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978-0-521-76644-9 - Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective: Social Foundations of Institutional Order

Marcus J. Kurtz

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Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective

Social Foundations of Institutional Order

Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective provides an account of long-run institutional development in Latin America, which emphasizes the social and political foundations of state-building processes. The study argues that societal dynamics have path-dependent consequences at two critical points: at 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 postindependence political development of Chile, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay.

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*, *Journal of Politics*, *Politics & Society*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and *Theory and Society*.

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For Sarah, Chloë, and Anneliese

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Acknowledgments

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I begin these acknowledgments where my entry into the social sciences began – working with David and Ruth Collier decades ago at Berkeley. From them I learned the importance of history, an openness to the possibility of long-term path dependencies, and the centrality of research design to any successful social-scientific scholarly endeavor. Whereas this book, unlike my last, was not conceived under their guidance, I hope that their influence shows across its breadth.

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