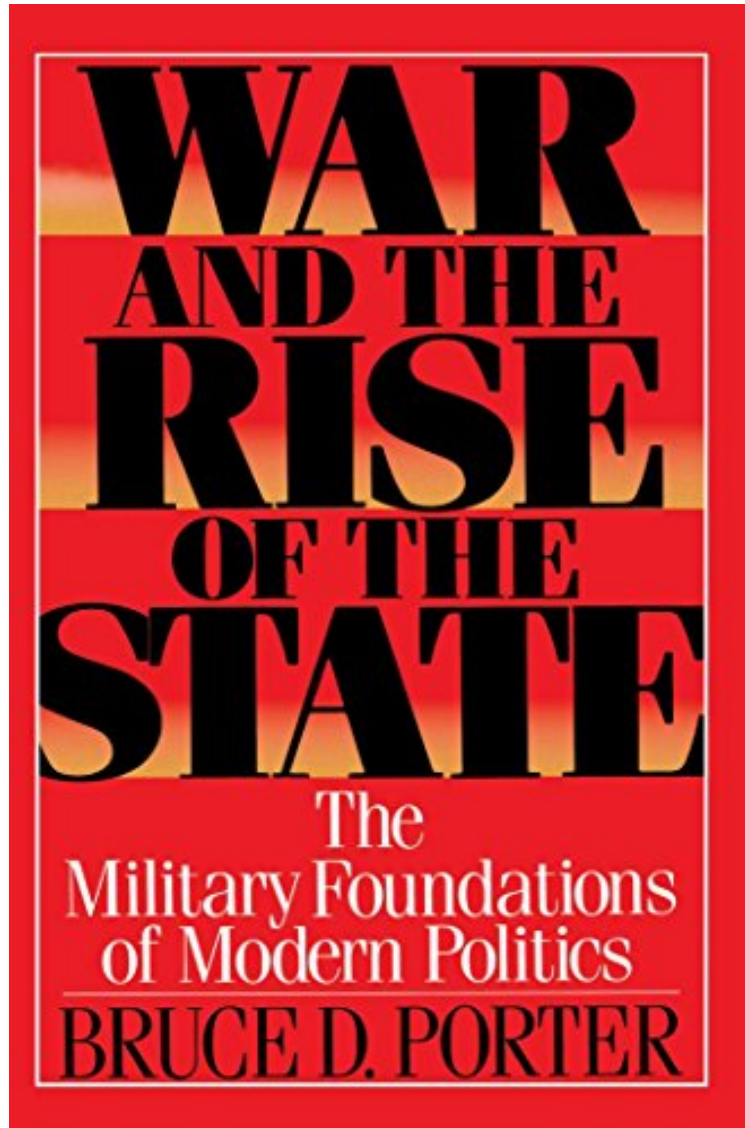


[Download ebook] War and the Rise of the State (English Edition)

War and the Rise of the State (English Edition)

Von Bruce D. Porter

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Von Bruce D. Porter : War and the Rise of the State (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War and the Rise of the State (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Schematic and SuperficialVon Tom MunroThis book is rather schematic and develops a number of rules that it then tries to use to explain the development of nation states. Generally the feel of the book is that it is a rave based on secondary sources. The absurdity of the book can be seen in its discussion of totalitarianism. It suggests that the way totalitarianism comes about is through five steps. These are:1 An all out industrial war which enlarges the size and

