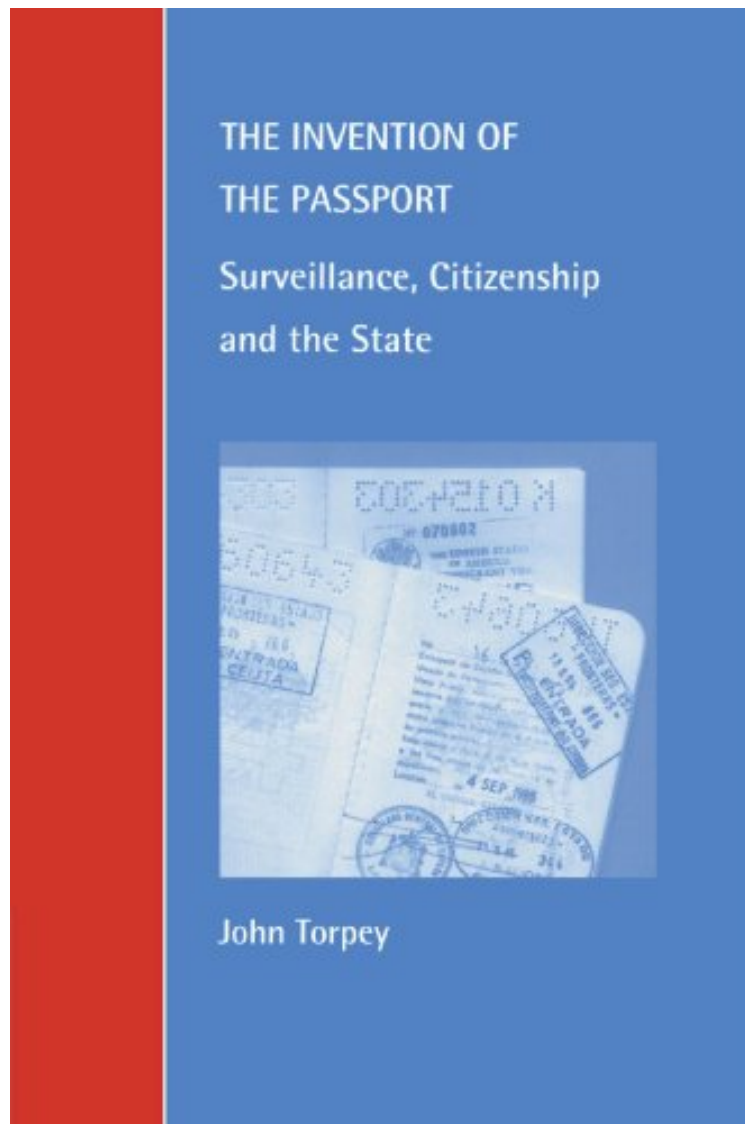


(Download ebook) The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society)

The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society)

John Torpey

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John Torpey : The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State (Cambridge Studies in Law and Society):

17 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Papers please! By Mark Howells A very interesting and highly

readable account of the development of our modern system of passports. Passports have not always been a requirement for crossing international boundaries. The invention and spread of the concept of a nation-state first in Europe and then around the globe has seen fluctuations in various governments' requirements for both internal and external travel documents. The mercantilist monarchies attempted to retain tight controls while New World migration required no entry documents at all. The free trade liberalism of the 1800s brought down some passport requirements such that fictional Phineas Fogg could dash off around the globe with no passport other than a carpet bag full of banknotes. The 20th Century saw the re-introduction of many formerly relaxed passport controls. Beginning with the French Revolutionaries' pre-occupation with travel controls, the book covers the development of passport requirements in the formation of the German nation, observes the great changes in passport restrictions following the First World War, and ends with a review of passport controls in the modern era, including the development of "international" passports for Displaced Persons. This is an excellent study which shows how passports have fit into modern nations' changing needs to identify both their own citizens and foreigners. The author argues persuasively that a nation's ability to differentiate "insiders" from "outsiders" is one of the primary definitions of a nation-state. Great reading for those interested in the development of the modern state, in the development of travel controls, and in the history of identification documents.

