

# The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution

## About the Book

Virtually all human societies were once organized tribally, yet over time most developed new political institutions which included a central state that could keep the peace and uniform laws that applied to all citizens. Some went on to create governments that were accountable to their constituents. We take these institutions for granted, but they are absent or are unable to perform in many of today's developing countries-with often disastrous consequences for the rest of the world.

*The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*, is intended to provide a account of how today's basic political institutions developed. The first of a major two-volume work, *The Origins of Political Order* begins with politics among our primate ancestors and follows the story through the emergence of tribal societies, the growth of the first modern state in China, the beginning of the rule of law in India and the Middle East, and the development of political accountability in Europe up until the eve of the French Revolution.

## About the Author

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He has previously taught at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and at the George Mason University School of Public Policy.

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He is the author of *The End of History and the Last Man*, *Trust*, and *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy*. He lives with his wife in California.