authority of the administrative apparatus of the state.(This happened in Germany but it didn't in Imperial Russia. Russia had been an autocracy prior to the war. If anything the mechanisms it had set up to control the state weakened and collapsed. This led to the revolution of 1917.) 2 Military defeat causes the collapse of the traditional regime.(You would have to agree with that.) 3 The disintegrative effects of war destroy or substantially weaken civil society.(Russia never had "civil society". It was a large rural country with a small elite living in cities. Germany was a more complex society. However it emerged from the war a democracy. It took 15 years for that to collapse. One would think that the depression and the fear of communism might be relevant to the support of Nazism rather than the collapse of civil society.) 4 In the resulting power vacuum mass movements capture the enlarged bureaucratic center and form a new regime using an organizational structure and approach to politics modeled on an army at war.(In Russia the communist had to create the Red Army the Cheka and other means of repression. In Germany the instruments of repression were initially the SA and the SS. This is thus wrong) 5 After capturing the state, the new regime centralizes power and atomizes all opposition society for war.(Yes in Russia no in Germany.)Anyone who is familiar with the history of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany will be aware that both countries had a very different character and history and neither will fit into this model.The Soviet Union initially tried to run a command economy but faced with the collapse of the country introduced the New Economic Policy in the 20's. This meant in practice private ownership of land but the state ownership of industrial enterprise. The state at this time could if anything be described as reasonably fragmented. It was not dissimilar to the old Czarist regime, which as an autocracy had controlled the development of secondary industry to provide armaments. In the late 20's the Soviet Union did a complete U-turn on this policy and decided to Nationalize all land and to set up collective farms. The reason for this policy was so that the state could export the agricultural surplus and use the income to industrialize. This policy meant a huge decrease in the standard of living of farm workers. Such a policy was met with fierce resistance. The resistance led to repression and the deaths of millions of farm workers especially in the Ukraine. It was at this point that the Soviet Union became a strong centralized authoritarian state. Prior to that it had been an authoritarian state but not a strong and centralized one. In addition to building up a strong base of secondary industry the state also built up a large modern army.The development of central structures meant that during the Second World War, even despite the loss of huge amounts of territory the Soviet Union was able to out produce the Axis countries in war production.Germany unlike the Soviet Union was a wealthy country with a large industrial sector. After the First World War its constitution was that of a Federal Republic. Following the passing of power to the Nazi Party something which was accepted by the traditional elite's of the country there was little marked change to the country. An authoritarian political structure was set up and dissidents imprisoned but power was decentralized into a number of Gaules. Nothing at all happened to the industrial structure of the country. Prior to the war the only real economic policy was some government spending on roads which led to the achievement of full employment. In the late 30's the country engaged on a limited armaments program which was similar to that of Great Britain.One of the problems faced by Nazi Germany was its inability to harness its own economy and also that of its allies to the war effort. Thus in 1941 German industry was only working 9 to 5. Private motor vehicles and Refrigerators were still being produced. The output of aircraft was so low that Germany's total of 3,000 aircraft in service was never exceeded despite the fact that both the United States and the Soviet Union had by 1944 20,000 aircraft available for service in Europe. In Germany, there were simply no strong central organs except those of state repression.The book is highly artificial in the way that it tries to fit complex reality into simple schema. Give it a miss.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wars make peacetime government biggerVon Ein KundePorter's work is remarkable in both content and readability. It is an upbeat reply to those who bemoan the general irrelevancy of the Beltway players during these times of peace and prosperity. Furthermore, it clearly documents how much the federal government undergoes growth spurts both during and immediately following the nation's wars. (Clinton himself [as unbelievably egotistical and scary as this may seem] has been quoted lamenting the fact that he is not a wartime President.) This is a book that ought to be read by every public policy wonk who values truth in the slightest... and it's one to be enjoyed by almost anyone who has an interest in America's past and future.

KurzbeschreibungStates make war, but war also makes states.As Publishers Weekly notes, Porter, a political scientist at Brigham Young University, demonstrates that wars have been catalysts for increasing the size and power of Western governments since the Renaissance. The state's monopoly of effective violence has diminished not only individual rights and liberties, but also the ability of local communities and private associates to challenge the centralization of authority. Porter's originality lies in his thesis that war, breaking down barriers of class, gender, ethnicity, and ideology, also contributes to meritocracy, mobility, and, above all, democratization. Porter also posits the emergence of the Scientific Warfare State, a political system in which advanced technology would render obsolete mass participation in war. This provocative study merits wide circulation and serious discussion.From Publishers WeeklyPorter, a political scientist at Brigham Young University, demonstrates that wars have been catalysts for increasing the size and power of Western governments since the Renaissance. The state's monopoly of effective

violence has diminished not only individual rights and liberties, but also the ability of local communities and private associates to challenge the centralization of authority. Porter's originality lies in his thesis that war, breaking down barriers of class, gender, ethnicity and ideology, also contributes to meritocracy, mobility, and, above all, democratization. Porter also posits the emergence of the "Scientific Warfare State," a political system in which advanced technology would render obsolete mass participation in war. This provocative study merits wide circulation and serious discussion. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sBy Porter (Political Science/Brigham Young/Harvard), an important assessment of the critical role played by war in expanding and defining the modern state. Drawing on five hundred years, mainly of European history, Porter argues that, far from being the transient phenomenon that liberals or progressives believe, or the dialectical engine of progress imagined by Marxists, war is above all "a powerful catalyst of change," the consequences of which can be both reforming and ruinous. Concerning himself "not with what causes war, but with what war causes," the author sees it as the main force behind the territorial consolidation of Europe from perhaps a thousand political entities in the 14th century to 25 by 1900; and as the single greatest force for bureaucratizing and government growth: "wherever the gun went, the filing cabinet followed." The Napoleonic Wars swept away feudal structures through much of Europe; the Russian Revolution followed the huge losses suffered by the Russian armies; and the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century have used the glorification of war in their "prostration of all politics to the good of the state." One of Porter's most persuasive revisions of current orthodoxy is his argument that the welfare state in the US was constructed between 1939 and 1945 rather than during the Depression. The substructure was built during and following WW I, when the principle of the state's responsibility for the welfare of its citizens became widely accepted, but was "essentially finished in its full bureaucratic and fiscal form" by 1949. Even after peace had come, the budget was almost five times larger than in 1938, the peak spending year of the Depression. Well written, thoughtful and provocative. Porter has made a strong case with persuasiveness and historical sweep. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.