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## Annotated Resources on democracy and decentralisation

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Both democracy and decentralisation have been the subject of intense research and debate among development experts for a long time. However, it has not been until recently that academics and policy makers alike have turned their attention to the interactions between them. This is perhaps not surprising. The wave of democratisation that has swept across countries in regions from Africa to Latin America to South Asia since the 1980s was accompanied by an equally strong process of neo-liberal economic restructuring which, among other things, embraced decentralisation as a way of reducing the size and reach of the state.

The confluence of these two trends has generated a growing body of literature seeking to clarify the dynamics between them: does democratisation lead to decentralisation, or is it the other way around? Or could it be that both forces can happily coexist without necessarily exerting any kind of influence on each other? Perhaps more problematic: what if one undermines the other? Beyond a preoccupation with sequencing and causal mechanisms, the literature has also begun to move towards a focus on effects: once democratisation and decentralisation reforms have been put in place, what has their impact been at the local level? Has the quality of local democracy actually improved, as development agencies assumed it would, thereby making the political process more accountable and participatory and enabling citizens to become more vested in the decisions that most concern them? Has government also become more efficient in the delivery of basic services and in the protection of fundamental rights as a result? And if reforms have not yet yielded the positive results that had been expected, what are the main obstacles limiting the potential of democratic decentralisation?

This selected resources list includes some of the major theoretical and empirical works analysing the relationship between democracy and decentralisation, both in terms of causes and effects. Because this is such a large and rapidly evolving field, the list must of necessity be selective, but we have tried to focus on publications that feature the latest thinking on these issues, including slightly less current material whose contribution remains timely and relevant. We have included publications that discuss a single country or case study only in the measure that the country or study in question speaks to a broader audience and the lessons derived from it can be applied elsewhere. Otherwise, we have preferred to highlight books and articles that analyse the links between democracy and decentralisation from a comparative perspective. In terms of organisations, we have focused only on major institutions that work on these issues as part of their core mission on an international scale—there are so many organisations working on specific issues in specific countries that it would have been arbitrary on our part to select only a few among them. Our hope is that those interested in a particular case or country will be able to use the wealth of material that large international agencies have at their disposal as a first port of entry in finding the information they need.

### Books and articles

#### **Abers, Rebecca Neaera**

*Inventing Local Democracy: Grassroots Politics in Brazil*

Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000, ISBN: 1 5558 7893 8, 269 pp.

This book examines the experience of participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil, one of the best-known experiments in local citizen empowerment, and an important break from

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traditional patronage politics. Under the leadership of the Workers' Party, the city government organises annual budget assemblies in which thousands of residents get together to establish their budget priorities, and an elected council determines city spending.

**Angell, Alan, Pamela Lowden, and Rosemary Thorp**

*Decentralizing Development: The Political Economy of Institutional Change in Colombia and Chile*

Oxford: OUP, 2001, ISBN: 0 19 924231 3, 240 pp.

Based on extensive fieldwork, this book explores how decentralisation has worked in practice in seven medium-sized provincial towns in Colombia and Chile. Addressing the factors that explain why decentralisation efforts have had such different outcomes not only between countries but also within them, the authors seek to identify the conditions under which decentralisation can act as a catalyst for development.

**Arghiros, Daniel**

*Democracy, Development and Decentralization in Provincial Thailand*

Richmond: Curzon Press, 2001, ISBN: 0 7007 1523 1, 320 pp.

This study of electoral politics and democratic decentralisation in provincial Thailand investigates the relationship between the politics of the locality, the province, and the nation since the 1950s. Focusing on issues surrounding rural people's participation, it examines how the country's newly revitalised democracy is developing.

**Beasley-Murray, Jon, Jean Grugel, Nicola Miller, and Sarah Radcliffe (eds.)**

*Bulletin of Latin American Research: Journal of the Society for Latin American Studies* 23(1)

Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004, ISSN: 026103050, 134 pp.

This special topic issue of the *Bulletin* on democracy in Latin America focuses on the Southern Cone, and includes papers on depoliticisation in Chile, local participatory governance in Porto Alegre, the World Bank and governance reforms in Argentina, and the threats posed by the failure of democratisation processes to establish civil control over the military.

**Berg-Schlosser, Dirk and Norbert Kersting (eds.)**

*Poverty and Democracy: Self-help and Political Participation in Third World Cities*

London: Zed Books, 2003, ISBN: 1 8427 7205 8, 237 pp.

This book examines the intersection between poverty and democracy from the perspective of shantytown dwellers in Brazil, Chile, Ivory Coast, and Kenya. Through the use of surveys, the contributors attempt to capture the view of the urban poor on matters regarding membership in interest groups and political parties, attitudes towards democracy, and questions of trust and representation. An interesting finding is that, far from being apathetic, the poor engage in politics as a way of escaping their poverty.

