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0521792789 - Nation, State and the Economy in History

Edited by Alice Teichova and Herbert Matis

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## NATION, STATE AND THE ECONOMY IN HISTORY

At a time of persistent national strife on a world-wide scale, this book addresses the rarely explored subject of the reciprocal relationships between nationalism, nation and state building, and economic change.

Exploration of the economic element in the building of nations and states cannot be confined to Europe, and therefore these diverse yet interlinked case-studies cover all continents. Authors come to contrasting conclusions, some regarding the economic factor as central, while others show that nation-states came into being before the constitution of a national market. Above all, Central and Eastern Europe provides fertile ground for analysing divergent and convergent aspects of the relationship between the nature of political regimes and their economic performance. For Latin America, colonialism is the common point of departure, while for the USA and Australia the foundation of the state provided a striking basis for major economic development since the nineteenth century.

These deeply researched essays leave no doubt that the nation-state is a historical phenomenon and as such is liable to 'expiry' both through the process of globalisation and through the development of a 'cyber-society' which evades state control. Moreover the continuing integration of the EU heralds the further undermining of the traditional concept of sovereignty. Such developments fuel debates about the future of the nation-state against a background of reduced status and the increasing dominance of corporate power world-wide. By contrast, recent developments in South-Eastern Europe, the former USSR, and parts of Africa and the Far East show that building the nation-state has not run its course.

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