The Concept of the State in International Relations
Peter M. R. Stirk

Robert Schuett (ed.)
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This volume provides a collection of essays that, between them, offer a critical reassessment of the concepts of the state and sovereignty in international relations theory. Featuring contributions from some of the most reputed theorists on the subject, this book provides a coherent and, at the same time, distinctively pluralist set of original reflections on the role and nature of the state. It considers the concept of sovereignty and the challenges of globalisation and cosmopolitanism. The collection highlights the fact that the concept of the state plays a central role in international relations, particularly in realist and neo-realist approaches. It also provides an important counterpoint to the general assumption that the meaning of the state is self-evident; something that is often taken for granted by both advocates of the sovereign state and its critics.

The Politics of Military Occupation
Peter M. R. Stirk

Published in print: 2009 Published Online: March 2012

Military occupation is a recurrent feature of modern international politics and yet has received little attention from political scientists. This book sets out to remedy this neglect, offering: an account of military occupation as a form of government; an assessment of key trends in the development of military occupations over the last two centuries; an explanation of the conceptual and practical difficulties encountered by occupiers; examples drawn from, amongst others, the First and Second World Wars, US occupations in Latin America and Japan, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the current occupation of
Iraq. After a survey of the evolving practice and meaning of military occupation, the book deals with its contested definitions, challenging restrictive approaches that disguise the true extent of the incidence of military occupation. Subsequent chapters explain the diverse forms that military government within occupation regimes take on, and the role of civilian governors and agencies within occupation regimes; the significance of military occupation for our understanding of political obligation; the concept of sovereignty; the nature and meaning of justice; and our evaluation of regime transformation under conditions of military occupation. The book argues that military occupation covers a wider range than is often assumed, including ‘international administration’ under the auspices of the UN.

Twentieth-Century German Political Thought
Peter M. R. Stirk

Germany, as Europe's most powerful state, has a political significance that underlines the importance of twentieth-century German political thought. Yet this tradition has been poorly represented in academic literature. This book offers an account of German political thought, emphasising its diversity and contested nature, and gives an overview of the subject that allows access to relatively unknown figures as well as the ‘names’ of the tradition (Weber, Schmitt, Arendt, Habermas). The book also demonstrates the political significance of figures better known in other disciplines including law and sociology. The book is organised chronologically, with a series of recurrent themes providing analytic unity: the nature of politics (including political vocation and leadership, and definitions of politics), collective identity, the rule of law, the role of the state, the role of political parties and the nature of parliamentary democracy, state intervention in society and the economy and, finally, the international order. Pedagogical features include a glossary of German terms and a substantial set of biographical notes identifying the major theorists referred to in the text.

A History of Military Occupation from 1792 to 1914
Peter M. R. Stirk

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This is the first comprehensive comparative historical survey of military occupation from 1792 to 1914. Then as now military occupation engendered great passion, testing loyalty to community, patriotic commitment to resistance, against pragmatic need to compromise if not collaborate. The book shows how occupiers too were tested, often being revealed as restricted by allies, fearful of the occupied populations whose cooperation they needed, and as eager to escape from the burdens of military occupation as they had been to begin. The role of courts and codification, codification that still governs military occupation today, is explained, revealing how the rules of occupation were not so much comprehensive, systematic or even innovative as fragmentary and often inadequate attempts to make sense of the uncertainty and confusion of the experience of military occupation. These themes are explored from the early days of the emergence of a clear concept of military occupation amidst the wars of Revolutionary France and the Napoleon through to the end of the long nineteenth century. Occupations as apparently diverse as the occupations of American Civil War, German occupation of France in the Franco-Prussian war, and the British occupation of Egypt are brought together to reveal common elements in the experience of occupiers and occupied as well as the ways that distinct national traditions have shaped military occupation.