**Blair, Harry**

'Participation and accountability at the periphery: democratic local governance in six countries' *World Development* 28(1):21–39, 2000.

Based on a six-country study (Bolivia, Honduras, India, Mali, the Philippines, and Ukraine), this article analyses the potential of democratic local governance to become more responsive to citizen demands and more effective in service delivery. Looking in particular at issues of participation and accountability, the author concludes that, despite important limitations on how much participation can actually deliver, both are essential factors in strengthening democracy at the local level.

**Bogason, Peter***Public Policy and Local Governance: Institutions in Postmodern Society*

Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2000, ISBN: 1 84064 349 8, 208 pp.

Taking a postmodern approach to policy analysis, the author argues that looking at formal institutions alone is not sufficient to determine who makes public policy. Instead, he proposes a 'bottom-up' approach to the analysis of local governance that focuses on collective action.

**Burnell, Peter (ed.)***Democracy Assistance: International Co-operation for Democratization*

London: Frank Cass, 2000, ISBN: 0 7146 5106 0, 384 pp.

This book analyses the efforts of bilateral and multilateral aid agencies such as USAID, the UN specialised agencies, and regional development banks to promote democracy worldwide. Looking at how recipient countries use such aid, contributors focus in particular on post-conflict situations and semi-authoritarian regimes where democratisation has stalled. International support for democratic decentralisation is also examined.

**Cain, Bruce E., Russell J. Dalton, and Susan E. Scarrow (eds.)***Democracy Transformed? Expanding Political Opportunities in Advanced Industrial Democracies*

Oxford: OUP, 2003, ISBN: 0 1992 6499 6, 328 pp.

This book looks at how democratic institutions of representation have changed across OECD countries over the past 20 years as a result of popular pressures for reform. These changes include reforms of the electoral process, the expansion of referenda, the introduction of open government provisions, and more access points for direct political involvement. The book also considers the larger implications of these reforms for the nature and quality of democracy.

**Campbell, Tim***The Quiet Revolution: Decentralization and the Rise of Political Participation in Latin American Cities*

Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003, ISBN: 0 8229 5796 5, 208 pp.

This book traces the growth and effects of decentralisation and democratisation in Latin America throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Based on first-hand accounts from mayors, local officials, and neighbourhood leaders, the author focuses on those cities and towns that have made the most of their newly acquired autonomy. Campbell also offers insights into similar events taking place in other parts of the world.

**Chalmers, Douglas, Carlos M. Vilas, Katherine Kite, Scott B. Martin, Kerianne Piester, and Monique Segarra (eds.)***The New Politics of Inequality in Latin America: Rethinking Participation and Representation*

Oxford: OUP, 1997, ISBN: 0 19 878183 0, 644 pp.

This book examines the unfolding relationships between social change, equity, and the democratic representation of the poor in Latin America against a backdrop of globalisation and neo-liberal economic reform. Beyond a short-term focus on poverty alleviation, the contributors argue that the challenge confronting the region is finding long-term means to ensure the effective integration of the poor into the political process.

*Annotated Resources on democracy and decentralisation***Chase-Dunn, Christopher, Susanne Jonas, and Nelson Amaro (eds.)***Globalization on the Ground: Postbellum Guatemalan Democracy and Development*

Lanham, MD: Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers, 2001, ISBN: 0 7425 0867 6, 254 pp.

With contributions from scholars and public policy experts from Guatemala and the USA, this book presents research, analysis, and reflections on some of the major contemporary issues of development and democracy following the end of the 37-year civil war. Themes include the role of the military, the involvement of Mayan communities in national development, the possible emergence of more inclusive political institutions, and the role of international forces and agencies in social change in Guatemala.

**Crook, Richard and James Manor***Democracy and Decentralisation in South Asia and West Africa: Participation, Accountability and Performance*

Cambridge: CUP, 1998, ISBN: 0 5216 3157 2, 352 pp.

Analysing attempts to create democratic, decentralised local governments in the late 1980s and 1990s in Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Karnataka (India), this book examines whether 'good governance' and decentralisation are in fact more efficient and more responsive to local needs. The authors focus on issues of participation; accountability between people, politicians, and bureaucrats; and on decentralised governmental performance in comparison with previous forms of administration.

**Dahal, Dev Raj, Hari Uprety, and Phanindra Subba***Good Governance and Decentralization in Nepal*

Kathmandu: Center for Governance and Development Studies in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 2002, ISBN: 99933 398 0 6, 188 pp.

