



BLOCKSEMINAR

## SPINOZA'S TRACTATUS- THEOLOGICO-POLITICUS: PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND POLITICS

■ Auftakt am 6. Juni 2023, 16 Uhr c.t.

■ Campus Westend, Seminarhaus 3.105

Spinoza's *Tractatus-Theologico-Politicus* (TTP) provoked great controversy when it was published anonymously in 1670. It sought to overturn accepted ideas about Scripture, the relation of philosophy to theology, and the foundations of the state. More specifically, we find that: it challenged orthodox belief about the authorship of the Pentateuch; it claimed that theology was a product of human superstition whose ultimate function was to make the masses obedient to the state; it argued, perhaps taking Hobbes' doctrine to its logical conclusion, that natural right was identical with power; and it sought to show that liberty of opinion was beneficial to the state.

Since it is impossible to neatly separate the threads of theological, philosophical, and political argument that wind their way through every chapter, we will approach the work through its own stated themes, paying close attention to its internal structure, its relation to the *Ethics*, and to its historical and intellectual context.

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