



*Back cover:* The back of a Tyrian Schekel (126 BC – 66 AD) showing a Ptolomeic eagle, a symbol of imperial rule, with its right claw steering a ship's rudder, with the implied ship reputedly a symbol of the island city of Tyre.

*Front cover:* A secular ship of state as a decoration for the ruler's table, made by Hans Schlottheim, Augsburg, between 1580 and 1590. On the ship we see Rudolf II (1552-1612), the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, being honored by the seven electors. At the bottom of the mast the Hapsburg double eagle. (British Museum, London). The eagle reappears on the left, though now with a critical connotation, combined with symbols of national (US), international (UN) and European (EU) unity. The dragon is, in the Chinese imperial tradition, the functional equivalent of the eagle.

The state remains the most important political unit of the modern world. In the most recent phase of globalization the role and position of the state has changed, but after a short intermezzo in which nothing less than the 'end of the state' was frequently proclaimed, the social sciences have reached consensus about the ongoing centrality of states. This Handbook focuses on state transformations. Transformations are fundamental changes of the state. We take into consideration the entire period from the emergence of the nation-state in Europe to the present but we concentrate on state transformations over the past four decades. This Handbook presents the latest social science knowledge about the state and its transformations along

with issues for further research. Transformations of the state are considered for all regions of the world, for countries in economically advanced and less developed regions, for young states and those which can look back at a long tradition of state development, for democratic states and authoritarian regimes, for countries with (previously) socialist economic systems and the states where the idea of liberal market economies originated, for states with a colonial past and their erstwhile colonial masters. It is challenging and ambitious to examine such a wide range of states and their transformations, even in an extensive Handbook profiting from the participation of a large number of leading experts.

# THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE STATE (OHTS)

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Eds. Stephan Leibfried, Evelyne Huber, Matthew Lange,  
Jonah D. Levy, Frank Nullmeier & John D. Stephens

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