This book examines various aspects of the concepts of decentralisation and good governance in Nepal, a country that has been in the midst of an extensive debate on how to manage its resources more effectively and how to make local institutions more attuned to the aspirations of the people they represent. The authors underscore the developmental and democratic potential of decentralisation and call for greater local autonomy and increased citizen participation in the political process.

**de Mello, Luiz**

'Can Fiscal Decentralization Strengthen Social Capital?'

IMF Working Paper No. 129, Fiscal Affairs Department

Washington, DC: IMF, 2000, 31 pp., available at [www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2000/wp00129.pdf](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2000/wp00129.pdf)

Presenting cross-country evidence from industrialised and developing countries that shows that fiscal decentralisation—the assignment of expenditure functions and revenue sources to lower levels of government—can strengthen social capital by stimulating interpersonal trust and civic cooperation, the paper calls for incorporating fiscal decentralisation into the IMF's package of second-generation reforms.

**Fung, Archon and Erik Olin Wright (eds.)***Deepening Democracy: Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance*London: Verso Books, 2003, ISBN: 1 85984 466 9, 224 pp., available at: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/Deepening.pdf>

Part of the Real Utopias Project, this volume explores four contemporary cases in which the principles of a deliberative democracy have been at least partially instituted, namely

participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre; school decentralisation councils and community policing councils in Chicago; stakeholder councils in environmental protection and habitat management; and decentralised governance structures in Kerala.

**Ghai, Yash (ed.)**

*Autonomy and Ethnicity: Negotiating Competing Claims in Multi-ethnic States*

Cambridge: CUP, 2000, ISBN: 0 5217 8642 8, 326 pp.

The political organisation of multi-ethnic states requires a fine balance between competing forces. Responses to intra-state ethnic conflicts have ranged from oppression and 'ethnic cleansing' to the accommodation of ethnic claims through affirmative policies, special forms of representation, power sharing, and the integration of minorities. With case studies on Australia, Canada, China, Cyprus, India, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Spain, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the former Yugoslavia, contributors examine local and regional autonomy as an often contested device for conflict management.

**Gibson, Edward (ed.)**

*Federalism: Latin America in Comparative Perspective*

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004, ISBN: 0 8018 7424 6, 392 pp.

Seeking to advance theoretical and empirical understanding of federal systems, this volume addresses the question of how and when federal institutions matter in terms of policy making and democratic practice. Contributions include case studies on four existing federal systems in Latin America—Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela—and analyse their experiences in dealing with issues including the formation and evolution of federal structures, democratisation, electoral representation, and economic reform.

**Grindle, Merilee S.**

*Audacious Reforms: Institutional Invention and Democracy in Latin America*

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000, ISBN: 0 8018 6421 6, 270 pp.

This book analyses 'audacious' institutional innovation aimed at decentralising power in three political systems in Latin America: direct elections of local officials in Venezuela, radical municipalisation in Bolivia, and direct election of the mayor of Buenos Aires in Argentina. Grindle examines why politicians at the centre might choose to give up power, why certain institutions are selected rather than others, and how the establishment of new institutions alters the nature of political interactions.

**Grugel, Jean**

*Democratization: A Critical Introduction*

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001, ISBN: 0 333 67969 5, 288 pp.

International financial institutions and most major donors now condition their assistance on efforts by recipient governments to engage in democratisation processes, and observance of democratic principles increasingly determines a country's full integration into the post-Cold War world. This book examines the diverse experiences of democratisation in Southern Europe, post-communist countries, and the developing world.

**Hadenius, Axel (ed.)**

*Decentralization and Democratic Governance: Experiences from India, Bolivia and South Africa*

Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 2003, ISBN: 91 7496 314 7, 166 pp.

Looking at decentralisation experiences in Bolivia, India, and South Africa, contributors argue that the advancement of democratic governance is a two-way process that requires mutually

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reinforcing forms of control from above and below. The central government must take an active role, as must actors at the local level, in order to reap the benefits of decentralisation while avoiding potential pitfalls.

**Heller, Patrick**

'Moving the state: the politics of democratic decentralization in Kerala, South Africa, and Porto Alegre'

*Politics & Society* 29(1):131–163, March 2001.

This article explores the conditions in which democratic decentralisation, understood in terms of an increase in the scope and depth of the participation of subordinate groups in decision making, can be implemented successfully. The author argues that such a project 'requires an exceptional set of political and institutional opportunities', in particular left-wing political parties that were born of popular struggles and remain committed to citizen mobilisation. Focusing on the dynamics that have governed state–society relations and party-social movement engagement in Kerala, Porto Alegre, and South Africa, Heller explains why democratic decentralisation has thrived in the first two while it has unravelled in the latter.

