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# Decentralization Democracy And Development Recent Experience From Sierra Leone Country Studies

Offers important new insights about decentralization, federalism, and democratic change in the three largest federal nations in the Americas: Brazil, Mexico, and the United States.

"Explores the democratization and decentralization of governance in Mexico and finds that informal political

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networks continue to mediate citizens' relationships with their elected authorities. Analyzes the linkages between informal and formal power by comparing how they worked in three Mexican cities: Tijuana, Ciudad Nezahualcôoyotl, and Chilpancingo"--Provided by publisher.

Faguet identifies the factors that determine the outcomes of national decentralization on the local level  
References pp. 115-132.

Governance from Below in Bolivia

Democracy, Development and Decentralisation in India

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Korea in Comparative Perspective  
Planning and Decentralization  
A Comparative Perspective  
Democracy, Development, and Security  
Continuing Debates

*Is decentralisation good for  
development? This book offers insights  
and lessons that help us understand  
when the answer is 'Yes', and when it  
is No'. It shows us how  
decentralisation can be designed to  
drive development forward, and focuses*

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*attention on how institutional incentives can be created for governments to improve public sector performance and strengthen economies in ways that enhance citizen well-being. It also draws attention to the political motives behind decentralisation reforms and how these shape the institutions that result. This book brings together academics working at the frontier of research on decentralization with policymakers who*

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*have implemented reform at the highest levels of government and international organizations. Its purpose is to marry policymakers' detailed knowledge and insights about real reform processes with academics' conceptual clarity and analytical rigor. This synthesis naturally shifts the analysis towards deeper questions of decentralization, stability, and the strength of the state. These are explored in Part 1, with deep studies of the effects of*

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*reform on state capacity, political and fiscal stability, and democratic inclusiveness in Bolivia, Pakistan, India, and Latin America more broadly. These complex questions - crucially important to policymakers but difficult to address with statistics - yield before a multipronged attack of quantitative and qualitative evidence combined with deep practitioner insight. How should reformers design decentralisation? Part 2 examines these*

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*issues with evidence from four decades of reform in developing and developed countries. What happens after reform is implemented? Decentralization and local service provision turns to decentralization's effects on health and education services, anti-poverty programs with original evidence from 12 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.*

*This handbook examines twenty-five years of decentralised governance and*

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*development in India. It provides a historical overview of developments since the introduction of decentralisation reforms (73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts) and critically assesses the measures initiated to strengthen decentralised institutions and deepen the grassroots democracy. It also discusses the status of service delivery and identifies issues and challenges involved to achieve development at the local level.*



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*The volume studies themes such as devolution of power in India, administrative and fiscal decentralisation, decentralised planning, Panchayats in scheduled areas, sociological aspects of decentralisation, caste, gender and local democracy, capacity building, ICT for local governance, urban local governance, workfare and decentralisation, decentralised natural resource management and also looks at*

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*Panchayati Raj institutions from a Gandhian perspective. The first of its kind, this handbook will be an essential read for scholars and researchers of decentralisation and development, development studies, fiscal decentralisation, political studies, political sociology, Indian politics, Indian government, public policy and governance, political economy, South Asian studies, and South Asian politics.*

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*Indonesia over the past two decades has embarked on a process of decentralization as part of a broader process of democratization, which followed earlier periods of centralized governance and authoritarian rule across the archipelago. The purpose of this book is to begin to explore the connections between governance and sustainable society in a wide variety of policy fields in Indonesia, and how reforming governance structures may*

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*contribute to societal benefits and the creation of a long-term sustainable society. This book bridges important theoretical debates related to governance and sustainable society and provides empirical research from Indonesia in important policy areas related to this debate. By placing research in different policy areas in a single volume, the link to the broader concepts of governance, decentralization, and societal outcomes*

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*is strengthened. The book builds on the recent interest that has focused on Indonesia and the continued development of democracy in the country. The chapters in the book show a rich variety of decentralized governance arrangements and capacity building at the local level in particular. Central standards (for example for social sustainability, anti-corruption arrangements, or for dealing with direct foreign investment), combined*

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*with local innovation (for example for municipal coordination of primary health care or metropolitan transport), are key to Indonesia as a country in a continuing process of transformation. We identify three key trends in the ongoing process of decentralization and governance in Indonesia. First, we find that formal governance, the relation between the national and local government, is characterized by a system of 'variable geometry multi-*

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*level governance' depending on the policy area. The challenge ahead is strengthening accountability mechanisms to assure national standards while preserving and encouraging local innovation. Secondly, informal governance mechanisms are evolving to move from 'hierarchical to network' forms of governance. Here the challenge is to insure democratic input by citizens and civil society organizations. Finally, we identify a*

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*trend toward 'shared value creation and sustainable cooperation.' Indonesia is beginning to move from a rather singular policy focus on economic growth to a more complex and developing notion of policymaking for inclusive growth and the creation of a sustainable society for present and future generations. Here the challenge is sound implementation and to increase the effectiveness of governance mechanisms. There is also a noted*



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*diffusion of goals, to focus beyond the Jakarta metropolitan area to smaller regional cities, as urbanization continues and rural areas are changing. This book will be of interest for use in advanced undergraduate and graduate courses related to Southeast Asia in the fields of international relations, political science, public administration, economics, law, sociology, education, public health, and the spatial sciences. It will also*

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*be of interest to policymakers and government officials at the national and local level in Southeast Asia and middle-income developing countries, officials and policymakers in institutions of regional governance such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and of global governance such as the United Nations and World Bank. It will also be of interest to civil society organizations and other actors focused on policy*

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*development and economic development, health, education, the environment, sustainable transport, etc. The book will also be of interest to business people interested in economic and governance issues, such as the management and governance of in-bound foreign investment, inclusive growth, and corporate governance. Finally, the book should be of interest to citizens in advanced, middle-income, and developing countries motivated to learn*

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*more about the links between governance and the creation of a sustainable society for current and future generations.*

*In this definitive history, a key figure in the People's Campaign in Kerala provides a unique insider's account of one of the world's most extensive and successful experiments in decentralization. Launched in 1996, the campaign mobilized over 3 million of Kerala's 30 million people and resulted*

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*in bottom-up development planning in all 1,052 of its villages and urban neighborhoods. The authors tell a powerful story of mass mobilization and innovation as bureaucratic opposition was overcome, corruption and cynicism were rooted out, and parliamentary democracy prevailed. Considering both the theoretical and applied significance of the campaign in the context both of India's development since independence and of recent*

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*international debates about decentralization, civil society, and empowerment, the book provides invaluable lessons for sustainable development worldwide.*

*The Kerala People's Campaign for  
Decentralized Planning*

*Decentralization, democracy &  
Development Administration*

*Moving Targets*

*Perspectives from Academics and Policy  
Makers*

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*A Decentralization Policy for the  
Republic of Namibia*

*Decentralization, Democratization, and  
the Promise of Good Governance*

*The Politics of Choice in Natural  
Resource Decentralization*

Exploring and updating the controversial debates about the relationship between democracy and development, this Research Handbook provides clarification on the complex and nuanced interlinkages between political regime type and socio-economic development. Distinguished scholars examine a broad range of issues from multidisciplinary perspectives across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

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Bolivia decentralized in an effort to deepen democracy, improve public services, and make government more accountable. Unlike many countries, Bolivia succeeded. Over the past generation, public investment shifted dramatically toward primary services and resource distribution became far more equitable, partly due to the creation of new local governments. Many municipalities responded to decentralization with transparent, accountable government, yet others suffered ineptitude, corruption, or both. Why? Jean-Paul Faguet combines broad econometric data with deep qualitative evidence to investigate the social underpinnings of governance. He shows how the interaction of civic groups and business interests determines the quality of local decision making. In order to understand decentralization, Faguet argues, we must understand governance from the ground up. Drawing on his findings, he offers



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an evaluation of the potential benefits of decentralization and recommendations for structuring successful reform.

The authors of this volume sift through the accumulating evidence to assess how well decentralization has fared. Focusing on consequences rather than causes, their goal is to inform future interventions in support of decentralized governance by showcasing some of the important trade-offs that it has generated so far.

The theme of decentralization has for decades caught the interest of professionals in political science and public administration, and to a lesser degree economists and development policy makers, and more recently social development professionals and experts in institutional development. In this book the focus is on democratic decentralization, probably the most difficult form of decentralization, because governments can best perform their roles

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in service delivery and building democracy, covering issues such as participation, accountability and the politics of choice. This title draws attention to the crucial issues in decentralization and monitoring, and analyzes the guiding principles for setting up the system. It invites the reader to consider the advantages of a flexible approach in monitoring, through the focus on plausible rather than real causal relationships, using a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, involving not only "experts" but all stakeholders, including the local communities, and finally it prioritizes the learning aspects in monitoring.

