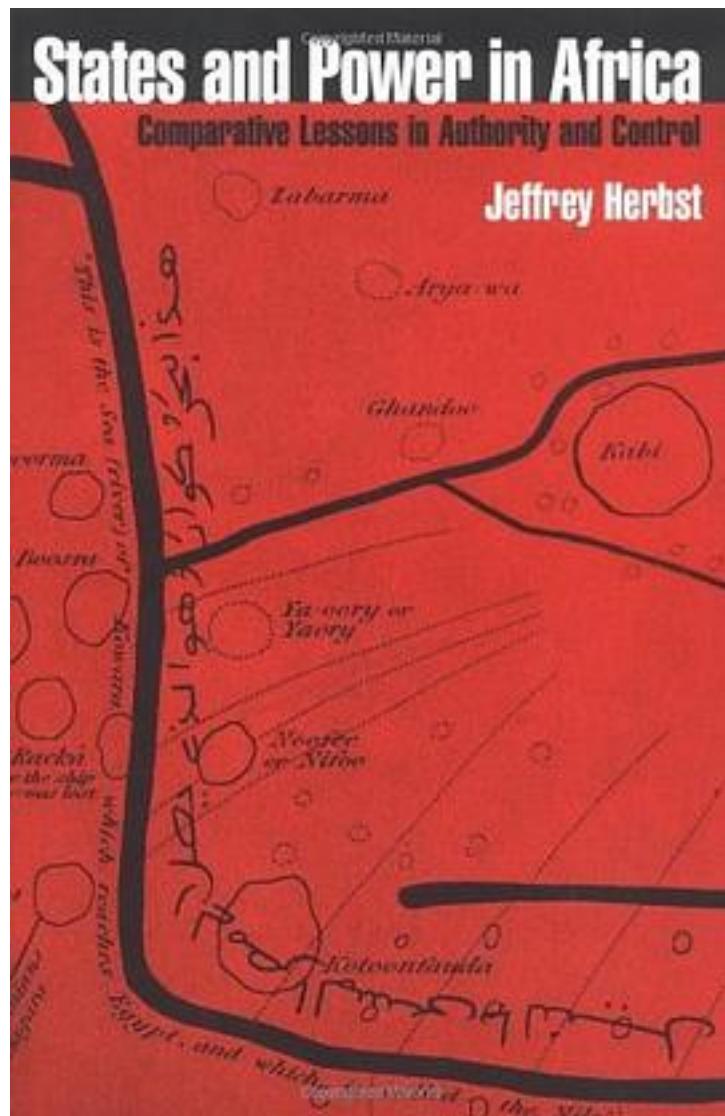


# States and Power in Africa



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著者:Jeffrey Herbst

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Theories of international relations, assumed to be universally applicable, have failed to explain the creation of states in Africa. There, the interaction of power and space is dramatically different from what occurred in Europe. In his ground-breaking book, Jeffrey Herbst places the African state-building process in a truly comparative perspective, examining the problem of state consolidation from the precolonial period, through the short but intense interlude of European colonialism, to the modern era of independent states. Herbst's bold contention - that the conditions now facing African state-builders existed long before European penetration of the continent - is sure to provoke controversy, for it runs counter to the prevailing assumption that colonialism changed everything. In identifying how the African state-building process differs from the European experience, Herbst addresses the fundamental problem confronting African leaders: how to extend authority over sparsely settled lands. Indeed, efforts to exert control over vast, inhospitable territories of low population density and varied environmental and geographical zones have resulted in devastating wars, millions of refugees, and dysfunctional governments perpetrating destructive policies. Detailing the precise political calculations of distinct African leaders, Herbst isolates the basic dynamics of African state development. In analyzing how these leaders have attempted to consolidate power, he is able to evaluate a variety of policy alternatives for dealing with the fundamental political challenges facing African states today.

作者介绍:

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标签

政治学

比较政治

非洲

国家建设

政治

非洲研究

politics

OperationUranus

## 评论

大胆魄力与聪明想法兼具，“西方中心”历史机制极简化却又极关注同样动力在异世界的展开，结合版图地理、公路网与人口分布分析权力投射一章堪称技巧典范，吐槽国关自恋死守国际体系拒绝比较政治深得某心。从欧陆模型抽取三大国家形成动力（权力投射成本、边界稳固度、国际体系状况）反照非洲状况：多样地理状况与高度地理区隔造成人口分散，历史上部落中心区与边缘，现代首都与都会区、城乡区隔严重，少数有幸人口相对从中心向边缘递减国家有更好权力投射条件；史上边界模糊不定，欧洲殖民者自沿海向内地扩张并引入边界体系后稳定边界成为后殖民国家维持管治树立国家身份利器，但过分稳定边界既冲击族群纽带和国家与部落关系，又加强抱残守缺，树立国民身份努力并未同步。国际体系与独立进程同步，相对和平减少冲突，却减少战争倒逼国家机器强化之效能。

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Herbst还真的是敢说啊……虽然老美也不关心非洲到底咋样，真要人家/或者人家真要改国界，估计也不会有什么第三方说不行，但是有了既定国界，之后怎么分，谁多谁少？谁愿意就这么割一块地出来？除非再有人给他们拎一张地图画好国界。你让它们自己分？结果还不是无休止的打打打。

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第8-9章的启迪效果很好。

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state building

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校长就是好呀~~行文流畅清晰易懂=3=

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WOW!! 敢想也敢说，同时论证逻辑如此严密，大佬就是大佬/ notes to be posted

## Chap1-3. precolonial and colonial periods

### PE Core

看了开头部分，感觉写得很好，对于理解非洲政治格局很有帮助。但是，缺乏对于非洲经济的介绍。按照作者的观点，加上我的理解，非洲现在应该处于适合发展主权城邦的历史阶段（如商业城邦威尼斯、热那亚或更早的雅典），而不是像欧洲那样的大而全的国家形态。

5 很不错的。

为数不多最后也不知道写了什么的政治学著作

2-4 多个主题的杂糅，创见颇多，强调African Exceptionalism

补评 2018Fall 评价蛮高怎会漏评 谢友邻提醒. One fundamental problem that African leaders constantly faced with is how to broadcast power over sparsely settled lands. post-colonial independence did not necessarily indicate a break from previous weak state; costs of expanding the domestic power infrastructure, nature of national boundaries, the design of state sys.

Nationalism可以再深入地讨论下 浅显易懂必须好评  
但感觉一直在以一个宏观、叙述人的角度讲  
没有深入到某个国家谈谈政府及人民切实的观点，行为及感受

practice of politics  
这门课目前为止读过最喜欢的一本，逻辑很清晰，最难能可贵的是对于民主没有浪漫过头的幻想，对非欧洲文化抱着努力去理解的意图。与同一周另一本读物，why

nations fail, 形成鲜明对比。  
后者戴着强烈西方视角滤镜，试图以政体不同占据一切国家间行为的永恒道德制高点，  
口吻极度elitist且以白人世界为中心，谈到韩国某位独裁者，以欣慰的口吻说，'the  
Harvard-Princeton educated... Syngman Rhee'，冲这一句都想给负分。

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书评

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