

Now available from Ashgate Publishing...



# Building Strong Nations

Improving Governability and Public Management

Eran Vigoda-Gadot, University of Haifa, Israel

*'A perception of a global chaos can be easily formed these days given the volume and diversity of our daily news. This book successfully uncovers some hidden pattern that might explain a number of developments that occurred in the recent past (or in the present) due to the evolving global village. In a well written and organized discussion and careful synthesis of the salient writings in the field, Prof. Vigoda-Gadot probes the relationships among bureaucracy, democracy, administrative reforms, and innovation. ....'*

– Arie Halachmim, Tennessee State University, USA and Sun Yat Sen University, China

*'Vigoda-Gadot offers a path breaking analysis that bears directly on the future of governance and the capacity of governments to deliver a high quality of life worldwide....Vigoda-Gadot addresses missing pieces of effective governance via an evidence-based strategy for building strong nations. Citizens, elected officials and managers – public and private – need to carefully read and consider his insights. This book is our portal to an optimistic, collaborative future.'* – Marc Holzer, Rutgers University, USA

In the face of global challenges and changes – some may even say because of them – one major dilemma looms large for citizens and leaders worldwide: how can we ensure that our countries address these challenges successfully? This book demonstrates that the answer can be found in a better match between the nature of modern bureaucracy and the spirit of modern democracy, as well as by improving methods and ideas for what the author terms 'clever governance' and better governability. Moreover, it suggests potential directions for improving governability and public management against the backdrop of the tension between bureaucracy and democracy that has given rise to increasing mistrust of and lack of confidence in public institutions.

*Building Strong Nations* enriches the discussion about moving modern nations forward despite major problems such as the clash of ideologies, the overburdening of and expectations from public administration, and the growing instability in world economics and international relations.

**Contents:** Preface; Introduction: strong nations, weak nations, and the enigma of effective governability. PART I THE STATE OF MODERN NATIONS AND THE REBIRTH OF AN OLD PARADOX: Theoretical approaches to nation building; Dilemmas of governability under democratic and bureaucratic constraints. PART II CAUGHT BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND BUREAUCRACY: AN ANTHOLOGY OF EMPIRICAL EXAMINATIONS: The power of bureaucracy: managerial quality and performance; The charm of democracy: building on democratic values and good citizenship; Empirical evidence: a longitudinal national study of bureaucracy and democracy in Israel. PART III STRONG NATIONS AND THE RECONCILIATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC-BUREAUCRATIC PARADOX: SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES: Strong nations and collaboration in public administration: a myth or necessity?; Strong nations and innovation in the public sector; Strong nations and global reforms in public administration: a new borderless public policy; Building strong nations by effective governability in a democratic cosmos; Appendix; Bibliography; Index. Includes 23 figures and 20 tables

*Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)*

To order, please visit: [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)

*All online orders receive a discount*

Alternatively, contact our distributor:

Bookpoint Ltd, Ashgate Publishing Direct Sales,  
130 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4SB, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1235 827730 Fax: +44 (0)1235 400454  
Email: [ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk](mailto:ashgate@bookpoint.co.uk)



January 2009  
280 pages  
Hardback  
978-0-7546-7546-4  
£60.00

**ASHGATE**  
[www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)