

## Summaries

S. Stuurman, *Thousand Years of State Formation in Europe*

Charles Tilly's comparative analysis of European state-formation (*Coercion, Capital and European States, Ad 990-1990*, 1990) explains the differential historical trajectories of the state in Europe in terms of the extraction of the resources for warfare, and the socio-economic structure. It is argued that the strong version of Tilly's theory, in which warfare and socio-economic structure are said to provide a necessary and sufficient explanation of the varieties of European political development, fails to conform to the historical evidence. A more satisfactory analysis on European stateformation must take at least two other elements into account: legal institutions, legal practice and ideas; and political culture, and more generally the 'politics of language'. A weak version of Tilly's theory can be sustained, at least for the early-modern period. But the growth of civilian state expenditure after 1800 is not explained by Tilly's model which does scarcely draw on Tilly's own earlier work on social movements in European history.

Tom Pfeil, *Government Finances and Modernisation. A Case Study: The Netherlands 1780-1848*

The impact of the fiscal crisis in the eighteenth century and the breakdown of the Dutch state in 1795 is discussed. The financial problems had to be solved in order to guarantee the independent existence of the Dutch state and to prevent the Dutch state from going bankrupt. To reach these objectives the Dutch reconstructed their financial system and changed their policies. In the end the old regime was transformed into a modern financial system. Without this, the reconstruction of the Dutch state was doomed to failure.

Gabriel van den Brink, *Tilly in Woensel: a Local Investigation into Eighteenth-century State Formation*

In *Coercion, Capital and European States*, Charles Tilly has stated that state formation involves high costs for populations. In this article we test this statement on a local level, considering the history of Woensel, a village in the Southern part of the Dutch Republic during the eighteenth century. It is shown that for most of the households the total costs of warfare and taxation ran up to twenty-five of even thirtythree percent of their annual budget. Nevertheless, there is no sign of riots nor violence against authorities. In this respect, the local elite played an rather ambiguous but crucial role. On the one hand, the administrators wrote many petitions to the national government in The Hague, always asking for more moderate taxation and describing the economic situation in the dark tones. On the other had, they enjoyed many advantages of the political system because all payments were collected by...the local administrators themselves. In the long run, however, local solidarity in Woensel proved to be stronger than loyalty to the Dutch Republic. It was only by the imposition of direct rule, which occurred between 1795 and 1815, that this solidarity could be broken.