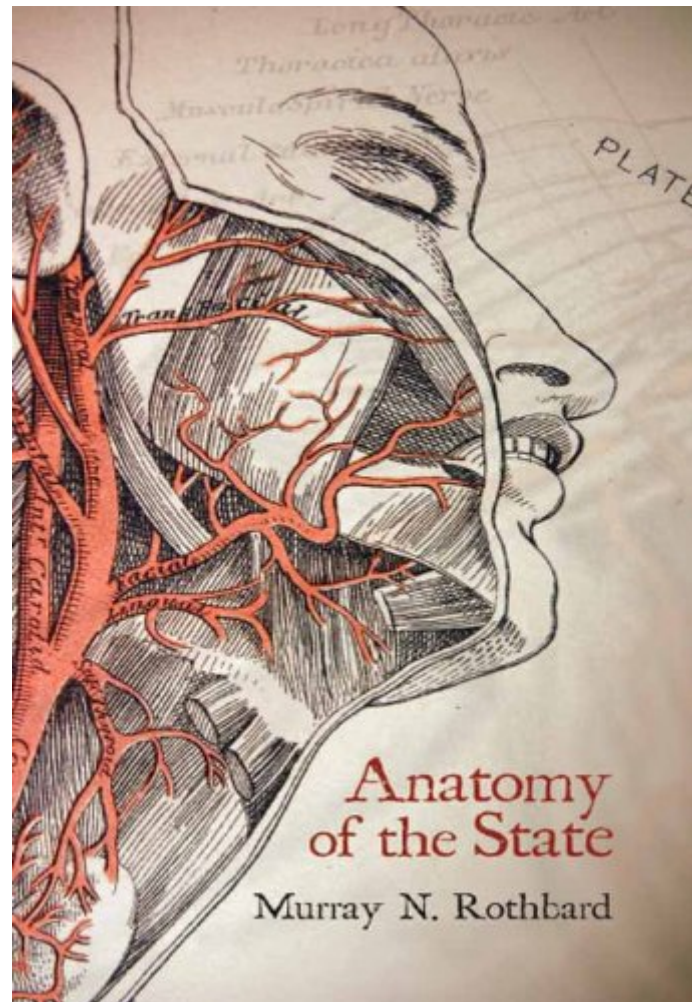# The book was found

The Anatomy Of The State (LvMI)

Synopsis

In the 20th century Murray Rothbard was known as the state's greatest living enemy, and The Anatomy of the State is his most succinct and powerful statement on the topic, a daring evidence of how he came to wear that designation proudly.He explains what a state is and what it is not. He shows how it is an institution that purports to hold the right to violate all that we otherwise hold as honest and moral, and how it operates under a false cover now and always. He shows how the state wrecks freedom, destroys civilization, and threatens all lives and property and social well-being.The essay is seminal in another respect. Here Rothbard binds together the cause of private-property capitalism with anarchist politics â " truly the first thinker in the history of the world to fully forge the perspective that later came to be known as anarchocapitalism.He took all that he had learned from the Misesian tradition and the liberal tradition and the anarchist tradition to put together what is really a new and highly systematic way of thinking about the entire subject of political economy and social thought.Understanding his point of view has the effect on the reader of putting things together in a way that profoundly changes the way one sees the world.And Rothbard explains all of this in a very short space â " short enough to be read again and again as an inoculation against the creeping disease of statism.To search for Mises Institute titles, enter a keyword and LvMI (short for Ludwig von Mises Institute); e.g., Depression LvMI

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anatomy of the State is a small (60 pages) but helpful book from the late economist, Murray Rothbard. The book occupies itself with a less than flattering depiction of the state.Rothbard begins by defining the state negatively in terms of what it is not. The state and its citizenry are not interchangeable but two very distinct entities. According to Rothbard, the state does not represent the majority of its citizenry (p. 11). Even in representative democracies as here in Canada, this is quite obvious. To give but one example, the provincial government of Ontario will force a tax increase (under the guise of "tax reform" no less), a harmonized sales tax, on the province this summer. This is a tax which virtually no one in Ontario asked for nor supports.What this example demonstrates is that although the machinery of representative democracy is present (elected representatives, votes, etc.), representative democracy itself is often missing in action.Having defined the state negatively, Rothbard defines the state positively in terms of what it is:"...the State is that organization in society which attempts to maintain a monopoly of the use of force and violence in a given territorial area; in particular, it is the only organization in society that obtains its revenue not by voluntary contribution or payment for services rendered but by coercion." (p. 11)There are two means to the acquisition of wealth in society: the economic means via production and free exchange, and the political means via seizure and confiscation. The state, Rothbard insists, is involved in the latter activity only. It is the organization of the political means (p. 15). It is a predator and a parasite on the productive citizenry.

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