

*The Death of the State*  
(New York: G.P. Putnam's, 1974)

**Excerpted Reviews**

“‘We have created states and we have created societies,’ says Manicas, ‘but we have not created communities.’ The bulk of this book is critical and consists of a series of analyses of what is wrong or inadequate with the traditional and prevailing concepts of legitimate state, liberal state, democratic state, and the liberal moral ideal. Herein lies the value of this provocative, insightful and persuasively argued volume...Highly recommended” *Library Journal*

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“Manicas, a professor of political philosophy at Queens College in New York City, provides a critique of the concept of the state which is at once clear and challenging...” Maurice Cranston, *Washington Post Book Review*.

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“A splendid book and I hope that it gets the reception that it deserves. What I liked particularly about it is the clarity of its exposition and the skill with which it weaves empirical and theoretical materials...” Robert Paul Wolfe.

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“Putting together a history of political philosophy in the tradition of John Dewey—where knowledge yields not abstraction, but action—calls for the achievement of a kind of individuality that was possible in the Athenian Golden Age. The goal is not new. Paul Goodman, Jane Jacobs and Arthur Waskow in particular, have long called for smaller groupings, where participator democracy might prevail and the overwhelming, depersonalizing technocracy be humanized. But what is significant and important about Manicas’s book is that it is the first in a long time to philosophize in the classical sense: to combine the writing of philosophy—the molding of a system of ethics—with the practical call to implementation. Analyzed are the justifications of power, of the state, and the conflicting ‘individualities’ that arise in the traditional liberal system. While the author rightly transcends the limitations of ‘value free social science,’ he is a little too enthusiastic for the anarchic ideal of ‘radical decentralization.’ But this is, overall, an exceptional and worthwhile book” *Kirkus Reviews*.

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“A soberly reasoned” and highly “provocative thesis” *Publishers Weekly*.