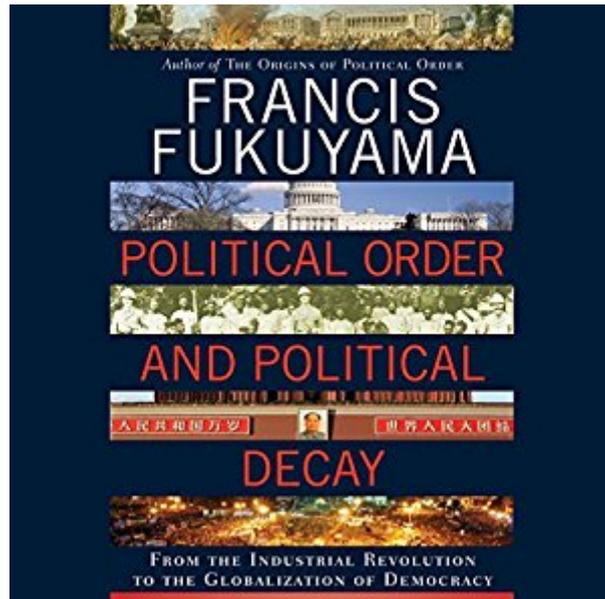


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# Political Order And Political Decay: From The Industrial Revolution To The Globalization Of Democracy



## Synopsis

The second volume of the best-selling landmark work on the history of the modern state. Writing in the Wall Street Journal, David Gress called Francis Fukuyama's *Origins of Political Order* "magisterial in its learning and admirably immodest in its ambition." In the New York Times Book Review, Michael Lind described the book as "a major achievement by one of the leading public intellectuals of our time." And in the Washington Post, Gerard DeGroot exclaimed "this is a book that will be remembered. Bring on volume two." Volume two is finally here, completing the most important work of political thought in at least a generation. Taking up the essential question of how societies develop strong, impersonal, and accountable political institutions, Fukuyama follows the story from the French Revolution to the so-called Arab Spring and the deep dysfunctions of contemporary American politics. He examines the effects of corruption on governance, and why some societies have been successful at rooting it out. He explores the different legacies of colonialism in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, and offers a clear-eyed account of why some regions have thrived and developed more quickly than others. And he boldly reckons with the future of democracy in the face of a rising global middle class and entrenched political paralysis in the West. A sweeping, masterful account of the struggle to create a well-functioning modern state, *Political Order and Political Decay* is destined to be a classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A mess - the world, not the book which is excellent. In *The End of History and the Last Man* Dr.

Fukuyama asked the question "is there a direction to political evolution?" In *Trust: Human Nature and the Reconstitution of Social Order* he explored the impact of high trust vs low trust societies on the evolution and nature of political governance. In his tour de force *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution* we were given an in depth history of political development across many nations and regions. In it Dr. Fukuyama postulates that effective governance requires three sets of political institutions in some kind of balance: the state, the rule of law, and political accountability. In *Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy* he left me with the feeling that such an outcome (sustained effective governance) was "to dream the impossible dream." Parts I and II discuss the "State" and "Foreign Influence." In an excellent historical overview he demonstrates that what would appear to be similar circumstances lead to disparate outcomes. Much less than in previous works Dr.

Francis Fukuyama is a widely celebrated political economist, and public intellectual. Having burst onto the scene with his classic work at the End of the Cold War, *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992), Fukuyama has since distanced and even repudiated the neoconservative label that was pinned on him in the lead-up to the Iraq War. In *Political Order and Political Decay*, Fukuyama brings the history of politics and governance into the modern era. With an erudite overview of the evolution of the political state, especially of "liberal democracy," upon which the tenets of accountable government (trust), equality of the citizenry, and the rule of law are paramount in the development of democracy. Democracy is not necessarily an engine for these three themes, rather, these three tenets come together to build a robust democracy. The result is the emergence of the political state. This first tenet, accountable government, or trust, was an entire book in of itself, *Trust: The Social Virtues and The Creation of Prosperity* (1995). The notion of accountability is not necessarily, again, tied to democracy in-of-itself, but is an important feature that has historically spurred greater democratic reform. Therefore, trust in government, and ultimately trust within a society and amongst peoples of that society, is an important feature of the liberal democratic state. Fukuyama deals with this tenet in the first part of his book.

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