**Ibrahim, Jibin**

*Democratic Transition in Anglophone West Africa*

Dakar: CODESRIA, 2003, ISBN: 2 86978 122 9, 88 pp.

This study analyses democratic transition in the five countries of anglophone West Africa, identifying some of the main regional trends and specificities. The author highlights a number of issues that affect the region as a whole, including the rise of a militarised security state; the increase in public corruption; the battle for deepening democracy between civil society and the state; and the growing disengagement between elections and political choice. He then discusses the case of Ghana as an acceptable regional model, and Liberia as a failed one.

**Isaac, T. M. Thomas, with Richard Franke**

*Local Democracy and Development: People's Campaign for Decentralized Planning in Kerala*

New Delhi: Leftword Books, 2000, ISBN: 81 87496 18 5, 336 pp.

Involving 31 million people, the People's Campaign in the Indian state of Kerala is probably the world's largest experiment in local democracy and local empowerment. This book analyses the origins of this project and its evolution, and also provides an overview of grassroots initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, gender equality, and sustainable development.

**John, Peter**

*Local Governance in Western Europe*

London: Sage Publications, 2001, ISBN: 0 7619 5637 9, 202 pp.

This book provides a comprehensive introduction to local government and urban politics in ten European countries. It analyses how traditional structures of local government have been transformed in response to increased economic and political competition, new ideas, institutional reform, and the Europeanisation of public policy, with the intention of empowering citizens at the local level and making government more responsive.



**Kingstone, Peter R. and Timothy J. Power (eds.)***Democratic Brazil: Actors, Institutions, and Processes*

Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000, ISBN: 0 8229 4113 9, 480 pp.

This book analyses the actors, institutions, and processes that have become most salient in the struggle to consolidate Brazil's nascent democratic institutions since the military regime formally came to an end in 1985. Contributions cover wide-ranging issues, including state autonomy, federalism and decentralisation, economic management, the military, the new religious pluralism, social movements, the left, regional integration, demographic change, and human rights and the rule of law.

**Knight, Barry, Hope Chigudu, and Rajesh Tandon (eds.)***Reviving Democracy: Citizens at the Heart of Governance*

London: Earthscan, 2002, ISBN: 1 8538 3884 5, 232 pp.

Based on original research from 47 Commonwealth countries, this book explores the various ways in which ordinary citizens are integrated (or not) into the political process. The findings show citizens' growing disillusionment with and disengagement from political affairs as their governments have pursued development strategies based on neo-liberal prescriptions. The book ends with citizens' suggestions about how to improve democracy. A strong but sensitive state is required to provide services to meet basic needs, and to encourage citizens to play a bigger part in public life. (See *Development in Practice* 14(1) for a full review.)

**Kooiman, Jan***Governing as Governance*

London: Sage Publications, 2003, ISBN: 0 7619 4036 7, 264 pp.

'Governance' is now a core concept in contemporary development discourse. Drawing upon a wide range of interdisciplinary insights, the author sets out a comprehensive conceptual framework that seeks to capture the different elements, modes, and orders involved in governing and governance. A central theme is that governance is a process of interaction between different societal and political actors who are bound to become increasingly interdependent as modern societies become more complex, dynamic, and diverse.

**Mamdani, Mahmood***Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*

Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996, ISBN: 0 691 02793 5, 344 pp.

Mamdani demonstrates that the impetus behind decentralisation has not always been democratic. Colonial rulers used indirect rule, which the author describes as 'decentralised despotism', as a means of mediating racial domination through tribally organised local authorities, thereby reproducing racial identity in citizens and ethnic identity in subjects. These institutional features served to fragment resistance and allowed states to 'divide and conquer'. Thus, the main challenge to democratisation facing Africa today is reforming a system of governance that institutionally enforces tensions between town and rural areas, and between ethnicities.

**Meny, Yves and Yves Surel***Democracies and the Populist Challenge*

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001, ISBN: 0 333 97004 7, 272 pp.

By aiming to take politics to the people, is populism the essence of democracy or the domain of protest parties and/or movements bent on derailing democratic politics? This book offers a more nuanced perspective, arguing that populism is an ambiguous but constitutive component

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of democratic systems torn between their ideology and their actual functioning, which is characterised by the role of elites and the limits put on the popular will by liberal constitutionalism. Case studies include populism in Austria, France, Italy, and the USA.

**Montero, Alfred P. and David J. Samuels (eds.)***Decentralization and Democracy in Latin America*

Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004, ISBN: 0 268 02559 2, 309 pp.

