



# Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective

By Marcus J. Kurtz

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Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective provides an account of long-run institutional development in Latin America that emphasizes the social and political foundations of state-building processes. The study argues that societal dynamics have path-dependent consequences at two critical points: the initial consolidation of national institutions in the wake of independence, and at the time when the 'social question' of mass political incorporation forced its way into the national political agenda across the region during the Great Depression. Dynamics set into motion at these points in time have produced widely varying and stable distributions of state capacity in the region. Marcus J. Kurtz tests this argument using structured comparisons of the post-independence political development of Chile, Peru, Argentina and Uruguay.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This is a landmark contribution to the study of state building in Latin America. Contra reigning perspectives, Kurtz adopts a society-centered and path-dependent approach that emphasizes the historical legacies of class formation and political alliances. The result is a fresh and sophisticated explanation of variations in patterns of state building - one that can withstand scrutiny in light of fine-grained evidence from specific cases."

James Mahoney, Northwestern University

"This book makes a crucial contribution to the field. It will not only shift our current understanding of state capacity and its causes but will open new roads based on the crucial explanatory power of state infrastructural power - in Latin America and beyond."

Maria Victoria Murillo, Columbia University

"In this highly original and insightful book, Marcus Kurtz redefines the scholarly debate on the origins of state institutional capacities in developing regions. Through a comparative historical analysis of Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, Kurtz demonstrates that strong and weak states were not the product of natural resource endowments, international warfare, or colonial institutional legacies. Instead, they were path-dependent legacies of critical junctures associated with post-independence state formation and 20th-century patterns of mass political incorporation. By showing how coercive labor practices in the countryside and elite divisions in the post-independence period created highly durable trajectories of institutional weakness, Kurtz sheds new light on the historical and social origins of variation in state capacities."

Kenneth M. Roberts, Cornell University

"This book makes a major contribution to comparative scholarship by drawing on economic and social structuralism to explain state building in Latin America. After disproving conventional theories that highlight war-making and natural resource wealth, Marcus Kurtz breaks new ground by demonstrating the impact of rural social relations and of different groupings' political inclusion. With his sophisticated reasoning and thorough research, he illuminates the historical paths that have given rise to states of surprisingly divergent administrative capacity."

Kurt Weyland, University of Texas, Austin

"Kurtz asks what has led some states to develop institutions capable of regulating the economic, political, and even social behavior of their citizens, while others have lagged behind. To answer this question, he relies upon a rich historical analysis of state-building efforts in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay ... He tests this theory this extensive data from paired comparisons of the polar opposite cases of Chile and Peru, as well as the more similar cases of Argentina and Uruguay. Summing up: recommended. Undergraduate, graduate, and research collections."

M. F. T. Malone, Choice

#### About the Author

Marcus J. Kurtz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Ohio State University. He is the author of *Free Market Democracy and the Chilean and Mexican Countryside* (Cambridge, 2004). He has had articles published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Organization*, the *Journal of Politics*, *Politics and Society*,

Comparative Studies in Society and History, and Theory and Society.

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#### **Anne Simons:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective, you could enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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