7 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

confused thinking
By simone mueller
Here's a book by a quite well-known sociologist that deals with an important topic -- passports in the modern world and other forms of identification. How did they emerge? What role did they play at different moments after the late eighteenth century? But instead of providing a good and careful analysis, Torpey's work is full of careless assertions and poor historical analysis. Archives like that of the International Labour Organization are not properly used. Charles Tilly had already pointed many errors out in a review where he notes many mistakes in dealing with France. But the problems go much beyond this. Torpey wants to cast his work in a Marxist or Foucaultist framework, and so does not see that passports can also be means of empowerment. This means that the whole analogy with labor and the expropriation of labor is flawed. Also, if the book is of so-called leftist sociology, why is the whole colonial question so neglected? In short this is a superficial analysis and a lost opportunity.

This innovative book argues that documents such as passports, internal passports and related mechanisms have been crucial in making distinctions between citizens and noncitizens. It explains how the concept of citizenship has been used over the past 200 years to delineate rights and penalties regarding property, liberty, taxes and welfare. Focusing on the United States and Western Europe, it combines theory and empirical data in questioning how and why states have established the exclusive right to authorize and regulate the movement of people.

From Library Journal
No abstract sociological text, this work is notable for its absence of jargon and its solid grounding in historical fact. Torpey (sociology, Univ. of California, Irvine) analyzes how increasingly powerful states wrested from private institutions the power to regulate the movement of citizens across international and sometimes internal frontiers. Passports and identification papers played a pivotal role in this extension of state authority. Their newfound control over citizens enabled governments to extract resources from society with unprecedented efficiency. For instance, accurate identification papers helped French revolutionaries to mobilize their nation for protracted war in the 1790s. By distinguishing citizen from foreigner, identification papers evolved into a bureaucratic expression of nationality. Torpey sounds a cautionary note by pointing out that civil liberties inevitably clash with the state's efforts to "embrace" the citizenry more tightly. Although this book may have minimal appeal beyond academic circles, it would be a worthy addition to academic library collections.

James Holmes, Fletcher Sch. of Law Diplomacy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "In this insightful, carefully documented, and analytically astute account, Torpey has laid out for us with elegance and clarity the history of the passport and the 'revolution of identification' of which it is an integral part. His theoretically sensitive treatment is essential to our understanding of the modern state system. What Torpey has accomplished here is to have denaturalized, by close historical analysis, the utterly taken-for-granted, contemporary regime of passports." James C. Scott, *Journal of Modern History*

"With the world awash in refugees, immigrants, "guest workers," travelers, and the occasional terrorist, an interpretive study of identity papers and passports is certainly timely.... The historical sociologist John Torpey is well equipped to address these issues. By training he is equally respectful of historical detail and nuance and of the interpretive arguments in contemporary social science. . . His canvas is wide and does ample justice to his subject." Isser Woloch, *The American Historical*

"No abstract sociological text, this work is notable for its absence of jargon and its solid grounding in historical fact." *Library Journal*

"...thoughtful and imaginative book on passports and the controls effected by them... The ingenuity of this book is evident in the focus on the passport." James B. Rule, *Contemporary Sociology*

"Torpey's book...is an academic study, covering the legal history of the passport in Europe and the United States." *The Dallas Morning News*

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly that Torpey has written the first modern account of the invention and evolution of passports and their uses, and has thereby opened up entirely new vistas for future research and debate.... there can be no doubt about the validity of his penetrating analysis as a whole, which makes this book a truly remarkable achievement." *The International History*

"In this groundbreaking

exploration of the passport's vicissitudes from the French Revolution to the present time, Torpey argues convincingly that the passport is important to our understanding of the nature of the state and the state system." *American Journal of Sociology*