideenhistoriker wurde', *Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte*, 2, pp. 79-88.
- 2007e: 'Paradiastole: Redescribing the Vices as Virtues' in *Renaissance Figures of Speech*, ed. Sylvia Adamson, Gavin Alexander and Katrin Ettenhuber, Cambridge University Press, pp. 147-63.
- 2007f: 'Storia, retorica, interpretazione: Un percorso di studi', *Intersezioni* 27, pp. 265-72.
- 2008: 'Freedom as the Absence of Arbitrary Power' in *Republicanism and Political Theory*, ed. Cecile Laborde and John Maynor, Blackwells.

(4) REVIEW ARTICLES

- 1964: 'Hobbes's *Leviathan*', *The Historical Journal* 7, pp. 321-33.
- 1965: 'On Two Traditions of English Political Thought', *The Historical Journal* 8, pp. 136-9.
- 1967a: 'Science and Society in Restoration England', *The Historical Journal* 10, pp. 286-93.
- 1967b: 'More's *Utopia*', *Past and Present* 38, pp. 153-68.
- 1970: 'Christopher Hill and the Intellectual Origins of the English Revolution' in *The*

- Cambridge Mind*, ed. E. Homberger, W. Janeway and S. Schama, London, pp. 113-19.
- 1978a: 'Milton, Satan and Subversion', *New York Review of Books*, 23 March, pp. 6-9.
- 1978b: 'The Flight from Positivism', *New York Review of Books*, 15 June, pp. 26-8.
- 1978c: 'The Lessons of Thomas More', *New York Review of Books*, 14 Aug., pp. 57-60.
- 1979: 'Taking Off', *New York Review of Books*, 22 March, pp. 15-16.
- 1980: 'Duellist', *New York Review of Books*, 24 Jan., pp. 39-41.
- 1981a: 'The End of Philosophy?' *New York Review of Books*, 19 March, pp. 46-8.
- 1981b: 'The World as a Stage' *New York Review of Books*, 16 April, pp. 35-7.
- 1982: 'Habermas's Reformation', *New York Review of Books*, 7 Oct., pp. 35-8.
- 1985: 'Ms Machiavelli', *New York Review of Books*, 14 March, pp. 29-30
- 1990: 'The Past in the Present', *New York Review of Books*, 12 April, pp. 36-7.
- 1991: 'Who are "We"? Ambiguities of the Modern Self', *Inquiry* 34, pp. 133-53.
- 1996: 'Bringing Back a New Hobbes', *New York Review of Books*, 4 April, pp. 58-61.
- 1999: 'The Advancement of Francis Bacon', *New York Review of Books*, 4 Nov., pp. 53-56.
- 2002: 'A Third Concept of Liberty', *London Review of Books*, April 2002.

(5) INTERVIEWS

- 1997: 'An Interview with Quentin Skinner', *Cogito* 11, pp. 69-78.
- 2000:a 'Against Servitude', *CSD Bulletin*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 10-13.
- 2000b: 'Intervista a Quentin Skinner: Conseguire la libertà promuovere l'uguaglianza', *Il pensiero mazziniano* 3, pp. 118-22.
- 2000c: 'Entrevista: Quentin Skinner' in *As muitas faces da história*, ed. Maria Lúcia Pallares-Burke, Brazilia, pp. 307-39. [Trans. in *The New History: Confessions and Conversations*, ed. Maria Lúcia Pallares-Burke, Cambridge, 2003.]
- 2002: 'Encountering the Past: An Interview with Quentin Skinner' *Finnish Yearbook of*

Political Thought 6, pp. 32-63.

2003: 'La Libertà Politica ed il Mestiere dello Storico: Intervista a Quentin Skinner', *Teoria Politica* 19, pp. 177-85.

2006: 'Historia intelectual y acción política: Una entrevista con Quentin Skinner', *Historia y Política* 16, pp. 237-58.

2007a: 'Neither text, nor context: An interview with Quentin Skinner', *Groniek: Historisch Tijdschrift* 174, pp. 117-33.

2007b: 'La Historia de mi Historia: Una Entrevista con Quentin Skinner Skinner', *El giro contextual: Cinco ensayos de Quentin Skinner y seis comentarios*, ed. Enrique Bocardo Crespo, Madrid, pp. 45-60.

2007c: 'Intellectual History, Liberty and Republicanism: An Interview with Quentin Skinner', *Contributions to the History of Concepts* 3, pp. 102-23.

(6) BIBLIOGRAPHY of books and symposia

1988: *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and his Critics*, ed. James Tully pp. xii + 353, Polity Press and Princeton University Press. Translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean.

1996: 'Dossier Quentin Skinner', *Krisis* 64.

2001: *Slagmark*: Special Number (33) on Quentin Skinner.

2003a: Kari Palonen, *Quentin Skinner: History, Politics, Rhetoric*, viii+207, Cambridge, Polity Press.

2003b: Kari Palonen, *Die Entzauberung der Begriffe: Das Umschreiben der politischen Begriffe bei Quentin Skinner und Reinhart Koselleck*, Münster.

2006: *Rethinking the Foundations of Modern Political Thought*, ed. Annabel Brett and James Tully, x+298pp., Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

2007: *El giro contextual: Cinco ensayos de Quentin Skinner y seis comentarios*, ed. Enrique Bocardo Crespo, pp. 421, Editorial Tecnos, Madrid.

(c) 2007-08 Cambridge Political Thought Seminars.