

Decentralization And Local Governance In Developing Countries A Comparative Perspective

Theories of Decentralization and Local Government brings fresh perspective to the debate and comparative analysis of vertical division of power; i.e. processes of decentralization and relations between central and local (self) governments. The multiple author book is not just one of many similar around the globe, as it encompasses contributions from many different academics from not only different countries, but also different continents and even more importantly, very different political traditions and cultures. This way, the book deepens and strengthens knowledge of the role of local governments in the contemporary world, and brings new value to discussions on the relationship between decentralization and development. Contributors include: Ahmed Mustafa Elhoussein Mansour, Hong Pang, Abdulfattah Yaghi, Jose Neftali Recinos, Gariela Miranda-Recinos, Lee Payne, Heather Wyatt Nichol, Ed Gibson, James Newman, Kwame Asamoah, Minerva Cruz, and Alexandra Tsvetkova.

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 and

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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 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. 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, 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

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Communities need a holistic approach to address the problems that affect the people at the grass root. The planning of the direct beneficiaries involves decentralization in order to allow the lower power centers to widely take part in the development of society. Concerns of the grass root people form the need for decentralization and local governance. People's involvement in the planning on the village level and all local government units, makes the identification and solving of the problem easier. High participatory levels of all the people especially the marginalized, encourages innovation to source for the appropriate solutions to the common problems that face society. It therefore calls a decentralized system that caters for the voters' preferences while providing for their services. The people's concerns call for local planning and the transfer of power to the public so that services are brought nearer to the people. This study will cover the aspects of local government and decentralization such as good governance, democratization, civil society, deconcentration, devolution and delegation, and its relation to the development of societies.

An exploration of why some decentralization reforms have led to viable systems of local governance in Africa, while others have failed. It outlines the key issues involved, provides historical context, and identifies the factors that have encouraged or discouraged success.

Local Governance in India draws on the basic theoretical and practical aspects of localizing governance and illuminates how local governance unfolds in India. To help

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comprehend relevant issues contextually, the book focuses on the historical, socio-economic and political milieus, and draws extensively on examples and cases from India. By understanding local governance in the wider political scenario, it also endeavours to reconceptualize local governance in India as integral to the country's macro politics. The book offers a broad analysis of specific programmes, such as MGNREGA, and structures of governance at the grass-roots level, thereby providing insights into relatively less-discussed aspects and helps grasp the concept of governance in a policy perspective. Containing varied examples, case studies and literature review, this textbook would be an ideal companion for students of political science, public administration, urban and rural development, sociology, social work and economics. Key Features:

- Provides a concise and well-balanced coverage of rural and urban governance in India
- Incorporates insights into and explanations of both Western and non-Western perspectives of local governance
- Dwells on contemporary trends in democratization and local governance
- Makes a projective study of future of local governance in India

This booklet offers an insight into the support that UNCDF is providing in promoting decentralization and local governance in Malawi.

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

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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 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 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 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 on-going process of decentralization and governance in Indonesia. First, we find that formal governance, the relation between the national and local government, is

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characterized by a system of ‘variable geometry multi-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 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 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 be of interest to policymakers and government officials at the national and local level in Southeast Asia and middle-income developing countries,

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

Much of the scholarly and professional literature on development focuses either on the 'macro' level of national policies and politics or on the 'micro' level of development projects and household or community socio-economic dynamics. By contrast, this collection pitches itself at the 'meso' level with a comparative exploration of the ways in which local institutions – municipalities, local governments, city authorities, civil society networks and others – have demanded, and taken on, a greater role in planning and managing development in the Latin American region. The book's rich empirical studies reveal that local

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institutions have engaged upwards, with central authorities, to shape their policy and resource environments and in turn, been pressured from 'below' by local actors contesting the ways in which the structures and processes of local governance are framed. The examples covered in this volume range from global cities, such as Mexico and Santiago, to remote rural areas of the Bolivian and Brazilian Amazon. As a result the book provides a deep understanding of the diversity and complexity of local governance and local development in Latin America, while avoiding the stereotyped claims about the impact of globalisation or the potential benefits of decentralisation, as frequently stated in less empirically grounded analysis.

This is a true state-of-the-art volume in the fields of local governance, decentralization, and local democracy. It summarizes many of the insights emerging from original research of the past decade. It is also a future-looking volume with explicit policy relevance, paving the way for innovative thinking, and acting, on the next phase of development in the field. In a unique way this book brings together authoritative contributions from authors who to a large extent have been defining the field for the last decade or more. It looks at how good governance is created from top-down and bottom-up perspectives, illustrated through a wide variety of case studies. The case studies were selected for their

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relevance to the theoretical perspectives offered, as well as for their paradigmatic power in the current global evolution of decentralized policies and politics. The volume concludes that overall, local development and local politics will not go away--it has a huge potential--but also that the field is full of unfulfilled promises, some of which could be remedied through the perspectives revealed in this volume.

