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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Contents

List of figures viii
List of tables ix
List of contributors xi
Acknowledgements xvi

Introduction 1
Alice Teichova and Herbert Matis

PART I

1 Political structures and grand strategies for the growth of the British economy, 1688–1815
Patrick K. O’Brien 11

2 Economic factors and the building of the French nation-state
François Crouzet 34

3 Nation building in Germany: the economic dimension
Gerd Hardach 56

4 The harmony liberal era, 1845–1880: the case of Norway and Sweden
Göran B. Nilsson 80

5 Nationalism in the epoch of organised capitalism – Norway and Sweden choosing different paths
Francis Sejersted 96

6 Economic development and the problems of national state formation: the case of Spain
Clara Eugenia Núñez and Gabriel Tortella 113
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part II</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The state and economic development in Central and Eastern Europe&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;David F. Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Concepts of economic integration in Austria during the twentieth century&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Ernst Bruckmüller and Roman Sandgruber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The economy and the rise and fall of a small multinational state: Czechoslovakia, 1918–1992&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Václav Průcha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>National and non-national dimensions of economic development in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russia&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Peter Gatrell and Boris Anan’ich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part III</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nation without a state and state without a nation: the case of Africa south of the Sahara&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The economic foundation of the nation-state in Senegal&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Ibrahima Thioub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>From the Jewish national home to the state of Israel: some economic aspects of nation and state building&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Jacob Metzer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part IV</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Economic change and the formation of states and nations in South Asia, 1919–1947: India and Pakistan&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;B.R. Tomlinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>State transformation, reforms and economic performance in China, 1840–1910&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Kent G. Deng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Japan’s unstable course during its remarkable economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hidemasa Morikawa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART V</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The state and economic growth in Latin America: Brazil and Mexico, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Carlos Marichal and Steven Topik</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Building the Brazilian nation-state: from colony to globalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Domingos A. Giroletti</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The role of nationhood in the economic development of the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Gavin Wright</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Economic policy and Australian state building: from labourist-protectionism to globalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Christopher Lloyd</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figures

16.1 Rise in China’s tea and silk exports, 1825–88  
16.2 Railways and modern industries in China, c. 1906  
16.3 Expanding railways and modern industries  
in China, c. 1937  
16.4 Distribution of total income from customs duties  
in China, 1861–1910  
16.5 Changes in China’s terms of trade, 1867–94
Tables

3.1 Germany, 1871–2000  page 74
7.1 GDP per capita in Europe and Latin America, 1870–1989 138
7.2 Long-term economic growth in Latin America and in four regions of Europe, 1870–1989 139
7.3 Levels of GDP per capita and the severity of shocks in four regions of Europe and in Latin America, 1870–1989 141
7.4 Long-term economic growth in Europe and Latin America, 1870–1989 143
9.1 Nationality and social structure of the population of Czechoslovakia, 1930 183
9.2 Occupational distribution of the nationalities of Czechoslovakia, 1930 184
9.3 The level of Slovakia correlated with the Czech Lands, 1948–89 192
9.4 Occupational distribution of the Czech and Slovak workforce in the principal sectors and its dynamic, 1948–89 193
10.1 Fixed investment and depreciation, Yugoslavia/FRY, 1987–97 207
10.2 Dohodak (net output) and payroll value for industry and agriculture, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 1990–7 209
10.3 Structure of peasant production and consumption, Serbia, 1986–98 212
16.1 Shares of import and export tonnages in China, 1873–1910 311
16.2 Investment shares in Chinese railways, 1888–1946 311
16.3 Foreign control over Chinese railways, c. 1918 311
16.4 Chinese government foreign debts, 1861–98 312
16.5 Old Chinese tax structure (in silver liang), 1652–1766 313
16.6 New Chinese tax structure (in silver liang), 1820–1910 314
x Tables

16.7 Percentage shares of Chinese customs duties by province, 1861–1910 318
16.8 Chinese trade performance (in 10⁶ silver yuan), 1871–1911 319
16.9 Distribution of Chinese industrial workers in regions and sectors 321
16.10 Duties at Shanghai customs, 1861–1910 322
16.11 Employment pattern in the modern sector, foreign vs Chinese investment 325
17.1 Year-end values of equities and real estate in Japan, 1985–9 340
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xv

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