

STATE TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD

EDITORS

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PREFACE

State transformation and development take place in an increasingly globalized world, where advances in technology and changes to social, economic, and political life have necessitated a new way of thinking about how nations can best respond. Addressing these dynamics, *State Transformation and Development in a Changing World* provides an accessible and necessary introduction to the real-world issues concerning state capacity building through this process of long-term transformation.

This book comes at a time when the orthodoxies of statehood and governance are being challenged as never before, and old models no longer fit new tones or complexities. This has wide-ranging implications for the development, stability, and overall welfare of states—whether they come through peaceful transitions or more tumultuous processes. Through historical and contemporary case studies, this volume explores the ways in which states experience transformation, linking processes of state-building with those of multiple forms of development.

In this book, we delve one step deeper into a theme that explored slightly more but still tenuous thoughts about the dichotomy between rough and soft transformations, which is very much of interest to study states such as Sudan, Malaysia, India, Yemen, Indonesia, and Algeria. For example, through its analysis of Sudan's troubled political history, as the country has experienced ameliorating strategies of military coups and civilian rule in turn, it offers essential reflections on what processes lead to more durable forms of state transformation. The comparison that is made illustrates the extent to which these different systems have, or have not,

been effective in terms of achieving stability and development, and it offers some lessons applicable to a variety of contexts facing somewhat similar problems.

This book not only analyses the states' changes from a political point of view but also explores how public administration, economics, and governance played significant roles in determining the current trajectories of their development. A further reflection of the messiness in cases where politics meets administration, in which political priorities may subvert bureaucratic norms--like in Malaysia and Indonesia--warrants deeper debate on governance. The conversations in this book explain the effect the politicization of civil service systems has on both efficiency and effectiveness within public administration and how they impact a state's path.

This book then focuses on the need for innovation in providing public service deliveries, especially through the digital space. The Indonesian experiences illustrated in the case studies contribute to a wider conversation about how e-public services can be leveraged for more inclusive development, particularly on issues associated with the digital divide. The book shows that technologies and digital processes can narrow the distance between low-income communities to social services, affirming greater inclusion and economic advancement. But it also speaks of the difficulties associated with digital transformation, including the oft-cited bugbear of a 'digital divide' and related questions around infrastructure which are necessary prerequisites for ensuring that benefits arising from digitalisation reach all sections equitably.

In addition, the book addresses larger socio-economic and cultural repercussions of state change, looking in particular at how shared values can fuel social transformation through community building. Debate on these issues from an Islamic perspective reveals that social values and community cohesion are necessary components of any strategy addressing the post-2015 development agenda, where culturally grounded religious principles must be considered critical elements for its integration. This book, grounded in these tenets, argues for a more expression of development that will lift us up beyond the economic level to bring about true social and moral good.

The volume also offers a critical interrogation of how international organizations and global governance frameworks determine or at least influence state transformations. Approaching the reforms and development strategies of states from a New Public Management (NPM) perspective and other global governance models, it explores how those international pressures affect administrative practices. This has significant consequences, forcing states to balance global expectations with local utility, a difficult act with implications that are deeply controversial.

The array of readings and methods showcased in this book are consistent with the packed set regarding today's international behavior adjustment. The authors are experts in a range of disciplinary approaches and have experiences from several regions, offering the reader multiple perspectives that together deepen our comprehension of who governs when states transform. The scholarly contributions from this work are not only interesting but also give us practical suggestions of how to help

states that find themselves in the mid-waters between autocracy and liberal democracy bureaucrats, devising lessons for policymakers' development practitioners as well as civil society actors struggling under conditions that allow them partial influence into policymaker decision-making.

As it was not easy, we want to take this opportunity at the outset to offer our immense gratitude, firstly and most importantly, to the reviewers/editors of this volume for their dedication and intellectual discipline. We hope that the attention to details makes this book a work that meets the highest academic standards.

We are also incredibly grateful to the authors, for their work and thinking fuel this book. They have generously shared their knowledge, engaged in critical debates, and deepened their understanding of state transformation. Their varied backgrounds, from political science to public administration, from digital innovation to cultural studies, make the conversation a multi-sided dialogue on the topic and offer a holistic view of what it encompasses.

We hope you find the discussions enlightening and thought-provoking when engaging with its chapters.

Editors,

EDITORS

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currently the editor of *Intellectual Discourse*, the flagship journal of IIUM

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