While decentralisation has been a key element in the transformation of Latin American states since the 1980s, the process has been uneven even within countries. With specific reference to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela, contributors focus on the political determinants of decentralisation, arguing that political choices and political institutions have played a major role in explaining the variation in the form, degree, and success of decentralisation in Latin America.

**Munshi, Surenda and Biju Paul Abraham (eds.)***Good Governance, Democratic Societies and Globalization*

London: Sage Publications, 2004, ISBN: 0 7619 9848 9, 368 pp.

This comparative study discusses good governance in India and the EU within a context of globalisation. The contributions explore three key areas of governance that are intricately linked: the societal dimensions of governance, administrative reforms, and corporate governance.

**Myers, David J. and Henry A. Dietz (eds.)***Capital City Politics in Latin America: Democratization and Empowerment*

Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002, ISBN: 1 58826 040 2, 408 pp.

One of the most important consequences of decentralisation reforms has been the strengthening of municipal political institutions, especially of elected local officials. Tracing the history of political empowerment in nine Latin American capitals over the past 60 years, this book looks at the evolving dynamics between local executives and regional and national entities and at the transformation of the traditional political landscape into a more contested arena for power and influence.

**Nagel, Stuart S. (ed.)***Critical Issues in Cross-national Public Administration: Privatization, Democratization, Decentralization*

Westport, CT: Quorum Books, 2000, ISBN: 1 56720 299 3, 272 pp.

With examples from Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the USA, this book explores some of the problems that arise from the confluence of democratisation, decentralisation, and privatisation, and discusses how such tensions might be better handled. The volume offers various political and cultural perspectives on these issues and uses a cross-national and interdisciplinary approach in discussing their consequences.

**Nsibambi, Apolo (ed.)***Decentralisation and Civil Society in Uganda. The Quest for Good Governance*

Kampala: Fountain Publishers, 1998, ISBN: 9970021516, 154 pp.

Decentralisation was embraced in Uganda's 1995 Constitution as a key mechanism to redistribute power more evenly across regions. Exploring some of the legal, institutional, administrative, and financial dimensions of decentralisation, this book analyses the achievements and shortcomings of such reforms. While contributors find that some progress has been made, they argue that much remains to be done, especially in making traditional leaders more responsive and accountable.



**Olowu, Dele and Soumana Sako (eds.)**

*Better Governance and Public Policy: Capacity Building for Democratic Renewal in Africa*  
 Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press (in association with the African Capacity Building Foundation), 2003, ISBN: 1 56549 160 2, 288 pp.

Leading scholars and development policy makers describe recent governance changes in African countries, analyse the consequences of these changes for institutional reforms, and highlight the challenge of building different types of institutional capacities to consolidate the ongoing processes of economic liberalisation and democratisation across the continent.

**Olowu, Dele and James S. Wunsch (eds.)**

*Local Governance in Africa: The Challenges of Democratic Decentralization*

Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003, ISBN: 1 5882 6173 5, 330 pp.

This volume explores the reasons why decentralisation reforms in Africa have led to viable systems of local governance in some instances while they have failed in others, applying a comparative analytical framework that emphasises the importance of both national policy and local problem-solving initiatives in the seven countries examined.

**Oxhorn, Philip, Andrew Selee, and Joseph Tulchin (eds.)**

*Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America*

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004, ISBN: 0 8018 7919 1, 351 pp.

This volume analyses the relationship between decentralisation and democratisation at both the intermediate and the local level of government, looking in particular at how decentralisation is transforming the nature of state–society relations. The book presents case studies on Chile, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, and South Africa.

**Putnam, Robert, Robert Leonardi and Raffaella Y. Naretti**

*Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*

Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993, ISBN: 0 6910 3738 8, 280 pp.

Based on a unique experiment begun in 1970 when Italy created new sub-national governments for each of its regions, this influential book seeks to explain why democratic institutions function better in some areas than in others. Contrasting the performance and efficiency of local governments in the north and the south of Italy, the authors find that what makes democracy work is not necessarily economic development but rather social capital, which they define as dense networks of associationalism, trust, and cooperation that facilitate good governance. However, in their view, social capital cannot be developed overnight but rather seems to be historically determined.

**Rai, Shirin M. (ed.)**

*Mainstreaming Gender, Democratizing the State? Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women*

Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003, ISBN: 0 7190 5978 X, 320 pp.

Contributors explore the relevance of national systems for the advancement of women, appropriate mechanisms for facilitating gender mainstreaming, and the ways in which ‘interests of women’ are represented in state policy-making structures. Case studies from Central and Eastern Europe, the Nordic countries, and Uganda are used to assess the extent to which global strategies for the advancement of women have been absorbed at the national level, with examples also drawn from Australia, Lebanon, and South Korea. See also Shirin M. Rai (2000) *International Perspectives on Gender and Democratization*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

*Annotated Resources on democracy and decentralisation***Reynolds, Andrew (ed.)***The Architecture of Democracy—Constitutional Design, Conflict Management, and Democracy*

Oxford: OUP, 2002, ISBN: 0 19 924646 7, 530 pp.