Decentralization and Popular Democracy

Decentralization and Governance in Indonesia

Decentralization, Democracy, and Subnational Government in Brazil, Mexico, and the USA

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Is Decentralization Good For Development?

Waiting for Democracy

Theme: Accelerating Decentralization and Local Governance for  
National Development

Local Democracy and Development

**This book explores the value of funding local initiatives that are designed to support development activities and promote local democracy. Reviewing experiences from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, it demonstrates how local funds can deliver development within the context of a rights-**

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**based approach and democratic  
decentralization.**

**Is decentralisation good for development?  
This book explains when the answer is 'Yes',  
and when it is 'No'. It shows how  
decentralisation can be designed to drive  
development forward, and focuses attention  
on the institutional incentives that can  
strengthen democracy, boost economies, and  
improve public sector performance. It also  
analyses the political motives behind  
decentralisation, and how these shape the**

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**institutions that result. This book brings together academics working at the research frontier of decentralization with policymakers who have implemented reform at the highest levels of government and international organizations. It marries policymakers' detailed knowledge of real reform processes with academics' analytical rigor. This synthesis naturally shifts the analysis towards deeper questions of decentralization, stability and the strength of the state, (Part 1); designing**

**decentralization: Taxes, Transfers and Expenditures (Part 2); and decentralization and local service provision (Part 3), with evidence from four decades of reform across developing and developed countries. Despite three decades of preoccupation with development in Africa, the economies of most African nations are still stagnating or regressing. For most Africans, incomes are lower than they were two decades ago, health prospects are poorer, malnourishment is widespread, and infrastructures and social**

**institutions are breaking down. An array of factors have been offered to explain the apparent failure of development in Africa, including the colonial legacy, social pluralism, corruption, poor planning and incompetent management, limited in-flow of foreign capital, and low levels of saving and investment. Alone or in combination, these factors are serious impediments to development, but Claude Ake contends that the problem is not that development has failed, but that it was never really on the**

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**agenda. He maintains that political conditions in Africa are the greatest impediment to development. In this book, Ake traces the evolution and failure of development policies, including the IMF stabilization programs that have dominated international efforts. He identifies the root causes of the problem in the authoritarian political structure of the African states derived from the previous colonial entities. Ake sketches the alternatives that are struggling to emerge from calamitous**



**failure--economic development based on traditional agriculture, political development based on the decentralization of power, and reliance on indigenous communities that have been providing some measure of refuge from the coercive power of the central state. Ake's argument may become a new paradigm for development in Africa.**

**This book explores the controversy in political science surrounding the civil society/social capital paradigm, by studying the performance of decentralized**

**governments in West Bengal and Bangladesh. Gram panchayats and NGOs provide the focus of the study. The study intends to determine whether a growth in social capital can explain why decentralized governments seem to be more effective in West Bengal, though both areas decentralized their governments around the same time. The two regions have shared for centuries a common history, civic culture, ethnic identity and language, though religion led to the separation of the regions. Decentralized Governance and Accountability**

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## **Changing Paths**

### **Towards Monitoring Democratic Decentralization**

### **Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World**

### **New Development in Local Democracy and Decentralization in East Asia**

### **Governance in the Americas**

### **Democracy, Decentralization and Human Development**

The first in-depth study of the impact of economic and political decentralization on planning practice in

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developing economies, this innovative volume, using original case study research by leading experts drawn from diverse fields of inquiry, from planning to urban studies, geography and economics, explores the dramatic transformation that decentralization implies in responsibilities of the local planning and governance structures. It examines a range of key issues, including: public and private finance local leadership and electoral issues planning in post-conflict societies. Offering unique insights into how planning has changed in specific countries, paying particular attention to South East Asian economies, India and South Africa, this excellent volume is an invaluable resource for researchers, graduate

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students and planners interested in urban planning in its international political and economic context.

Identifies the central themes, issues, questions, and methods of analysis of economics, and discusses how they have been approached in the African context over time. Reviews and document how the study of African societies has contributed to and shaped major fields of the discipline of economics.

Reviews recent lessons about decentralized governance and implications for future development programs and policies.

This definitive study of electoral politics and democratic decentralization in provincial Thailand investigates how

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democracy is unfolding in the context of emergent capitalism, exploring the relationships between the politics of the locality, the province and the nation from 1950.

A New Paradigm for Development?

