

Chapter 7

Decentralization Reforms



1 Background of Reform

What Is Decentralization?

What exactly is the decentralization of power? In the abstract, it seems to mean empowering local governments to make policy decisions on their own initiative, but what this involves in practice is ambiguous. This abstract definition is silent regarding the resources and personnel needed to actually execute policies. Moreover, unlike in federalized states, where the roles of government are divided between the central government and subnational governments at the constitutional level, unitary states—including Japan—have not predetermined the allocation of such resources. Rather, it is not at all uncommon in unitary states for local governments to be akin to branch offices for implementing policies decided by the central government. A major characteristic of decentralization is that although it is a widely used term, it has not necessarily been given a clear definition.

In contemporary political science, it is common to divide decentralization into several components. For example, public administration scholar Soga Kengo, in discussing decentralization and local government, distinguishes two aspects: the scope of government activity and autonomy.¹ The scope of activity is determined by how resources (financial and human) are distributed to different levels of government, e.g., concentrated in the central government or dispersed among local governments. Autonomy is determined by how governments make decisions or how decision-making authority is allocated. This authority can either overlap between central and local governments, or it can be separated with each acting independently.

Many researchers agree that there is a distinction between political and administrative (de)centralization, on the one hand, and fiscal centralization and diffusion, on

¹ Soga (2022).

Decentralization Experiments And Reforms

Diana-Camelia Iancu



Decentralization Experiments And Reforms:

Decentralization Tamás M. Horváth,2000

Social Service Reform in the Postcommunist State Janelle A.

Kerlin,2005-06-28 The fall of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe raised the complex question of how social services were to be distributed and administered in countries with legacies of highly centralized state In Poland a series of reforms attempted to modify and decentralize social service programs Yet with Poland s second round of decentralization long held and clearly specified reform goals were undermined from the very outset In this insightful detailed and carefully argued study Janelle A Kerlin demonstrates how and why reforms intended to improve services and increase citizen participation in social service programming largely failed to meet expected goals The politics of reform development including political deals exclusionary tactics and hidden maneuvering by Polish policymakers prevented any significant upgrade of services or real change in decision making structures Conflicting ideologies and pressures on policy actors stemming from historical institutional political and international sources often resulted in compromises that led to unfavorable public service outcomes In this book Kerlin uses focused interviews with leading reform actors and a nationwide representative survey of two hundred public social service institutions to develop a model that connects the politics of the decentralization process with social service outcomes Not only students of the former Soviet bloc but also those interested in the links between politics and policy outcomes more broadly will find in this volume an informative and instructive case study that has far reaching implications

Democratic Decentralisation through a Natural Resource Lens Jesse C. Ribot,Anne M.

Larson,2013-09-13 This volume queries the state and effect of the global decentralization movement through the study of natural resource decentralizations in Africa Asia and Latin America The case studies presented here use a comparative framework to characterize the degree to which natural resource decentralizations can be said to be taking place and where possible to measure their social and environmental consequences In general the cases show that threats to national level interests are producing resistance that is fettering the struggle for reform

De Facto Federalism In China: Reforms And Dynamics Of Central-local Relations Yongnian Zheng,2007-01-23 This book is the first attempt to conceptualize

China s central local relations from the behavioral perspective Although China does not have a federalist system of government the author believes that with deepening reform and openness China s central local relations is increasingly functioning on federalist principles Federalism as a functioning system in China is under studied The author defines the political system existing in China as de facto federalism and provides a detailed analysis of its sources and dynamics in the book The system is mainly driven by two related factors inter governmental decentralization and globalization While economic decentralization since the 1980s has led to the formation of de facto federalism globalization since the 1990s has accelerated this process and generated increasingly high pressure on the Chinese leadership to institutionalize de facto federalism by various measures of selective recentralization

Handbook of Education Policy Research Gary

Sykes, Barbara Schneider, David N. Plank, 2012-09-10 Co published by Routledge for the American Educational Research Association AERA Educational policy continues to be of major concern Policy debates about economic growth and national competitiveness for example commonly focus on the importance of human capital and a highly educated workforce Defining the theoretical boundaries and methodological approaches of education policy research are the two primary themes of this comprehensive AERA sponsored Handbook Organized into seven sections the Handbook focuses on 1 disciplinary foundations of educational policy 2 methodological perspectives 3 the policy process 4 resources management and organization 5 teaching and learning policy 6 actors and institutions and 7 education access and differentiation Drawing from multiple disciplines the Handbook s over one hundred authors address three central questions What policy issues and questions have oriented current policy research What research strategies and methods have proven most fruitful And what issues questions and methods will drive future policy research Topics such as early childhood education school choice access to higher education teacher accountability and testing and measurement cut across the 63 chapters in the volume The politics surrounding these and other issues are objectively analyzed by authors and commentators Each of the seven sections concludes with two commentaries by leading scholars in the field The first considers the current state of policy design and the second addresses the current state of policy research This book is appropriate for scholars and graduate students working in the field of education policy and for the growing number of academic government and think tank researchers engaged in policy research For more information on the American Educational Research Association please visit <http://www.aera.net>

Fiscal Autonomy and Efficiency Kenneth Jackson Davey, 2002 **Experiments and Innovations in Education**, 1972 **Local Reforms in Transition Democracies** Diana-Camelia Iancu, 2013 *Challenging Bureaucratic Insularity* Richard William Jelier, 1995 *Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in the New EU Member States* William Dillinger, 2007 This title evaluates reforms in the structure of intergovernmental relations in Eastern Europe since the breakup of the Soviet Union focusing on eight recent EU accession countries the Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Poland Slovakia and Slovenia It reviews each country s response to the economic and political upheavals of the immediate post Soviet era and their gradual convergence on a common eastern European model of intergovernmental relations

Regionalization for Development and Accession to the European Union Gérard Marcou, 2002 *Essays on the Political Economy of Reform in Vietnam* Vũ Thành Tư Anh, 2004 This dissertation consists of three self contained papers on economic reform in transition economies with a special focus on Vietnam *Fighting Poverty and Reforming Social Security* Michael J. G. Cain, Nida M. Gelazis, Tomasz Inglot, 2005 *Regional Development Dialogue*, 1999 An international journal focusing on third world development problems

Public Finance in Developing and Transitional Countries Richard Miller Bird, 2003 A collection of most of the papers and comments presented at the conference held in honor of Richard Bird in the spring of 2001 Section I Intergovernmental fiscal relations Section II Tax evasion tax

administration and the role of government Section III Fiscal policy *Between State Socialism and European Union* John A. Scherpereel, 2003 *Regional Issues in Polish Politics* Tomasz Zarycki, George Kolankiewicz, 2003 **CPL Bibliography**
Council of Planning Librarians, 1979 The Crisis in Government Accountability Dilip Mookherjee, 2004 These essays share a common theme the importance and challenge of second and third generation reforms in the Indian economy in the era of increasing role of market forces *Economic Reform in Poland* David M. Kemme, Wichita State University. Center for Management Development, 1991

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