Contributors discuss the successes and failures of constitutional design, drawing on new evidence from Africa, the CIS, Europe, and Latin America, in which they analyse the effect of presidential and parliamentary systems, issues of federalism and autonomy, and the varying impact of electoral systems. The book concludes with case studies of Eritrea, Fiji, Ireland, India, Indonesia, and Nigeria.

**Ribot, Jesse C.**

'African Decentralization: Local Actors, Powers and Accountability'

Human Rights Programme Paper No. 8

Geneva: UNRISD, 2002, 89 pp., available at <http://www.unrisd.org>

In this review of some of the most recent publications on the subject, the author examines design and implementation issues emerging in decentralisation in Africa, and identifies fruitful areas for policy research in this important domain.

**Ribot, Jesse C. and Anne M. Larson (eds.)***Democratic Decentralisation through a Natural Resource Lens: Cases from Africa, Asia and Latin America*

London: Routledge, 2004, ISBN: 04 15347 86 6, 304 pp.

The many factors affecting decentralisation include local capacities, political and social histories and unresolved conflicts, local forms of social organisation, including the role of development agencies, state and government resistance to decentralisation, the cost of change, and the extent of commitment to democratic participation. A major problem is that of governments transferring inadequate powers to actors who are not themselves accountable to local populations. Drawing on case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, this book explores such issues with specific reference to natural resource management. See also Jesse C. Ribot (2002) *Democratic Decentralization of Natural Resources: Institutionalizing Popular Participation*, Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

**Rondinelli, Dennis A. and G. Shabbir Cheema (eds.)***Reinventing Government for the Twenty-first Century: State Capacity in a Globalizing Society*  
Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press, 2003, ISBN: 1 56549 178 5, 288 pp.

Contributors identify the forces of globalisation and offer policy advice for public leaders and administrators aiming to create the structures and processes needed to increase state capacity and enhance popular participation within this context. Topics covered include promoting national competitiveness in the global economy, defining and financing pro-poor policies, strengthening the integrity of government, decentralising governance, and encouraging private-sector involvement.

**Schneider, Ben Ross and Blanca Heredia (eds.)***Reinventing Leviathan: The Politics of Administrative Reform in Developing Countries*

Miami, FL: North-South Center Press, 2000 (distributed by Lynne Rienner Publishers), ISBN: 1 57454 102 1, 258 pp.

This book is a collection of studies on administrative reform in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, Mexico, and Thailand illustrating the different ways in which this has been

conceptualised and implemented. The authors use a common framework in order to make a comparative assessment of the relative importance of political institutions, international influences, social groups, and reform strategies.

**Schönwalder, Gerd**

*Linking Civil Society and the State: Urban Popular Movements, the Left, and Local Government in Peru*

University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2002, ISBN: 0 271 02534 4, 244 pp.

Based on extensive research in low-income districts in Lima, the author focuses on the relationship between a resurgent civil society and democratisation in Peru, exploring the complex interactions among urban popular movements, local government, political parties, and NGOs. While these movements have democratic potential, their influence has been limited by various institutional barriers and the persistent threat of manipulation and co-optation by stronger actors, especially political parties. Schönwalder's analysis helps to explain why the left has seldom been able to translate its often considerable grassroots support into political successes at higher levels.

**Sisk, Timothy D.**

*Democracy at the Local Level: The International IDEA Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management and Governance*

Stockholm: International IDEA, 2001, ISBN: 91 89098 73 0, 238 pp.

Aimed at public officials, civil society leaders, and citizens, this handbook offers tools and options for strengthening the quality of democracy at the local level. It provides policy recommendations on issues such as how to expand citizen participation in the decision-making process, how to design systems of local governance through decentralisation, how to promote social reconciliation in culturally diverse cities, and how to involve the international community in efforts to strengthen democratic local governance.

**Snyder, Richard**

*Politics after Neoliberalism: Reregulation in Mexico*

Cambridge: CUP, 2001, ISBN: 0-5217-90344, 268 pp.

Analysing evidence from four coffee-producing states in Mexico, Snyder explains why they responded to deregulation by creating different re-regulating mechanisms of market governance that empowered local communities in some instances and marginalised them in others. Given the relative strength of political entrepreneurs and societal groups, the institutions produced in Chiapas and Oaxaca were based on the active participation of local coffee-grower associations, while those in Guerrero and Puebla were based on a highly exclusionary policy framework.

