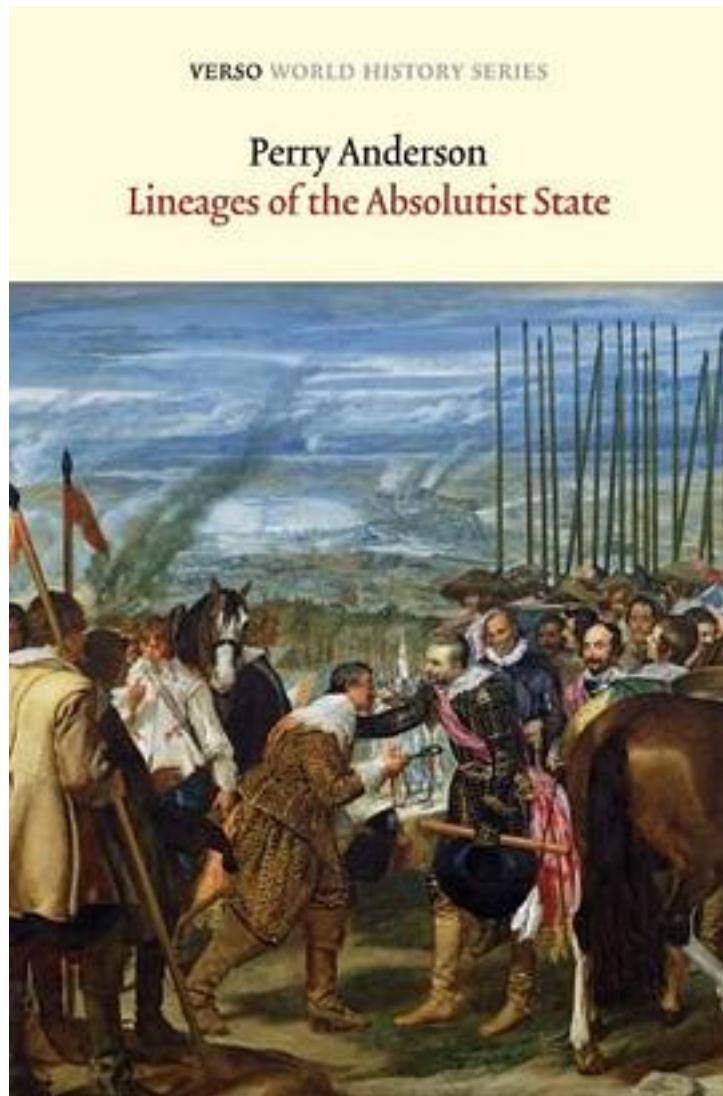


Lineages of the Absolutist State



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The political nature of Absolutism has long been a subject of controversy within historical materialism. Developing considerations advanced in *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*, this book situates the Absolutist states of the early modern epoch against the prior background of European feudalism. It is divided into two parts. The first discusses the overall structures of Absolutism as a state-system in Western Europe, from the Renaissance onwards; and the difficult question of the relations between monarchy and nobility institutionalised by it, for which it suggests a general periodization. It then looks in turn at the trajectory of each of the specific Absolutist states in the dominant countries of the West - Spain, France, England and Sweden, set off against the case of Italy, where no major indigenous Absolutism developed. The second part of the work sketches a comparative prospect of Absolutism in Eastern Europe. It begins with an enquiry into the reasons why the divergent social conditions in the more backward half of the continent should have produced political forms apparently similar to those of the more advanced West. The peculiarities, as well as affinities, of Eastern Absolutism as a distinct type of royal state, are examined. The variegated monarchies of Prussia, Austria and Russia are surveyed, and the lessons asked of the counter-example of Poland. Finally, the structure of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans is taken as an external gauge by which the singularity of Absolutism as a European phenomenon is assessed. The work ends with some observations on the special position occupied by European development within universal history, which draws themes from both *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism* and *Lineages of the Absolutist State* together into a single argument -- within their common limits -- as materials for debate. Two postscript notes treat, respectively, the notion of the 'Asiatic mode of production,' with particular reference to Islamic and Chinese history, and the experience of Japanese feudalism, as relevant controls for a study of the evolution of Europe up to the advent of industrial capitalism.

作者介绍:

Perry R. Anderson (b. September 1938, London) is a British historian and political essayist. A specialist in intellectual history, he is often identified with the post-1956 Western Marxism of the New Left. He is Professor of History and Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a former editor of the *New Left Review*. He is the brother of anthropologist and historian Benedict Anderson.

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标签

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politics

评论

对持历史线性进步观、极端重视生产方式和统治阶级性质的马克思主义史学家来说，中世纪晚期到17-19世纪资产阶级革命兴起前是个很古怪的时期：农业商业化、手工业和贸易兴盛，生产方式持续资本主义化；政治却呈现地方自治和地主贵族被削弱，君主专制极端加强的面貌。本书试图从正统马克思理论出发解决这一矛盾，认为这时期的皇权极端加强以致成为绝对主义模式，是君主和大地主阶级重构统治机器的努力，面对国家竞争压力，把原先分散在各级地主和贵族手中的权力集中在绝对皇权手中，通过官僚层级统治和直接税收打破教会和地主贵族分享统治权；资本主义工商业的发展难以归结于绝对皇权，而应归功于欧洲契约习惯法和地方自治基础。对东西欧绝对主义作冗长考察和总结。可以说是观念先行的作品。文末对东方亚洲专制模式讨论追踪马克思原文打破僵硬东方观。

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书评

在安德森的分析中，绝对主义本质上是个矛盾体，作为一种国家形态，它是旧的，因为捍卫的依旧是贵族的利益，但又是新的，因为与封建制不同，绝对主义瓦解了社会层面的经济政治共同体，而在更高的层面上，即国家层面上实现了权力的集中。通过这种重新部署，充实了国家的力量，拓...

关于水利社会与集权国家的讨论，集成于魏特夫（Karl August Wittfogel，1896-1988）的《东方专制主义》（Oriental Despotism: a Comparative Study of Total Power, Yale University Press, 1957），而究其思想渊源，甚至可以追溯到亚里士多德和希罗多德等古希腊作家对埃及、波...

佩里·安德森是知名的英国马克思主义学者，他两本历史社会学专著《从古代到封建主义的过渡》和《绝对主义国家的系谱》是研究欧洲从古典时代到绝对主义时代的变迁。安德森在书中提出的转型方式不同于我们传统教科书的一点是在“封建主义-资本主义”中间插入了一段被称之为“...

不同于君主专制，我非常喜欢“绝对主义”国家这个翻译term。形式上优于传统君主制的专制体制在普遍意义上对于一个国家的初建极其有利，可是可怕的事情是：当一个统治者或者一个政党已经习惯于被崇拜和被忠于执行的时候，他们会忘记掉向“现代”前行这件事情。