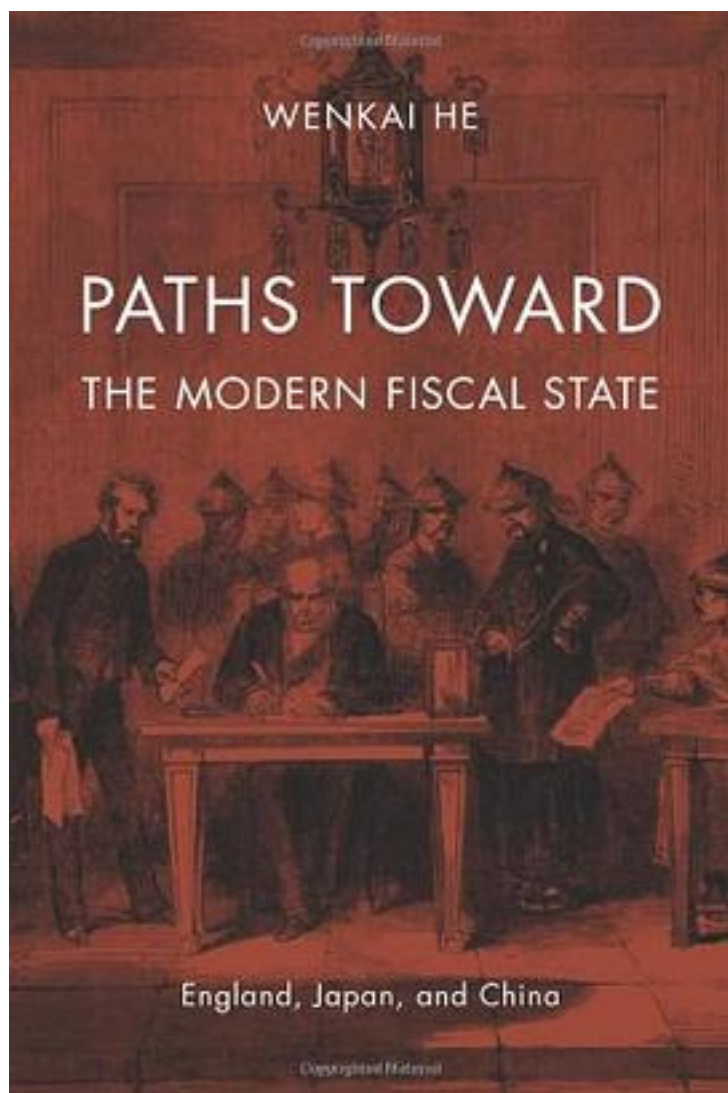


# Paths toward the Modern Fiscal State



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著者:Wenkai He

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The rise of modern public finance revolutionized political economy. As governments learned to invest tax revenue in the long-term financial resources of the market, they vastly increased their administrative power and gained the ability to use fiscal, monetary, and financial policy to manage their economies. But why did the modern fiscal state emerge in some places and not in others? In approaching this question, Wenkai He compares the paths of three different nations--England, Japan, and China--to discover why some governments developed the tools and institutions of modern public finance, while others, facing similar circumstances, failed to do so. Focusing on three key periods of institutional development--the decades after the English Civil Wars, the Meiji Restoration, and the Taiping Rebellion--He demonstrates how each event precipitated a collapse of the existing institutions of public finance. Facing urgent calls for revenue, each government searched for new ways to make up the shortfall. These experiments took varied forms, from new methods of taxation to new credit arrangements. Yet, while England and Japan learned from their successes and failures how to deploy the tools of modern public finance and equipped themselves to become world powers, China did not. He's comparative historical analysis isolates the nature of the credit crisis confronting each state as the crucial factor in determining its specific trajectory. This perceptive and persuasive explanation for China's failure at a critical moment in its history illuminates one of the most important but least understood transformations of the modern world.

## 作者介绍:

Wenkai He (Ph.D., MIT, 2007), is assistant professor of Social Science. Before joining the Division of Social Science of HKUST, he was An Wang postdoctoral fellow at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. His research interests include comparative historical analysis in social science, political economy of state formation, and the political and economic history of China. His manuscript, *The Paths toward the Modern Fiscal State: Early Modern England, Meiji Japan, and Qing China*, has been accepted by the Harvard University Press for publication. His current research project, funded by Hong Kong's Research Grants Council (RGC), is a comparative study about legitimation of state power through social policies such as plague prevention, famine relief and river works in early modern England and 18-19th century Japan and China.

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## 标签

政治经济学

政治学

经济史

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比较研究

比较政治经济学

历史

比较政治

## 评论

大牛Suzanne Berger的学生，材料很丰富，解释力一般。有个历史学的大牛联席指导效果可能会更好点

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扎实的作品，但是因果解释不强，没有太多impressive的点。

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整理读书主页，看到这本2013年11月10日标记"想读"的书。书自然没有读过，不会也不需要再读了。标记一下"已读"，不算评价，只是为一个已经忘记的故事画最后一个句号。那个故事给我最大的启示是，知识，只是让人成为有知识的人，并不会让人成为更好的人，德行与操守并不伴随知识而来。

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Introduction, 1, 5, 6, Conclusion

想到和文凱先生的政治學背景，其分析中許多“不歷史”的地方都可以理解，因此也更能讀好這本書。—2013年12月4日；中國太大，其“fiscal state”或許應該着眼於省而非中央政府（criticism from BW） - 2015年10月中

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只看了introduction和conclusion 问题建构得很不错

但我没有get到所谓既非基于structure又非基于agent的path/event-centered historical account的意义 所以个人觉得作者在这本书里并没有很好地回答他试图解答的问题

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Well written, a good exemple of path dependence & comparative historical analysis

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了解一下其他学科是怎么做causal inference的

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This book employs a new explanatory approach replacing simplified causal analyze with a causal mechanism to show the complicated paths toward a modern fiscal state.

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Detailed and insightful

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## 书评

《读书》2018年3期 香港科技大學(科大)

社會科學部和文凱副教授獲美國社會學協會頒發Barrington

Moore比較歷史社會學組別最佳圖書獎，為本年度兩位得獎者之一。和教授乃首位美國以外的大學教授奪得此殊榮。和教授的著作《通向現代財政國家的路徑》(Paths

Toward the Modern Fi...

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和文凯，麻省理工学院政治学系博士，现为香港科技大学社会科学部副教授。2007-2008年为哈佛大学费正清中心王安博士后，2015-2016年为哈佛大学Radcliffe高等学术研究院暨哈佛燕京学社访问学人。曾在日本东京大学、早稻田大学，英国华威大学，及美国加州理工学院社会科学部做访...

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<http://www.asanet.org/sectionchs/> ASA的网站上看到的评语是： Wenkai He's book does a wonderful job of moving us beyond the argument that taxation (especially centralized taxation) can only occur in war-time. The care with which he chose these 3 cases (Engla...

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