



The History of Government from the Earliest Times, Vol. 3: Empires, Monarchies, and the Modern State

By Samuel E Finer, S E (Late Emeritus Professor of Finer

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This study of government is the culmination of the work of the late S.E. Finer, one of the leading political scientists of the 20th century. Ranging over 5,000 years, from the Sumerian city state to the modern European nation state, five themes emerge: state-building, military formats, belief systems, social stratification, and timespan.

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Review

‘No review can fully capture the breadth and accessibility of S. E. Finer’s posthumous magnum opus ... its clarity and readability must be emphasized ... Finer constantly reminds us of exceptions that explain the richness and diversity of polities.’ John R. Cramsie, *History*

‘This is political science on the grandest scale: three volumes that provide a history of successive forms of government throughout the world from the earliest times to the present day ... Finer presents material on political systems that most political scientists will be completely unfamiliar with, and gives fresh insights into systems that they might have thought they knew ... What makes it a great book, and one that deserves to be read by all students of government, is Finer’s remarkable ability to classify and compare across the entire universe of known systems of government. It is not simply the scholarship and erudition that is breathtaking, but also the confident, clear and imaginative use of comparative tools to describe the significance of the systems of government.’ Edward Page, *Public Policy*

About the Author

FBA, Fellow of All Souls and Emeritus Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration in the University of Oxford (d.1993) Books by the sam

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