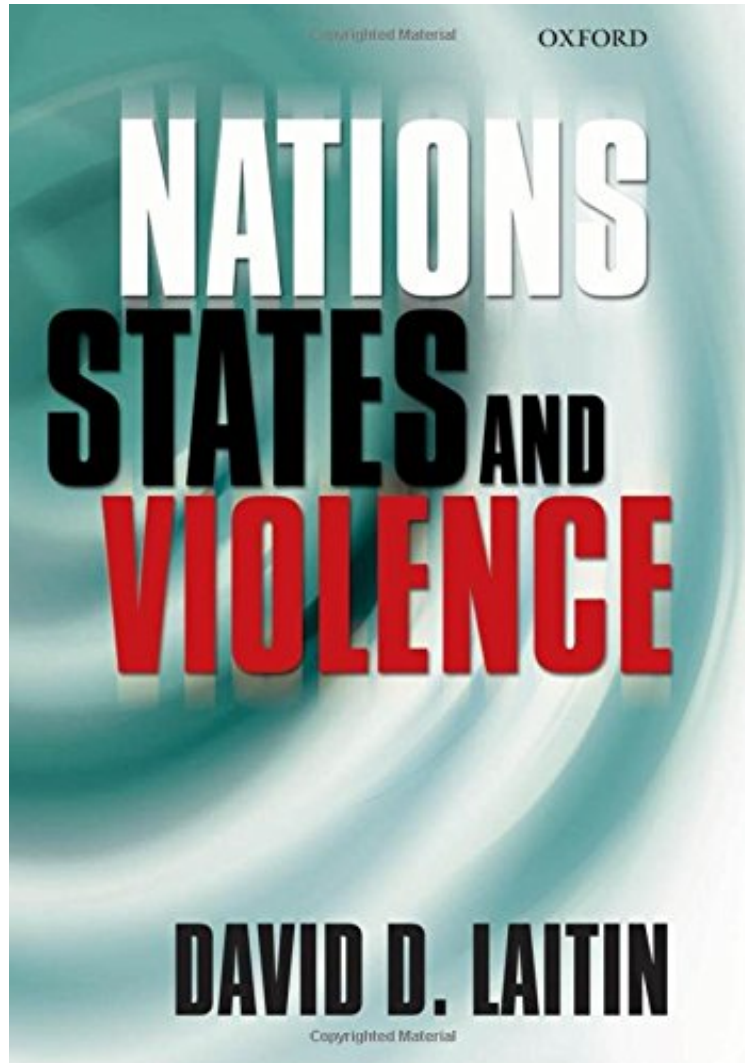


(Download ebook) Nations, States, and Violence

Nations, States, and Violence

David D. Laitin

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



#1282132 in Books 2007-09-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.30 x .80 x 8.00l, .71 #File Name:
019922823X168 pages | File size: 39.Mb

David D. Laitin : Nations, States, and Violence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nations, States, and Violence:

2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Rehash of tired ideasBy ivy grad studentThis book is a short condensation of Laitin's work over the past two decades (a focus on ethnic politics, civil wars) that is actually pretty useful as a primer for grad students who must know this stuff for exams, etc.However, Laitin's devotion to rational choice methodology and a metaphysical assumption of homo economicus driving identity politics yields procrustean arguments. His emphasis is on trying to falsify the much broader lit on ethnicity, nations and nationalism- but with little effect and no real point.Economists have moved on in the recognition of behavioral economics as a more useful

approach to understanding individual choices, but political scientists like Laitin have not yet gotten the memo.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Language?By ArnoldI read this book - as many students do - for its discussion of culture and language. Laitin views culture and cultural adaptation as a tipping point, where a critical mass of adherents is required to adopt a particular practice. Having said that, the book has been criticized for equating culture and the nation with language. Moreover, it's not clear his definition of culture goes far beyond what rational choice games would find, simply replacing culture with institutions. Overall, probably a classic in the field, but keep a critical mind while reading.

Nations, States, and Violence presents a revisionist view of the sources of nationalism, the relationship of the nation to culture, and the implications of nationalism and cultural heterogeneity for the future of the nation-state. It accepts the now-standard view that national identities are not inherited traits but constructed communities in order to serve political ends. But the resulting national identities do not emerge from some metaphorical plebiscite as had been suggested by some; rather they result from efforts by people to coordinate their identities with people who share at least some cultural traits with them. Coordination leads to powerful social and cultural ties that are hard to unravel, and this explains the persistence of national identities. Understood as the result of coordination dynamics, the implications of national homogeneity and heterogeneity are explored. The book shows that national heterogeneity is not, as it is sometimes accused of being, a source of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, there are advantages to homogeneity for the production of public goods and economic growth. Whatever the positive implications of homogeneity, the book shows that in the current world, classic nation-states are defunct. Heterogeneity is proliferating not only due to migration but also because small groups in many states once thought to be homogeneous are coordinating to demand national recognition. With the prohibitive costs of eliminating cultural heterogeneity, citizens and leaders need to learn how best to manage, or even take advantage of, national diversity within their countries. Management of diversity demands that we understand the coordination aspects of national heterogeneity, a perspective that this book provides. In addition to providing a powerful theory of coordination and cultural diversity, the book provides a host of engaging vignettes of Somalia, Spain, Estonia, and Nigeria, where the author has conducted original field research. The result is a book where theory is combined with interpretations of current issues on nationalism, economic growth, and ethnic violence.

"In this provocative little book, a Stanford political scientist presents an intriguing account of nationalism and its implications for conflict and cooperation."--Foreign Affairs"Since the late 1970s, David L. Laitin has published important work on political identity, language choice and change, and ethnonational conflict. Here he draws together themes from that work."--International History About the AuthorDavid D. Laitin was born in Brooklyn, New York. He received his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, working under the direction of Ernst Haas and Hanna Pitkin. As a student of comparative politics, he has conducted field research in Somalia, Yorubaland, Catalonia and Estonia . His books include Politics, Language and Thought: The Somali Experience, Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change Among the Yoruba, and Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad.