



# South African marxist state theory — a critical overview

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Pages 3-14 | Published online: 24 Feb 2007

 Download citation  <https://doi.org/10.1080/02589348808704885>

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## Abstract

The article provides a critical analysis of Marxist work on the South African state. It first examines the early Poulantzian-State Derivationist debate on the relation between state and society, and then discusses the 'new directions' which focus on the state itself. The sensitivity of the 'new directions' to the traditional Weberian concern about state bureaucracy is important for enriching Marxist theory. But the article concludes by suggesting that a comprehensive dialectical Marxist approach to the South African state still awaits development.