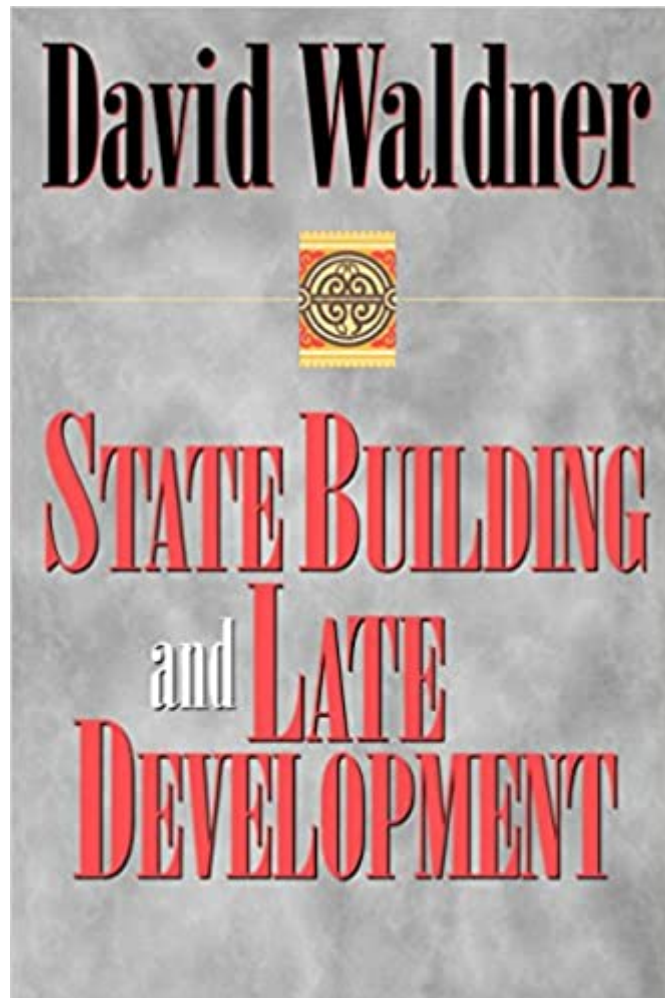




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State Building And Late Development



Synopsis

Why does state building sometimes promote economic growth and in other cases impede it?

Through an analysis of political and economic development in four countries—Turkey, Syria, Korea, and Taiwan—this book explores the origins of political-economic institutions and the mechanisms connecting them to economic outcomes. David Waldner extends our understanding of the political underpinnings of economic development by examining the origins of political coalitions on which states and their institutions depend. He first provides a political model of institutional change to analyze how elites build either cross-class or narrow coalitions, and he examines how these arrangements shape specific institutions: state-society relations, the nature of bureaucracy, fiscal structures, and patterns of economic intervention. He then links these institutions to economic outcomes through a bargaining model to explain why countries such as Korea and Taiwan have more effectively overcome the collective dilemmas that plague economic development than have others such as Turkey and Syria. The latter countries, he shows, lack institutional solutions to the problems that surround productivity growth. The first book to compare political and economic development in these two regions, *State Building and Late Development* draws on, and contributes to, arguments from political sociology and political economy. Based on a rigorous research design, the work offers both a finely drawn comparison of development and a compellingly argued analysis of the character and consequences of "precocious Keynesianism," the implementation of Keynesian demand-stimulus policies in largely pre-industrial economies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A compelling argument . . . Clearly written and carefully argued." —Choice "David Waldner's book is an impressive contribution to the debate over economic growth and development in late-developing countries." —Derek Hall, Millennium: Journal of International Studies. 1999. "This is an ambitious project; it tells of the origins of institutions and success of strategies for economic development. . . The argument is provocative, erudite, and wide-ranging; it will appeal to social scientists interested in learning more about how Middle East countries look in comparison to those of East Asia." —Ellis Goldberg, Princeton University, Political Science Quarterly. Winter, 1999-2000. "Waldner's book makes an important contribution to Middle East area studies and the literature on development in general, thanks to its elegant rebuttal of monocausal arguments. . . This book provides an important step forward in the study of comparative politics. It is a rare attempt to combine multiple variables into a sophisticated yet eloquent model that addresses important issues in the Middle East and developing world." —Saime Ozcurumez, McGill University. Canadian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 34, No. 2 "Waldner demonstrates in a masterly way the benefits of genuine comparative inquiry; contributes to our understanding of the painful results of economic development in the Middle East; and uses Middle Eastern cases to advance our understanding of the complicated and mediated linkage between state formation and economic development. This ambitious book deserves a wide audience." —Michael Barnett, University of Wisconsin, Madison. International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 32, 2000

Having taken Comparative Politics 101 with Waldner at the University of Virginia, I have to say he is a very good lecturer. I didn't have to read this book for the class, but I picked it up anyways since I got interested in the topic of state building. His style of writing is good; he presents some very interesting theories here. A nice look at the differences between the discussed countries' institutions and the effects on the countries' conditions. Lots of research done. Pick it up if you feel you might be interested in the subject.

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