International Development and the New Politics of  
Inclusion

Democracy, Decentralisation and Development  
Context and Concepts

Decentralizing Governance

Decentralization Policy Framework

Contested Spaces for Public Action in the Global South

***Nearly all countries worldwide are now experimenting***

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***with decentralization. Their motivation are diverse. Many countries are decentralizing because they believe this can help stimulate economic growth or reduce rural poverty, goals central government interventions have failed to achieve. Some countries see it as a way to strengthen civil society and deepen democracy. Some perceive it as a way to off-load expensive responsibilities onto lower level governments. Thus, decentralization is seen as a solution to many different kinds of problems. This report examines the origins and implications decentralization from a political economy perspective, with a focus on its promise and limitations. It explores why countries have often chosen not to decentralize, even when evidence suggests that doing so would be in***

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***the interests of the government. It seeks to explain why since the early 1980s many countries have undertaken some form of decentralization. This report also evaluates the evidence to understand where decentralization has considerable promise and where it does not. It identifies conditions needed for decentralization to succeed. It identifies the ways in which decentralization can promote rural development. And it names the goals which decentralization will probably not help achieve. The nine essays in this collection represent the first book-length treatment of one of the major changes that have shaped Latin America since independence: decentralization of the state. Contributors argue that though the assignment of political, fiscal, and***



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***administrative duties to subnational governments has been one of the most important political developments in Latin America, it is also one of the most overlooked. This volume is divided into three sections. Part one presents an overview of the topic by the editors; part two considers the political origins of decentralization; and part three examines decentralization and economic reforms. Decentralization and Democracy in Latin America explores the causes of decentralization in six significant case studies: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela. Shorter analyses of Uruguay and Peru are also included. The essays in this volume find substantial common ground across regime types, historical periods, and countries, and yield several***

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***substantive conclusions. First, historical-institutional and socioeconomic legacies matter. Second, democratization and neoliberal reform are neither necessary nor sufficient to explain***

***First published in 2010. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.***

***'Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World' constitutes a global reference on decentralization by presenting the contemporary situation of local governments in all regions of the world. The report analyzes local authorities in each continent under three main themes: the evolution of territorial structures; responsibilities and power, management and finances; and local democracy. An additional chapter is dedicated***

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***to the governance of large metropolises, where rapid growth presents major challenges, in particular in the fast-developing countries of the South. This report also offers a comparative overview of the different realities concerning the state of decentralization, and how the basic indispensable mechanisms for local democracy do, or do not exist in some countries. Relationships between the state and local authorities are evolving toward innovative forms of cooperation. In this context, the role of local authorities in the development of global policies is increasingly recognized. The first Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) Report is one of the main products of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The GOLD Report is the first of***

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***what will be a triennial publication. UCLG represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. Headquartered in Barcelona, the organization's stated mission is: To be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.***

***Decentralisation and Governance in Uganda  
Handbook of Decentralised Governance and  
Development in India***

***Democracy and Development in Africa  
Making Decentralization Work***

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***Decentralization Towards Democratization and  
Development***

***Decentralization, Democratization, and Informal Power in  
Mexico***

***The Political Economy of Democratic Decentralization***

Over the past three decades the developing world has seen increasing devolution of political and economic power to local governments.

Decentralization is considered an important element of participatory democracy and, along with privatization

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and deregulation, represents a substantial reduction in the authority of national governments over economic policy. The contributors to Decentralization and Local Governance in Developing Countries examine this institutional transformation from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, offering detailed case studies of decentralization in eight countries: Bolivia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, South

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Africa, and Uganda. Some of these countries witnessed an unprecedented "big bang" shift toward comprehensive political and economic decentralization: Bolivia in 1995 and Indonesia after the fall of Suharto in 1998. Brazil and India decentralized in an uneven and more gradual manner. In some other countries (such as Pakistan), devolution represented an instrument for consolidation of power of a nondemocratic national government.