Over recent decades, decentralization has emerged as a key Public Sector Reform strategy in a wide variety of international contexts. Yet, despite its emergence as a ubiquitous activity that cuts across disciplinary lines in international development, decentralization is understood and applied in many different ways by parties acting from contrary perspectives. This book offers a fascinating insight into theory and practice surrounding decentralization activities in the Public Sectors of developing and transitional countries. In drawing on the expertise of established scholars, the book explores the contexts, achievements, progress and challenges of decentralization and local governance. Notably, the contributions contained in this book are genuinely international in nature; the chapters explore aspects of decentralization and local governance in contexts as diverse as Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Tanzania, Uganda, and Viet Nam. In summary, by examining the subject of

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decentralization with reference to specific developing and transitional Public Sector contexts in which it has been practiced, this book offers an excellent contribution towards a better understanding of the theory and practice of decentralization and local governance in international settings. This book was published as a special double issue of the International Journal of Public Administration.

This report is the result of an extensive assessment of the process of proposed decentralization reforms in Ukraine as it relates to the future programming of USAID/Ukraine. Fieldwork for the assessment took place during most of the month of July 2014 and included over 50 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in seven cities in addition to seven citizen focus groups conducted in four different cities. The three primary questions that the assessment sought to address are: 1) what is the current operating environment for local governance reforms?; 2) what is the capacity and capacity-building needs of local governments and civil society to implement such reforms and effectively exercise improved governance on the local level?; and 3) what are the existing and planned donor efforts in local governance and decentralization? With regards to the first question, the assessment team found that there exist mixed prospects for decentralization reform. On the one hand, there is widespread public support and

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political will within the present government for the reform, and many stakeholders view its implementation as an urgent priority to move Ukraine towards integration with the European community. On the other hand, vested interests in the present system related to the entrenched patron-client nature of politics in Ukraine threaten to undermine the prospects of meaningful decentralization that may cut-off existing avenues for rent-seeking on the national-level. Additionally, while there appears to be political will at high levels of governance, including President Poroshenko, many experts and political actors have yet to accept the present formulation of the reform more due to issues related to political competition at the national level than to the reform's role in empowering local governments. In particular, many of the national-level political actors are wary that decentralization reform proposed by the presidency will serve to strengthen the president vis-à-vis the parliament and cabinet of ministers. As a result, most of the parties in parliament did not support the version of the reform presented by the presidency over the summer. At present, the implementation of reform has been delayed at least until a new parliament can be elected in late October 2014. These elections could either provide a better or worse environment for adopting legislation needed for the decentralization reform depending upon the configuration of political forces it creates. In general, it is likely that the realization of reforms will

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require negotiation on various points in the proposed plan for decentralization. In addition to the question of whether national oversight of local governments will be performed by the presidency, the cabinet of ministers, or a combination of Ukraine's dual executive power structure, another controversial question that will likely need to be negotiated relates to the consolidations of villages (hromada) and rayons.¹ Proposals suggest shrinking the number of hromada from about 15,000 to 1,200 and the number of rayons from about 500 to 100. This would make the proposed empowerment of hromadas in the country much more feasible, ensuring that each had the minimal human capital and technical capacity to implement self-governance. Additionally, this reform would make efforts to support each local government more feasible for the oblast and national level governments (as well as for international donors). However, many on the local level express concern that the proposal to consolidate hromada and rayons would adversely impact their existing access to health care clinics and schools. Furthermore, this reform is also likely to face opposition from many local interest groups, who would potentially lose their positions of power within the present configuration of territorial-administrative units.

This is a collection of 20 essays, dedicated to Dr George Mathew, by eminent scholars and academics on decentralised governance and its importance in a

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globalising world. Based on empirical studies and paradigms of developed and developing countries, it has an overarching focus on India's panchayati raj institutions. The Seventy-third constitution Amendment Act of 1992, by making PRIs mandatory, was a historic move towards deepening democracy and advancing development through decentralisation. Decentralisation programmes in other countries (e.g. S. Africa and Pakistan) are also reviewed. The book offers a comprehensive account of development and governance at the grassroots through a broad canvas of multiperspective and interdisciplinary presentations. Contributed research papers presented at a workshop organised by Centre for the Study of Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University in collaboration with the UNDP and UN-Habitat in April 2002.

