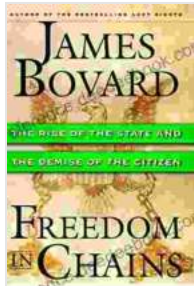


# The Rise of the State and the Demise of the Citizen



## Freedom in Chains: The Rise of the State and the Demise of the Citizen by James Bovard

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 968 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 466 pages
X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled



The state is a relatively recent invention in human history. For most of our existence, we lived in small, decentralized communities where power was widely distributed. But over the past few centuries, the state has become increasingly powerful, and its reach has extended into every corner of our lives.

This growth of state power has had a profound impact on the individual citizen. In the past, we were largely free to live our lives as we pleased. But today, the state regulates almost every aspect of our existence, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear to the jobs we can hold.

This loss of individual freedom has been accompanied by a decline in autonomy. In the past, we were responsible for our own well-being. But

today, the state provides us with a wide range of services, from education to healthcare to social security. This has made us increasingly dependent on the state, and has eroded our ability to make our own decisions.

The rise of the state has also led to a decline in community. In the past, we relied on our families, friends, and neighbors for support. But today, the state has taken over many of the functions that were once performed by these informal networks. This has made us more isolated and less connected to our fellow citizens.

The trend towards ever-increasing state power is likely to continue in the future. As technology advances, the state will have access to ever more information about our lives. This will give it the power to control our behavior in ways that were once unimaginable.

The rise of the state is a serious threat to our freedom, autonomy, and community. We must resist this trend and work to create a more decentralized and democratic society.

## **The Historical Rise of the State**

The state is a relatively recent invention in human history. For most of our existence, we lived in small, decentralized communities where power was widely distributed. These communities were typically based on kinship or tribal ties, and they were governed by a council of elders or a chief.

The first states emerged in Mesopotamia and Egypt around 3500 BC. These states were based on agriculture, and they were ruled by a king or emperor. The state provided its citizens with protection from invasion and

internal disorder, and it also regulated the economy and the distribution of resources.

Over time, states became increasingly powerful. They expanded their territories through conquest and colonization, and they developed new technologies and weapons. This growth of state power was accompanied by a decline in individual freedom and autonomy.

In the Middle Ages, the state became the dominant form of political organization in Europe. The state provided its citizens with protection from feudal lords and bandits, and it also regulated the economy and the distribution of resources. However, the state also became increasingly oppressive. It imposed heavy taxes on its citizens, and it suppressed dissent.

The Enlightenment and the American Revolution led to a new understanding of the state. These movements argued that the state should be based on the consent of the governed, and that it should protect individual rights and freedoms. This new understanding of the state was reflected in the constitutions of the United States and France.

However, the growth of state power continued in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Industrial Revolution led to the development of new technologies and weapons, which gave the state even greater power over its citizens. The two world wars of the 20th century also led to a growth in state power, as governments expanded their role in the economy and society.

## **The Consequences of State Power for the Individual Citizen**

The growth of state power has had a profound impact on the individual citizen. In the past, we were largely free to live our lives as we pleased. But today, the state regulates almost every aspect of our existence, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear to the jobs we can hold.

This loss of individual freedom has been accompanied by a decline in autonomy. In the past, we were responsible for our own well-being. But today, the state provides us with a wide range of services, from education to healthcare to social security. This has made us increasingly dependent on the state, and has eroded our ability to make our own decisions.

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## **The Future of the State**

The trend towards ever-increasing state power is likely to continue in the future. As technology advances, the state will have access to ever more information about our lives. This will give it the power to control our behavior in ways that were once unimaginable.

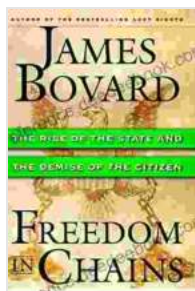
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## **How to Resist the Rise of the State**

There are a number of things we can do to resist the rise of the state and protect our freedom, autonomy, and community. These include:

- Supporting decentralized and democratic institutions
- Reducing our dependence on the state
- Building strong communities
- Educating ourselves about the dangers of state power
- Resisting state overreach

By taking these steps, we can help to create a more just and sustainable society.

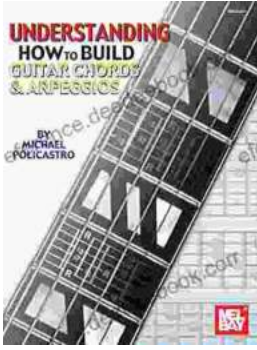


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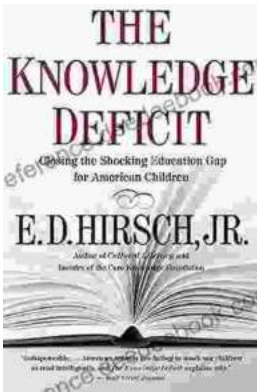
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