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In China, local governments were granted much economic but little political power. South Africa made the transition from the undemocratic decentralization of apartheid to decentralization under a democratic constitution. The studies provide a comparative perspective on the political and economic context within which decentralization took place, and how this shaped its design and possible impact. Contributors Omar Azfar,



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Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Pranab Bardhan,  
Shubham Chaudhuri, Ali Cheema, Jean-  
Paul Faguet, Bert Hofman, Kai Kaiser,  
Philip E. Keefer, Asim Ijaz Khwaja,  
Justin Yifu Lin, Mingxing Liu, Jeffrey  
Livingston, Patrick Meagher, Dilip  
Mookherjee, Ambar Narayan, Adnan Qadir,  
Ran Tao, Tara Vishwanath, Martin  
Wittenberg

The trend toward greater  
decentralization of governance  
activities, now accepted as commonplace

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in the West, has become a worldwide movement. This international development—largely a product of globalization and democratization—is clearly one of the key factors reshaping economic, political, and social conditions throughout the world. Rather than the top-down, centralized decisionmaking that characterized communist economies and Third World dictatorships in the twentieth century, today's world demands flexibility,

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adaptability, and the autonomy to bring those qualities to bear. In this thought-provoking book, the first in a new series on Innovations in Governance, experts in government and public management trace the evolution and performance of decentralization concepts, from the transfer of authority within government to the sharing of power, authority, and responsibilities among broader governance institutions. This movement

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is not limited to national government—it also affects subnational governments, NGOs, private corporations, and even civil associations. The contributors assess the emerging concepts of decentralization (e.g., devolution, empowerment, capacity building, and democratic governance). They detail the factors driving the movement, including political changes such as the fall of the Iron Curtain and the ascendance of

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democracy; economic factors such as globalization and outsourcing; and technological advances (e.g. increased information technology and electronic commerce). Their analysis covers many different contexts and regions. For example, William Ascher of Claremont McKenna College chronicles how decentralization concepts are playing out in natural resources policy, while Kadmeil Wekwete (United Nations) outlines the specific challenges to

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decentralizing governance in sub-Saharan Africa. In each case, contributors explore the objectives of a decentralizing strategy as well as the benefits and difficulties that will likely result.

The question of whether political, fiscal, and administrative decentralization improves government effectiveness is hotly debated among researchers and policy makers.

'Decentralization, Democracy, and

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Development' contributes to the empirical literature on decentralization and the debate on whether it is a viable and desirable state-building strategy for post-conflict countries. This book is a collection of eight papers written by nine authors who were intimately involved in the complex decentralization reform process in Sierra Leone from 2003 07. During this period, Sierra Leone s government

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established elected district and urban councils across the country, transferred certain responsibilities for primary services and local investment and some financial resources to the new councils, and invested heavily in building the administrative infrastructure and capacity of the local councils. Compared to most other Sub-Saharan African countries that have embarked upon decentralization, Sierra Leone's progress in building local



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government capacity and restructuring the fiscal system is enviable. The authors conclude that improved security and public services are possible in a decentralizing country and Sierra Leone's progress would not have been possible without significant effort at fiscal decentralization and intensive investment in local government capacity building. The most critical ingredient for this promising but fragile reform process is the dynamic leadership team

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in charge of promoting the new institutional framework and their persistent effort to achieve quick improvement in the local government system and public services.

'Governance' has become a key word in the lexicon of international relations over the last twenty years. It is used, loosely, and invariably in a liberal idiom, by scholars, activists, civil society organizations, politicians and the voluntary sector. In many respects

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it has attained the status of a fetish, yet 'governance' remains a notion that has multiple definitions, a concept in-the-making. Notwithstanding the imprecision with which the term is employed, it has become an inescapable paradigm for the politics of development. The contributors to this book, drawn from among some of the world's best area studies specialists, from North and South, offer a diverse global critique of 'governance' as

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deployed in several key areas:  
institutions and state actors; the rule  
of law, democracy and human rights;  
decentralization and state power;  
development and, last but not least,  
international cooperation and the role  
of the World Bank, the IMF and NGOs.  
The geographical spread of the volume  
ranges from Africa to Latin America,  
from Asia to the Middle East. Their  
objectives include: a reassessment of  
'governance' in its many

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manifestations; an attempt to free the term from its often unhelpful linkage to the state, and thereby apply it to other organizations and actors; a re-evaluation of the Western-dominated use of the term politically and an attempt to broaden its application beyond issues such as transparency and the fight against corruption; and a search for innovative applications of the term, driven by a consensus that transcends current economic and

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political inequalities.