This book examines the impacts of fiscal decentralization reforms on the efficiency of local governments in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. By offering a comparative perspective and by applying econometric methods and regression models, it analyses various reform trajectories and their effects on individual CEE countries. Furthermore, the book discusses input and output indicators for evaluating the efficiency of municipalities. Readers will learn about the common features of these countries, the impact of path dependence, and future prospects for decentralization reforms. In closing, the book discusses modern management and administration

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methods, opportunities for cooperation between municipalities, co-creative service delivery, and other measures that could improve the efficiency of public service provision.

Entering the 21st century, the 1999-2000 World Development Report (WDR), identifies two main forces that are shaping the world in which development policy is being defined and implemented: (i) globalization, the increasing worldwide integration of private sector interaction and commercial relationships; and (ii) localization, a process of devolving fiscal and administrative roles and responsibilities from central to sub-national tiers of government. It goes on to note that these global-private and local-public pressures are not only reinforcing, but also challenging traditional paradigms and forms of intergovernmental systems. Political decentralization, often associated with pluralistic politics and representative government, aims to give citizens more say in public policy and decision-making. Its advocates assume that decisions made with greater participation will be better informed and more relevant to diverse interests in society than those made only by national political authorities. The concept implies that the selection of representatives from local electoral jurisdictions allows citizens to know better their political representatives and allows elected officials to know better the needs and desires of their constituents. Administrative decentralization aims to redistribute authority, responsibility and financial resources for providing public services among different levels of government. It typically takes three forms: de-concentration,

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delegation and devolution. Fiscal decentralization vests greater autonomy and authority with local governments in matters of fiscal importance, empowering local governments to generate their own revenues, through taxes and user charges, as well as determining their expenditure priorities based on a clear assignment of functions and responsibilities. Over the last two decades, it has been estimated that more than 100 countries, most of them in the developing world, have experimented with various forms of decentralization.

Lecture Notes from the year 2013 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: Development Politics, grade: A, Atlantic International University (BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS), course: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Development issues, language: English, comment: Join Grin and enjoy the academic world., abstract: Communities need a holistic approach to address problems that affect the people at the grass root. Planning from the direct beneficiaries involves decentralization to allow the lower power centers to widely take part in the development of society. Concerns of the grass root people form the need for decentralization and of local governance. People's involvement in planning at various levels from the village level and all local government units makes problem identification and problem solving easier. High participatory levels of all the people especially the marginalized, encourages innovation to source for the appropriate solutions to the common problems that face society. It therefore calls a decentralized system that caters for the voters'

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preferences while providing for their services. The concerns of the people call for local planning, transfer of power to the public so that services are brought nearer to the people. This research paper will cover the aspects of local government and decentralization such as good governance, democratization, civil society, deconcentration, devolution and delegation and how these link to development of societies. Purpose of the Study. The course will aid people and managers to - Empower the population so that they are able to manage the public affairs themselves. - Develop skills for good governance and involving the people in making decisions that affect their wellbeing in their respective communities.

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

There is a mismatch between service provision under decentralization system of governance and the resource spent by urban councils to provide services in Africa. As a result, urban local councils on one hand are pretending to be providing services and on the other hand the central governments have relaxed under the pretext that local councils have the responsibility to provide such services. It is not automatic that when services are taken nearer to the consumer, it will easily be accessible as originally believed to be by the promoters of decentralized governance. This is to the contrary in an African perspective as proved in this study. This as a result has generally exacerbated poverty especially in urban areas in Africa than before.

Successful reforms need coherent approaches in which a range of stakeholders are willing to share responsibilities and resources in order to achieve the ultimate outcome of poverty reduction in developing countries. This book provides a framework to access intended outcomes generated by decentralization measures implemented in Asian and African countries. It is based on comparative analyses of different experiences of decentralization measures in six developing countries.

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Contributed articles.

Asian countries have introduced major reforms and new institutional mechanisms in recent years to promote the engagement of elected local governments, civil society, and the private sector. This book examines emerging issues in democratic local governance and factors that influenced the impetus for and the substance of reforms. It asks the following questions: - What have been the challenges in designing and implementing decentralization policies and programs? - What are the constraints on strengthening citizen participation? - Can reforms promote gender and rights perspectives in local governance? - What is the role of local government in service delivery and access? - How effective are the mechanisms for accountability and transparency in local governance? - What are the driving forces influencing democratic local governance reform? The book addresses these questions as it discusses studies from theoretical and comparative perspectives on specific issues as well as myriad cases across Asia, often dealing with country-specific reforms.

