

A Book Forged in Hell

Veren. Spinoza.
TRACTATUS
THEOLOGICO-
POLITICUS

Continens
Differtationes aliquot,

Quibus ostenditur Libertatem Philosophandi non tantum
salva Pietate, & Reipublicæ Pace posse concedi: sed
eandem nisi cum Pace Reipublicæ, ipsaque
Pietate tolli non posse.

Johann: Epist: I. Cap: IV. vers: XIII.

*Per hoc cognoscimus quod in Deo manemus, & Deus manet
in nobis, quod de Spiritu suo dedit nobis.*



HAMBURGI,
Apud Henricum Künrath. c1670 c1671

The title page of Spinoza's *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, 1670; photograph courtesy of the Rare Books Division; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

A Book Forged in Hell

Spinoza's Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age



Steven Nadler

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For Larry Shapiro

amicus currens optimus

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The vilest hypocrites, urged on by that same fury which they call zeal for God's law, have everywhere prosecuted men whose blameless character and distinguished qualities have excited the hostility of the masses, publicly denouncing their beliefs and inflaming the savage crowd's anger against them. And this shameless license, sheltering under the cloak of religion, is not easy to suppress.

—Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*

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