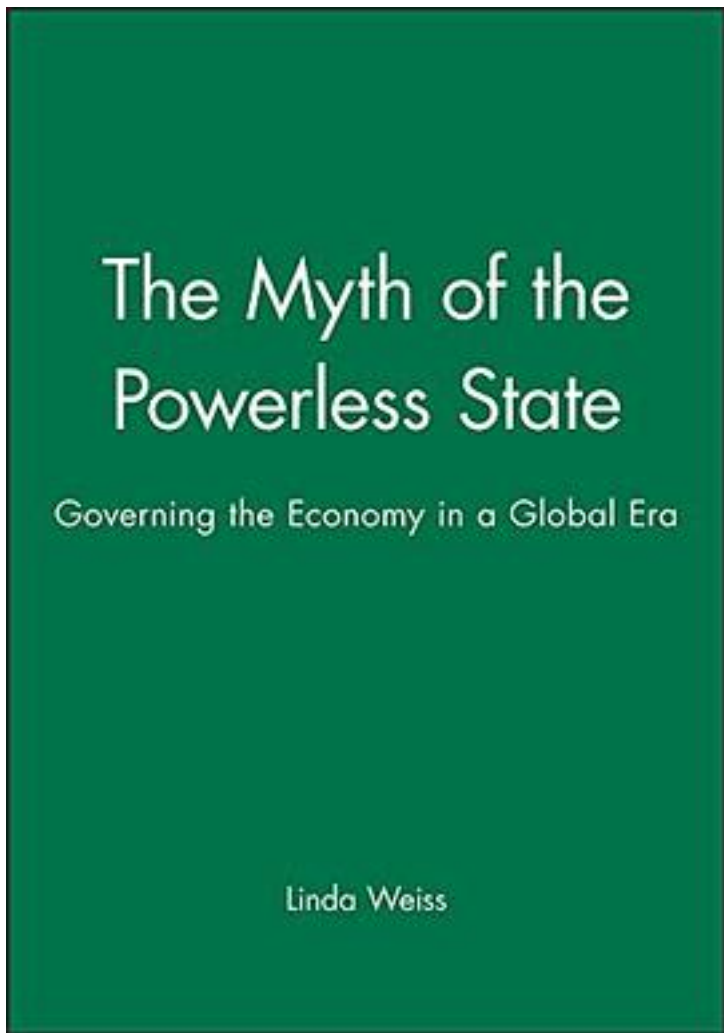


The Myth of the Powerless State



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出版者:Cornell University Press

出版时间:1998-4-16

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780801485435

Conventional wisdom argues that the integration of the world economy is making

national governments less powerful, but Linda Weiss disagrees. In an era when global society and the transnational market are trendy concepts, she suggests that state capacities for domestic transformative strategies provide a competitive advantage. Some of the most successful economies rely on state-informed and state-embedded institutions for governing the economy. In fact, she contends, the strength of external economic pressures is largely determined domestically, and the effect of such pressures varies with the strength of domestic institutions.

Weiss analyzes the sources and varieties of state capacity for governing industrial transformation in contemporary cases: the unraveling of Sweden's distributive model of adjustment, the evolution of developmental states in Northeast Asia, and the parallel strengths of the German and Japanese systems of industrial coordination. Her comparative perspective allows her to show how different types of state capacity affect industrial vitality and domestic adjustment to global forces. As economic integration proceeds, she concludes, state capabilities will matter more rather than less in fostering social well-being and the creation of wealth.

作者介绍:

Linda M. Weiss is an Australian professor of political science at the University of Sydney (USYD), specialising in the international and comparative politics of economic development.

Weiss is best known for questioning the converging effect associated with globalisation by pointing to the mediating role played by domestic nation-state institutions and capabilities and arguing that the effect non-state powers have upon a government can be enabling as well as constraining. Furthermore, within this argument, rather than a movement towards a neoliberal model, Weiss sees the emergence of what she calls 'governed interdependence'. This theory is forwarded in 'The Myth of the Powerless State' (1998) and submitted to empirical testing in 'States in the Global Economy' (2003).

Weiss' work is directly influenced by Michael Mann whom she worked under during her formative years.

Of additional note, 'How to Kill a Country' (2004), authored with Thurbon and Mathews, was the first sustained critical analysis of the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement signed and ratified by both countries' governments in 2004. The authors regard the Agreement as a sub-optimal deal for Australia and in later work put forward the argument that the Australian government misread their special relationship with the US and proceeded with the Agreement for public relations reasons, particularly with regard to the issue of Australia-US relations during the 2004 Australian federal election.

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评论

对发展型国家和国家能力理论产生疲劳后，本书是较好的批评和反思。强调国家能力有多种来源和定义，非一定要以控制社会、管制经济、暴力垄断和改变社会行为体意志来体现；全球化更强调通过国家进行和区域化的趋势。嵌入社会网络的同时吸收专业人才进国家系统、参与社会协商、制度化同大企业集团等重要行动者的合作、采取相对灵活的发展和创新战略等都是国家能力体现，被归结为国家管治下的相互依赖；缺陷是较少论述国家此时如何维持中心地位—似乎同各国历史上现代化模式有关。最倾心日本产业省之专业操守、制度化同财团协商，面向全球市场的经济促进国家和产业共同升级；德国虽有一定协商和创新政策，但碍于历史和意识形态因素主要依靠传统工团，未如日本般自如；瑞典强国家保障社会福利和工人利益而忽视同工业主联系，未能及时调整迎接全球经济冲击。

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