This book aims to examine the impact of fiscal decentralization on subnational resource mobilization capacity, and on macroeconomic stability, in four African countries. Field research conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mali, constituted the basis for a rigorous and detailed examination of the decentralization process in each country. One of the intriguing findings is that increased subnational tax autonomy significantly reduces the size of the central government and improves the central government

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budget balance in the sample countries. Recommendations are: (a) the design and implementation of decentralization mechanisms must be based on the principles of stability, transparency, accountability, and equity; (b) frequent dialogue between the central and sub-national governments, and an active association and cooperation of local and regional levels of government in the formulation of macroeconomic objectives will improve the chances of successful decentralization programs; (c) authorities must heighten their campaigns to educate local populations on decentralization reforms. Full and educated participation of all citizens at the grassroots level is critical to the success of decentralization programs. In all, the book focuses its analysis on the capacity of local communities in Africa for autonomous development and self-governance, and that, is a refreshing addition to the literature.

In 1999, the Thai government enacted the Tambon Council and Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) Act (no.3) to empower local administration. Later, the Determining Plans and Process of Decentralization to Local Government Organization Act was adopted. This law updated policies on local government. This dissertation investigates the perception of public officials in three levels, small, medium, and large of Tambon Administration Organizations in Thailand regarding the effect of these Acts on local governance. In particular, effects of significant values identified from good governance principles: efficiency and effectiveness, fairness, citizen participation, responsiveness, accountability, and transparency are explored. The findings suggest that public officials

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viewed huge improvements in terms of overall good governance values. The new structure allows TAOs to have greater power and larger budgets to improve local infrastructure, service delivery, and citizens' well-being as never before. Citizens are given more opportunities to participate in the policy making process of TAOs through the use of village forums and oversight committee participation. TAOs are more responsive in terms of solving citizens' problems in a timelier manner. However, some traditional Thai values and practices, such as spoils and corruption practices, are still present even though there are improved mechanisms, such as oversight committees to improve the level of accountability and transparency. Overall, local governance in Thailand has taken a step in the right direction and the local administration should receive more support in the near future. The recent revolution in Thailand is expected to slow the development of local decentralization to some extent, but the long term impact remains to be seen.

Local governments can play an important role in providing public services and supporting economic development. In Mongolia, the legal, institutional, and fiscal environment in which local governments operate, provides several constraints and opportunities that impact on that role. In this publication, we assess both the formal features of Mongolia's system of decentralized governance and the way that system works in practice. We also provide practical suggestions for improvements to the current system.

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Local government can be defined as a public entity acting as the sub-unit of a state or of a region, charged with the task of enforcing public policies. There have been many reforms of local government in recent years from the grassroots-led movement that took root in the 90's to the overarching effects of globalization and decentralization. Local governments must adapt their practices in order to most effectively provide for their constituents. Theoretical Foundations and Discussions on the Reformation Process in Local Government addresses the effects of recent reforms in the political-administrative system of local governments and politics as well as future outlooks. It reviews the challenges, innovations, and lessons from local governments while providing theoretical perspectives on methods for positive reform. This book is a critical reference source for policy makers, government organizations, professionals, and actors in both local and international politics.

Over the past three decades, decentralization has been seen as the means for allowing local governments to become more accountable, and for encouraging the deepening of democracy and the building of village communities. By drawing on original village-level case studies of six villages in three different Indian states, this book presents a systematic analysis of the impact of decentralization on the delivery of social services at the local level within India. Supplementing national and state-level data and analyzing the different historical legacies in each state, the book argues that decentralization is not simply a function of the structure of the decentralization program or of the

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relationship between higher-tiered and local government. Rather, the possibility of decentralization affecting social outcomes depends on several interacting factors, including the distribution of power among local elites, the dynamics of political competition, and the level of civil society mobilization. By examining constitutionally-mandated political decentralization across India, this book identifies the circumstances under which local government structures can lead to improved social services and societal wellbeing, as well as presenting a substantial contribution to studies on South Asian Politics and Local Government.

During the past two decades, a silent revolution in public sector governance has swept across the globe aiming to move decision making for local public services closer to the people. The countries embracing and adapting to this silent revolution have had diverse motives and followed even more diverse approaches. This paper attempts to present a stylized view of the motivations and approaches used to strengthen local governance. The quest for the right balance, i.e. appropriate division of powers among different levels of government, is not always the primary reason for decentralizing. There is evidence that the decentralization decision may have more to do with short-term political considerations than the long-run benefits of decentralization. To take stock of progress worldwide, we take a comparative look at developments in political, fiscal and administrative decentralization for a selected group of countries. Most of the decentralization literature deals with normative issues regarding the assignment of

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responsibilities among different levels of government and the design of fiscal transfers. The process of decentralization has not received the attention it deserves as the best laid plans can fail due to implementation difficulties. We revisit major controversies regarding preferred approaches to obtaining a successful outcome. Key approaches examined are big push versus small steps; bottom up vs. top down; and uniform vs. asymmetric decentralization. Finally, Indonesia's 1999 big bang decentralization program is evaluated. The program should be commended for its achievements over a short period of time, however incentives are lacking for local governments to be accountable and responsive to their residents.

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