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8 'God is high up, the Tsar is far away'. The Nature of Polity and Political Culture in Seventeenth-Century Russia. A Comparative View 9 Communication between Authorities and Subjects in Bohemia, Hungary and the Holy German Empire, 1650-1800: A Comparison of Three Case Studies; 10 Corporate Property, Collective Resources and Statebuilding in Older Swiss History; 11 Local Demand for Order and Government Intervention: Social Group Conflicts as State building Factors in Villages of the Rhine Palatinate, c.1760-1810  
12 Joseph-Samuel Farinet and the 'Modern' State: Banditry, Patronage and Resistance in Nineteenth-Century Valais Part III NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE - AND BEYOND; 13 Political Topos or Community Principle? *Res Publica* as a Source of Legitimacy in the French Peasants' Revolts of the Late Middle Ages; 14 State building in Portugal during the Middle Ages: A Royal Endeavour in Partnership with the Local Powers?; 15 Informing the Council. Central Institutions and Local Knowledge in the Spanish Empire; 16 Peasants and Tax-farmers in Seventeenth-Century Sweden: Local Conflict and Institutional Change 17 State building with the Participation of the Estates? East Frisia between Territorial Legislation and Communalist Ritual, 1611-1744 Part IV HISTORIOGRAPHICAL AND CONCEPTUAL DEBATES; 18 Citizens and their Rulers; 19 Concepts and Approaches in Recent Scholarship on State building - A Critical Review; 20 No State building from Below! A Critical Commentary; 21 State building from Below - Towards a Balanced View; 22 The Impact of Communication Theory on the Analysis of the Early Modern State building Processes; 23 Empowering Interactions and Intertwining Jurisdictions; Index

**Sommario/riassunto**

This volume explores the emergence of the state in Europe between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. Through a series of case studies and historiographical, methodological and theoretical essays, it challenges the traditional top-down model of state development long held by historians. Instead it explores the numerous ways in which non-elite groups could influence the formation of national political institutions