

An Introduction to Spinoza's Political and Constitutional Theory

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Spinoza developed his political and constitutional theory in the *Theological–Political Treatise* as well as in the *Political Treatise*. While several recent works analysing his political and constitutional theory treat it as separable from his metaphysical philosophy developed mainly in the *Ethics*, it is doubtful whether his political and constitutional theory can be adequately analysed in this way, in particular, given the fact that he started from the principle of sufficient reason, which rejects any demarcation without a sufficient reason. This paper inquires how his political and constitutional theory concerning, for example, the subordination of religion to the political authority, the protection of freedoms of philosophy and expression, is supported by his metaphysical philosophy.