**Tendler, Judith**

*Good Government in the Tropics*

Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, ISBN: 080186092X, 240 pp.

Looking at successful instances of government intervention in promoting social and economic development, Tendler challenges aspects of the policy advice given by mainstream donors. The author draws on four cases involving public bureaucracies at work under the direction of an innovative state government in Brazil and draws conclusions that contribute to current debates about the public sector, public service delivery, decentralisation, and the interaction between government and civil society.

*Annotated Resources on democracy and decentralisation***Veltmeyer, Henry and Anthony O'Malley (eds.)***Transcending Neoliberalism: Community-based Development in Latin America*

West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press, 2001, ISBN: 1 5654 9124 6, 256 pp.

The last 20 years have witnessed the emergence of forms of community-based economic development that move beyond the neo-liberal focus on both state and market, and instead draw on the creative initiatives being generated at the local level. The volume contains both theoretical overview papers and case studies from rural and urban experiences in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico.

**Vora, Rajendra and Suhas Palshikar (eds.)***Indian Democracy: Meanings and Practices*

London: Sage Publications, 2003, ISBN: 0 7619 9790 3, 428 pp.

Offering a contemporary understanding of Indian politics by scholars of diverse intellectual pursuits, this volume covers issues such as secularism, caste, Hindutva, party electoral stability, and social movements, and combines empirical studies on Indian politics with theorisation of critical issues in current political processes.

**Wyatt, Andrew and John Zavos (eds.)***Decentring the Indian Nation*

London: Frank Cass, 2003, ISBN: 0 7146 5387 X, 146 pp.

This book examines the nature of India's federal system in the light of the multiple centrifugal forces—geographic, ethnic, linguistic, and religious—that characterise it. Contributors argue that, as a nation, India is becoming 'decentred', and they consider the implications of this process for the development of the Indian polity.

**Zewde, Bahru and Siegfried Pausewang (eds.)***Ethiopia: The Challenge of Democracy from Below*

Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet and Addis Ababa: Forum for Social Studies, 2002, ISBN: 9 1710 6501 6, 215 pp.

This book analyses the practices and democratic potential of civil society actors and NGOs in Ethiopia. It asks whether such groups have the ability to give a voice to the view from below and promote more genuinely participatory practices in the decision-making process.

**Organisations****Asian Resource Center for Decentralization (ARCD)**

c/o Center for Local and Regional Governance, National College of Public Administration, University of the Philippines, Diliman 1101 Quezon City, Philippines

[www.decentralization.ws](http://www.decentralization.ws)

ARCD houses resources on decentralisation and local government experiences from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and Europe. Relevant publications include *Decentralization and Power Shift: Imperative for Good Governance. A Sourcebook on Decentralization Experiences in Asia* (2002) and *Innovations and Excellence: Understanding Local Governments in the Philippines* (2003).

**Bretton Woods Project**

c/o Action Aid, Hamlyn House, Macdonald Road, London N19 5PG, UK

[www.brettonwoodsproject.org](http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org)

An independent initiative set up to press for increased transparency and civil society participation in World Bank and IMF policies and interventions, and to monitor the impact of their

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work in areas such as governance and the environment. The Project's network includes over 7000 NGOs, policy makers, journalists, researchers, and parliamentarians worldwide. Briefings, reports, and the bi-monthly digest *Bretton Woods Update* are available free of charge online.

**Centre for Democratic Institutions**

c/o Research School of Social Sciences, Coombs Building, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia  
www.cdi.anu.edu.au

An initiative funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to address the needs of countries in the Asia-Pacific region in the areas of good governance and democratic institutions, the Centre has projects on accountability, civil society, and political parties, among others, and publishes extensively on each of these topics. Reports and papers are available free of charge online.

**Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)**

PO Box 6033 Postterminalen, N-5892 Bergen, Norway  
www.cmi.no

A non-profit international centre dedicated to policy-oriented and applied development research in the Balkans, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and Southern and Central Asia, CMI focuses on development and human rights issues and on international conditions that affect such issues. Several of CMI's projects focus on decentralisation and local democratic governance, including one on local governance, urban poverty, and service delivery in Namibia, one on decentralisation and corruption, and another on political decentralisation in Angola. Relevant publications include *Decentralisation and Corruption: A Review of the Literature* (2003) and *To Pay or Not to Pay? Citizens' Views on Taxation in Local Authorities in Tanzania* (2004).

