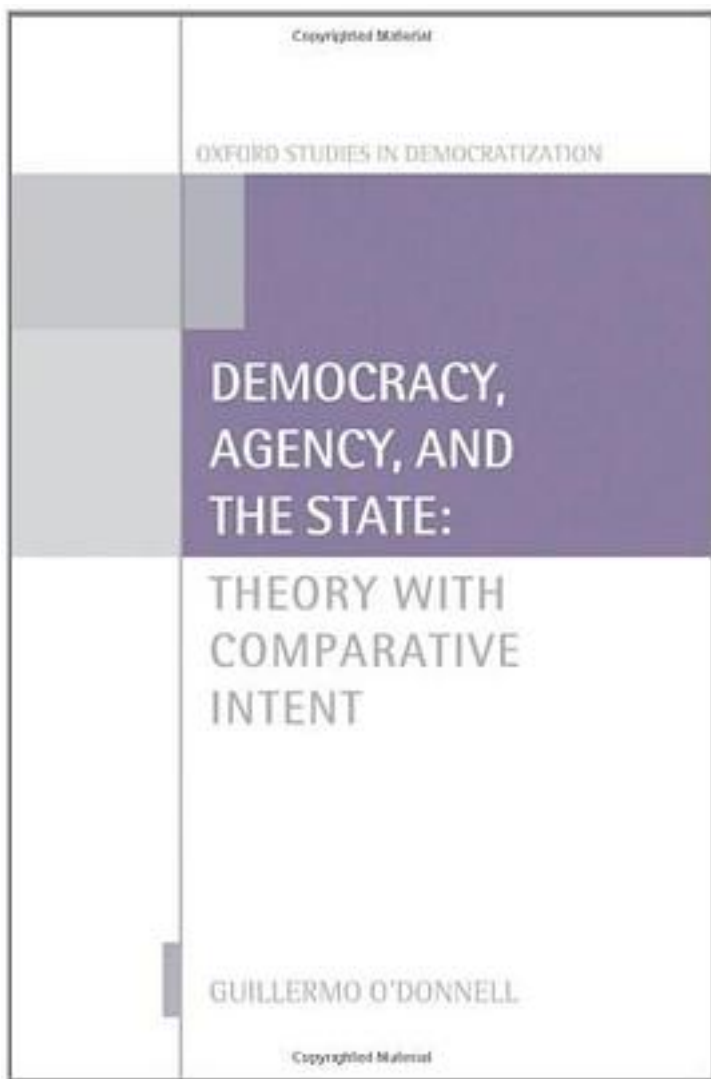


# Democracy, Agency, and the State



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Democracy, Agency, and the State aims to contribute to a comparatively informed theory of democracy. Professor O'Donnell begins by arguing that conceptions of 'the state' and 'democracy', and their respective defining features, significantly influence each other. Using an approach that is both historical and analytical, he traces this relationship through the idea of legally sanctioned and backed agency which grounds democratic citizenship. From this standpoint he explores several aspects of the democratic regime and of the state, distinguishing four constitutive dimensions (bureaucracy, legality, focus of collective identity, and filter). He goes on to examine the role played by the idea of 'the nation' or 'the people', and the ways in which the state represents itself to different sections of society, especially in countries marred by deep inequality and pervasive poverty.

Drawing on the examples of democratic and non-democratic regime, he discusses the dialogical spaces congenial to democracy, as well as examining the options that may or may not enable agency, and the complex comparative and ethical issues raised by the intersection of agency with globalization and legal pluralism. Throughout these discussions several comparative vistas are opened, especially but not exclusively toward Latin America. The book concludes by offering a justification of democracy, even of the flawed democracies that nowadays abound.

作者介绍:

Guillermo A. O'Donnell (1936–2011) was a prominent Argentine political scientist, who spent most of his career working in Argentina and the United States, and who made lasting contributions to theorizing on authoritarianism and democratization, democracy and the state, and the politics of Latin America.

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标签

政治学

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评论

奥唐奈最后一本单名著作。终究长于政治”科学“/分类学/比较学而拙于政治理论和伦理，文笔晦涩、说理兜兜转转的问题，在前作中已有体现，到这里更甚，像是一个老人絮絮叨叨的读书笔记。很奇怪地固守老的地缘视野，所谓的比较视角不如说是用”东面“（东欧与东亚）”南面“（南美）世界的例子去补足”西北“地带（西欧和北美）的视界，认为西北视角沉浸于自身历史，过分强调共同体的同质性，民族与国家的关系，国家作为暴力、选举和官僚机器的角色等，认为个人的主体性（agency）是民主理论中对基本主体的树立，也是赋权予国家的第一步，更是获取作为公民的个体认可并构建民族的基础。权利与权利行使则是主体性的具体体现。因为法律和法治是保障权利与主体性的手段，所以法律和法治必定是民主政体有机组成部分，法律法治和权力保障先于民主化。

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