Decentralization, Development, and  
Democracy

Funding Local Governance

Academic Research and the Future of  
Donor Programming

Constitutional Law, Democracy and  
Development

Recent Experience from Sierra Leone

Small Grants for Democracy and  
Development

Decentralization and Democracy in Latin

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*Decentralization reforms introduced to Africa in the 1990s have not always delivered the intended long-term outcomes. This is a collection on the consequences of these reforms two decades on. In addition to general and comparative overviews, the book contains case studies on Ghana, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The common theme across the chapters is that the reforms seem to have engendered political consequences beyond decentralization itself - mostly through interaction with the broader historical, political, social, and economic*

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*context. The book thus speaks both to the scholarly literature (on decentralization, democratization, and development) and to the community of development practitioners. Most of the literature on decentralization and development emphasizes questions of institutional design and policy, but here the harder-to-pin-down political patterns marking the workings of decentralization are the main focus of analysis. The debates on development, through the case studies, are connected to the scholarly literatures on comparative federalism, comparative decentralization, and local democracy. The*



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*main conclusion that emerges from the studies in the book is that no magic formula that can turn countries into peaceful, stable, and prosperous democracies overnight exists.*

*Furthermore, there are risks involved in importing formal institutions without regard to the local historical, political, social, and economic context. The chapters of this book were originally published as a special issue in Regional and Federal Studies.*

*After two decades of marketizing, an array of national and international actors have become concerned with growing global inequality, the failure to reduce the numbers of very poor*

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*people in the world, and a perceived global backlash against international economic institutions. This new concern with poverty reduction and the political participation of excluded groups has set the stage for a new politics of inclusion within nations and in the international arena. The essays in this volume explore what forms the new politics of inclusion can take in low- and middle-income countries. The contributors favor a polity-centered approach that focuses on the political capacities of social and state actors to negotiate large-scale collective solutions and that highlights various*

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*possible strategies to lift large numbers of people out of poverty and political subordination. The contributors suggest there is little basis for the radical polycentrism that colors so much contemporary development thought. They focus on how the political capabilities of different societal and state actors develop over time and how their development is influenced by state action and a variety of institutional and other factors. The final chapter draws insightful conclusions about the political limitations and opportunities presented by current international discourse on poverty. Peter P.*

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*Houtzager is a Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. He has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Latin American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, visiting lecturer at Stanford University, and lecturer at St. Mary's College. A political scientist with broad training in comparative politics and historical-institutional analysis, he has written extensively on the institutional roots of collective action. Mick Moore is a Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, as well as Director of the Centre for the Future State.*

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*He has been a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His professional interests include political and institutional aspects of poverty reduction and of economic policy and performance, the politics and administration of development, and good government.*

*Uganda, like many African countries in the 1990s, adopted decentralisation as a state reform measure after many years of civil strife and political conflicts, by transferring powers and functions to district councils. The decision to transfer powers and functions to district councils was, in the*

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*main, linked to the quest for democracy and development within the broader context of the nation state. This book's broader aim is to examine whether the legal and policy framework of decentralisation produces a system of governance that better serves the greater objectives of local democracy, local development and accommodation of ethnicity. Specifically, the book pursues one main aim: to examine whether indeed the existing legal framework ensures the smooth devolution process that is needed for decentralised governance to succeed. In so doing, the book seeks, overall, to offer lessons that are*

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*critically important not only for Uganda but any other developing nation that has adopted decentralisation as a state-restructuring strategy. The book uses a desk-top research method by reviewing Uganda's decentralisation legal and policy frameworks.*

*Many developing countries have a history of highly centralized governments. Since the late 1980s, a large number of these governments have introduced decentralization to increase democracy and improve services, especially in small communities far from capital cities. In Going Local, an unprecedented study of the effects of*

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*decentralization on thirty Mexican municipalities, Merilee Grindle describes how local governments respond when they are assigned new responsibilities and resources under decentralization policies. She explains why decentralization leads to better local governments in some cases--and why it fails to in others. Combining quantitative and qualitative methods, Grindle examines data based on a random sample of Mexican municipalities--and ventures into town halls to follow public officials as they seek to manage a variety of tasks amid conflicting pressures and new expectations.*



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*Decentralization, she discovers, is a double-edged sword. While it allows public leaders to make significant reforms quickly, institutional weaknesses undermine the durability of change, and legacies of the past continue to affect how public problems are addressed. Citizens participate, but they are more successful at extracting resources from government than in holding local officials and agencies accountable for their actions. The benefits of decentralization regularly predicted by economists, political scientists, and management specialists are not inevitable, she argues. Rather, they are*

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*strongly influenced by the quality of local  
leadership and politics.*

*Decentralization, Democracy, and Development  
Going Local*

*Exploring Social Capital and Politicization  
in the Bengal Region*

*Emerging Concepts and Practices*

*First Global Report by United Cities and  
Local Governments 2008*

*Is Decentralization Good for Development?  
Democratic Governance*