

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248308203316
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Titolo	Lineages of the absolutist state // Perry Anderson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York ; ; London, [England] : , : W.W Northon & Company, , 2013 ©2013
ISBN	1-78168-463-4 0-902308-16-5 1-78168-054-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (410 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Verso World History Series
Disciplina	321/.6/094
Soggetti	Despotism State, The - History Europe History Europe Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes indexes.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Title Page -- Contents -- Foreword -- I. Western Europe -- 1. The Absolutist State in the West -- 2. Class and State: Problems of Periodization -- 3. Spain -- 4. France -- 5. England -- 6. Italy -- 7. Sweden -- II. Eastern Europe -- 1. The Absolutist State in the East -- 2. Nobility and Monarchy: the Eastern Variant -- 3. Prussia -- 4. Poland -- 5. Austria -- 6. Russia -- 7. The House of Islam -- III. Conclusions -- Two Notes: -- A. Japanese Feudalism -- B. The 'Asiatic Mode of Production' -- Index of Names -- Index of Authorities -- Copyright.
Sommario/riassunto	"The political nature of Absolutism has long been a subject of controversy within historical materialism. Developing considerations advanced in Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism, this book situates the Absolutist states of the early modern epoch against the prior background of European feudalism. It is divided into two parts. The first discusses the overall structures of Absolutism as a state-system in Western Europe, from the Renaissance onwards; and the difficult question of the relations between monarchy and nobility institutionalised by it, for which it suggests a general periodization. It then looks in turn at the trajectory of each of the specific Absolutist

states in the dominant countries of the West - Spain, France, England and Sweden, set off against the case of Italy, where no major indigenous Absolutism developed. The second part of the work sketches a comparative prospect of Absolutism in Eastern Europe. It begins with an enquiry into the reasons why the divergent social conditions in the more backward half of the continent should have produced political forms apparently similar to those of the more advanced West. The peculiarities, as well as affinities, of Eastern Absolutism as a distinct type of royal state, are examined. The variegated monarchies of Prussia, Austria and Russia are surveyed, and the lessons asked of the counter-example of Poland. Finally, the structure of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans is taken as an external gauge by which the singularity of Absolutism as a European phenomenon is assessed. The work ends with some observations on the special position occupied by European development within universal history, which draws themes from both Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism and Lineages of the Absolutist State together into a single argument -- within their common limits -- as materials for debate. Two postscript notes treat, respectively, the notion of the 'Asiatic mode of production,' with particular reference to Islamic and Chinese history, and the experience of Japanese feudalism, as relevant controls for a study of the evolution of Europe up to the advent of industrial capitalism." -- from <http://www.amazon.com> (April 18, 2011).

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