

The Many Hands of the State

The state is central to social scientific and historical inquiry today, reflecting its importance in domestic and international affairs. States kill, coerce, fight, torture, and incarcerate, yet they also nurture, protect, educate, redistribute, and invest. It is precisely because of the complexity and wide-ranging impacts of states that research on them has proliferated and diversified. Yet, too many scholars inhabit separate academic silos, and theorizing of states has become dispersed and disjointed. This book aims to bridge some of the many gaps between scholarly endeavors, bringing together scholars who study states and empires from a diverse array of disciplines and perspectives. The book offers not only a sample of cutting-edge research that can serve as models and directions for future work, but an original conceptualization and theorization of states, their origins and evolution, and their effects.

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The Many Hands of the State

Theorizing Political Authority and Social Control

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CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316501139

10.1017/9781316471586

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First published 2017

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Morgan, Kimberly J., 1970– editor. | Orloff, Ann Shola, editor.

TITLE: The many hands of the state: theorizing political authority and social control / edited by Kimberly Morgan, George Washington University; Ann Shola Orloff,

Northwestern University.

DESCRIPTION: New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2016023227 | ISBN 9781107135291 (hardback) | ISBN 9781316501139 (paperback)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: State, The–Case studies. | State, The–Philosophy. | Authority–Case studies. | Authority–Philosophy. | Social control–Case studies. | Social control–Philosophy. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / General.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC JC131 .M333 2016 | DDC 320.1–dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016023227

ISBN 978-1-107-13529-1 Hardback ISBN 978-1-316-50113-9 Paperback

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Contents

List of Contributors Acknowledgments Introduction: The Many Hands of the State Kimberly J. Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff PART I LOCATING THE STATE: THE PROBLEM OF BOUNDARIES Reconciling Equal Treatment with Respect for Individuality: Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010 Ann Shola Orloff	Lis	t of Figures	page vii
Introduction: The Many Hands of the State Kimberly J. Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff PART I LOCATING THE STATE: THE PROBLEM OF BOUNDARIES Reconciling Equal Treatment with Respect for Individuality: Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	Lis	t of Tables	ix
Introduction: The Many Hands of the State Kimberly J. Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff PART I LOCATING THE STATE: THE PROBLEM OF BOUNDARIES Reconciling Equal Treatment with Respect for Individuality: Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	Lis	t of Contributors	xi
PART I LOCATING THE STATE: THE PROBLEM OF BOUNDARIES Reconciling Equal Treatment with Respect for Individuality: Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	Ack	knowledgments	xiii
THE PROBLEM OF BOUNDARIES Reconciling Equal Treatment with Respect for Individuality: Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010			I
Associations in the Symbiotic State Elisabeth S. Clemens Beyond the Hidden American State: Classification Struggles and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010			
and the Politics of Recognition Damon Mayrl and Sarah Quinn States as a Series of People Exchanges Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	Ι	Associations in the Symbiotic State	35
Armando Lara-Millán State Metrology: The Rating of Sovereigns and the Judgment of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	2	and the Politics of Recognition	58
of Nations Marion Fourcade PART II STRATIFICATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	3	<u>.</u>	81
TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policies in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	4	of Nations	103
	5	TRANSFORMATION OF STATES Gendered States Made and Remade: Gendered Labor Policie in the United States and Sweden, 1960–2010	s 131

v



vi Contents

6	States and Gender Justice Mala Htun and S. Laurel Weldon	158
7	The Civil Rights State: How the American State Develops Itself Desmond King and Robert C. Lieberman	178
8	Disaggregating the Racial State: Activists, Diplomats, and the Partial Shift toward Racial Equality in Brazil <i>Tianna S. Paschel</i>	203
	PART III DEVELOPING THE SINEWS OF POWER	
9	Democratic States of Unexception: Toward a New Genealogy of the American Political William J. Novak, Stephen W. Sawyer, and James T. Sparrow	229
10	Performing Order: An Examination of the Seemingly Impossible Task of Subjugating Large Numbers of People, Everywhere, All the Time	258
	Christian Davenport	,
II	Fiscal Forearms: Taxation as the Lifeblood of the Modern Liberal State Ajay K. Mebrotra	284
12	The State and the Revolution in War Meyer Kestnbaum	306
	PART IV STATES AND EMPIRES: THE TRANSNATIONAL/GLOBAL TURN	
13	Imperial States in the Age of Discovery Julia Adams and Steve Pincus	333
14	Making Legibility between Colony and Empire: Translation, Conflation, and the Making of the Muslim State <i>Iza Hussin</i>	349
15	The Octopus and the <i>Hekatonkheire</i> : On Many-Armed States and Tentacular Empires <i>George Steinmetz</i>	369
Ind	lex	395



Figures

4.1a	Total number and percentage of nations rated by	
	Moody's, 1918–1948	page 109
4.1b	Percentage of nations with sovereign ratings by agency,	
	1975-2013	109
4.2a	Standard and Poor's sovereign ratings methodology	112
4.2b	Moody's sovereign ratings methodology	112
6.1	Family law index, 2005	166
6.2	VAW index, 1995	170
6.3	VAW index, 2005	171
10.1	Basic states versus challengers (SvC)	265
10.2	Zones of contestation in SvC	266
10.3	States versus challengers as grid	266
10.4	States versus challengers and the Hobbesian balance	268
10.5	States versus challengers and the Rashomon effect	269
10.6	States versus challengers and state control	272
15.1	Oxford University Colonial Services Club, June 1939	383
15.2	Oxford University Colonial Services Club, 1949 (close up	383



Tables

6.1 Typology of policies to promote gender justice/equality page 164



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xii

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Acknowledgments

This project originated in a series of panels that we organized at the Social Science History Association's annual meeting over the course of several years. We are extremely grateful for the continued vibrancy of this interdisciplinary association and its annual conference and for the intellectual engagement of our authors at each meeting. We also want to express our deep gratitude to the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago – convened by the "State as History and Theory" project led by Elisabeth Clemens, Bernard Harcourt, and James T. Sparrow – for sponsoring a very fruitful meeting of our group in May 2014. On the introduction, we benefited a great deal from the ongoing conversation with our volume contributors as well as the comments and suggestions made by Tom Chevalier, Marion Fourcade, Henry Hale, Patrick Le Galès, Damon Mayrl, Julia Adams, Talia Shiff, Kathleen Thelen, seminar participants at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, students in the graduate seminar on "Many Hands of the State" at Northwestern, and two anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press. We also thank Alexander Reisenbichler, Elizabeth Onasch, and Jane Pryma for their very helpful research assistance. Finally, we thank Robert Dreesen at Cambridge University Press for so ably shepherding us through the publication process and supporting our project.