



John Dryzek and Patrick Dunleavy,
Theories of the Democratic State
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We live in a world governed by states. The whole of the Earth's livable surface and all of the world's people are parcelled up between states. States' performance (or failure) and their relationships with each other are still the key motors of global history. Backed by their state's capacity to raise taxes and finance debts, governments remain the fundamental guarantors of markets, economic life and financial system stability in every nation.

Yet the very nature of states remains deeply contested, between different and competing theories of how they actually do or should operate. In the past this competition has led to deep ideological conflicts – and even to war. In this major new work, John Dryzek and Patrick Dunleavy expound and reassess contemporary theories of the state, focusing primarily on the democratic state form that has come to dominate modern politics worldwide.

Four classical theories of the state - pluralism, elite theory, Marxism and market liberalism – provide the foundations for the analysis. The authors then focus on the contemporary forms of pluralism that dominate core political science, showing how they address critical contemporary issues, such as networked governance, globalization, and the changing patterns of electoral and identity politics. Next they analyse a range of powerful critiques of modern states and liberal democracy that have emerged from feminism, environmentalism, neo-conservatism and post-modernism. Each approach is carefully introduced and accessibly and vividly analysed in relation to a common set of issues and headings.

Theories of the Democratic State takes readers straight to the heart of contemporary issues and debates. In the process, it provides a challenging, distinctive and wide-ranging introduction to and reassessment of contemporary political science.

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Patrick Dunleavy is Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science and was founding director of its MPA Programme. He is an academician of the UK's Academy of the Social Sciences and his recent books are *Digital Era Governance* and *Developments in British Politics 8*. A strong exponent of the view that political science can (sometimes) make things better, he helped devise the voting systems used in the London Mayoral and Assembly elections since 2000.

