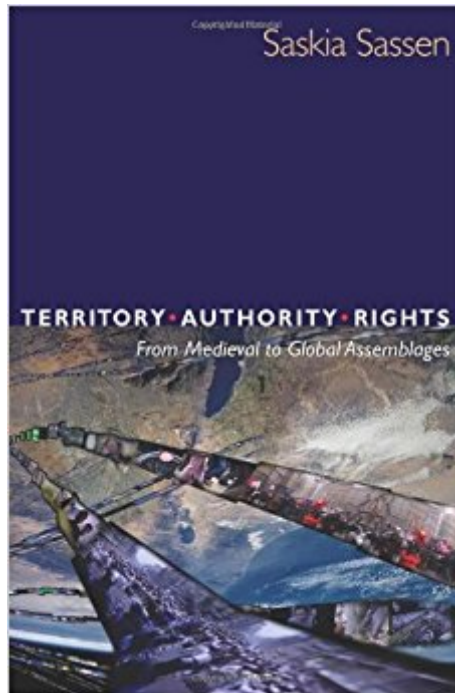




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Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval To Global Assemblages



Synopsis

Where does the nation-state end and globalization begin? In *Territory, Authority, Rights*, one of the world's leading authorities on globalization shows how the national state made today's global era possible. Saskia Sassen argues that even while globalization is best understood as "denationalization," it continues to be shaped, channeled, and enabled by institutions and networks originally developed with nations in mind, such as the rule of law and respect for private authority. This process of state making produced some of the capabilities enabling the global era. The difference is that these capabilities have become part of new organizing logics: actors other than nation-states deploy them for new purposes. Sassen builds her case by examining how three components of any society in any age--territory, authority, and rights--have changed in themselves and in their interrelationships across three major historical "assemblages": the medieval, the national, and the global. The book consists of three parts. The first, "Assembling the National," traces the emergence of territoriality in the Middle Ages and considers monarchical divinity as a precursor to sovereign secular authority. The second part, "Disassembling the National," analyzes economic, legal, technological, and political conditions and projects that are shaping new organizing logics. The third part, "Assemblages of a Global Digital Age," examines particular intersections of the new digital technologies with territory, authority, and rights. Sweeping in scope, rich in detail, and highly readable, *Territory, Authority, Rights* is a definitive new statement on globalization that will resonate throughout the social sciences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hard to do justice to an author like Sassen in a brief online comment, but her work is dynamite. Read it. It discusses the most important problem facing global society today. Sassen's work does not deal directly and extensively, at least the books I've read, enough with the problem of race, which, in my view, is what makes the situation so explosive. Her work is the type that urges people to want to do more in that direction. In the books I've read there are theoretical weaknesses that are unavoidable (much of this has been discussed very well and thoroughly by several competent scholars), yet it doesn't take anything away from the tremendous strengths that make Sassen the one author you can't afford not to read if you consider yourself well informed on the contemporary world. Read the literature about Sassen's work too.

Famous Chicago sociologist, Saskia Sassen, returns with an ambitious new book on cities as the main locus of globalization. Despite being quite long (almost 500 pages!), it's quite an engaging reading. For someone interested in expanding his/her knowledge on the various facets of the process of globalization, including its economic, political and cultural dimensions, this volume is a must. In particular, I found very persuasive the way Sassen combines historical analysis with the most up-to-date reflection on modernity - the subtitle, "From Medieval to Global Assemblages", couldn't more accurately describe a description of what this book is really about.

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