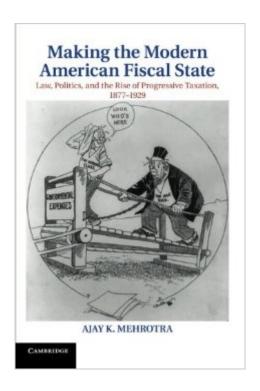
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# Making The Modern American Fiscal State: Law, Politics, And The Rise Of Progressive Taxation, 1877-1929 (Cambridge Historical Studies In American Law And Society)





# **Synopsis**

At the turn of the twentieth century, the US system of public finance underwent a dramatic transformation. The late nineteenth-century regime of indirect, hidden, partisan, and regressive taxes was eclipsed in the early twentieth century by a direct, transparent, professionally administered, and progressive tax system. In Making the American Fiscal State, Ajay K. Mehrotra uncovers the contested roots and paradoxical consequences of this fundamental shift in American tax law and policy. He argues that the move toward a regime of direct and graduated taxation marked the emergence of a new fiscal polity - a new form of statecraft that was guided not simply by the functional need for greater revenue but by broader social concerns about economic justice, civic identity, bureaucratic capacity, and public power. Between the end of Reconstruction and the onset of the Great Depression, the intellectual, legal, and administrative foundations of the modern fiscal state first took shape. This book explains how and why this new fiscal polity came to be.

## **Book Information**

Series: Cambridge Historical Studies in American Law and Society

Paperback: 446 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; Reprint edition (September 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1107619734

ISBN-13: 978-1107619739

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #916,965 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #273 in Books > Business &

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In his book, Professor Mehrotra details the long and, at times, baffling history of the American fiscal state, more particularly the income taxation. It explores the roots of the tax system and contextualizes current taxation battles in past tax fights. A must-read.

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