**Foundation in Support of Local Democracy (Fundacja Rozwoju Demokracji Lokalnej) (FRDL)**

ul. Hauke Bosaka 11, 01-540 Warsaw, Poland  
www.frdl.org.pl

Disseminating the idea of civil self-governance, which it believes is the fundamental form of democracy, FRDL supports local governance in Poland and elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Balkans. Local leaders, councillors, representatives of local authorities, and NGOs receive training and participate in other programmes such as study tours, seminars, and meetings in an effort to support local governance.

**Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**

University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE, UK  
www.ids.ac.uk

IDS undertakes a number of relevant research and publishing programmes, and has a major focus on the links between participation and local governance, citizen participation in social policy, participatory budgeting and participatory poverty assessments, training programmes for local government officers, and citizenship education. With the Ford Foundation, IDS is also involved in the Local Governance Learning Group (LOGO), a global network of scholars and practitioners working in these fields.

*Annotated Resources on democracy and decentralisation***International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)**

Strömsborg, S-103 34 Stockholm, Sweden

[www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)

An inter-governmental organisation of 23 member states whose mission is to support sustainable democracy worldwide, IDEA works with both new and long-established democracies to develop and consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and is particularly active in the areas of strengthening electoral processes and promoting political equality and participation. Most of its publications are available free of charge online, some also in translation (Arabic, French, Russian, and/or Spanish).

**Local Government Information Network (LOGIN)**

Budapest 1397 PF, 519 Hungary

[www.logincee.org](http://www.logincee.org)

LOGIN seeks to promote the professional development of local government officials and their staff and to strengthen the capabilities of organisations that support the reform of public administration at the local level throughout the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The network provides governments with various sources of information pertinent to local governance, including case studies, best practices, reports, data, and training materials from the entire region. LOGIN also offers a calendar of events, an extensive library of research and current items of interest to local authorities, and links to many other relevant sites.

**The Open Society Institute (OSI)**

400 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA

[www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)

The OSI is a private grant institution linked to the Soros Foundation Network, which comprises 30 Open Society Foundations based mainly in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, but also in Central and SE Asia, Latin America, and the USA. Apart from funding educational activities, the Network seeks to influence government policies on press freedom, women's rights, and legal, social, and economic reforms. OSI-New York and OSI-Budapest are separate entities, though they collaborate closely. Initiatives supported by OSI-Budapest include LOGIN (see entry) and the Local Government and Public Sector Reform Initiative, whose relevant publications include Tamas Horvath (ed.) (2000) *Decentralization: Experiments and Reforms—Local Governments in Central and Eastern Europe*; Valery Tishkov and Elena Filippova (eds.) (2002) *Local Governance and Minority Empowerment in the Commonwealth of Independent States*, and Barbara Kudrycka (ed.) (2004) *Combating Conflict of Interest in Local Governments in the CEE Countries*. These and other publications are available free of charge at [www.lgi.osi.hu](http://www.lgi.osi.hu).

**The Participation Toolkit Partnership**[www.toolkitparticipation.com](http://www.toolkitparticipation.com)

Funded by Cordaid, Habitat Platform, and Novib (Oxfam Netherlands), this Partnership is a global network of civil society and local government organisations working to promote citizen participation in local governance. The website offers information on tools that help promote citizen participation, analyses cases of local empowerment, and holds documents for further reference. It also provides an open forum for discussion by encouraging visitors to contribute their own articles, links, and case studies.



**Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)**

PO Box 95001, 1090 HA Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[www.kit.nl](http://www.kit.nl)

The Dutch Royal Tropical Institute offers a comprehensive set of resources on decentralisation and local governance, including publications (some of which are also in French), websites, and library resources on recent trends and developments, gender, tools and methods, and information about key events such as conferences and training programmes.

**Transnational Institute (TNI)**

Paulus Potterstraat 20, 1071 DA Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[www.tni.org](http://www.tni.org)

A worldwide network of scholar-activists, TNI seeks to promote international cooperation in analysing and seeking solutions to global problems. Its working group on 'Real-world experiences and prospects of empowered participatory governance' is dedicated to analysing current trends towards democratic and participatory politics pushed by progressive parties and movements around the world. Relevant publications include *The Latin American Left between Governability and Change* (2004), also available in Spanish. Many of TNI's publications are available free of charge online.

**United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)**

Two UN Plaza, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

[www.uncdf.org](http://www.uncdf.org)

A partner of the UNDP Development Group, UNCDF works directly with local authorities and community institutions. It supports programmes taking a decentralised approach to the provision of basic infrastructure and natural resource management, in order to ensure that local investments match local needs, are managed efficiently, and are sustainable. UNCDF uses seed capital to develop local institutional capacities in planning and financial management by coupling technical assistance with resource-management responsibilities. Relevant publications include *Empowering the Poor: Local Governance for Poverty Reduction* (2003) and *Lands of the Poor: Local Environmental Governance and the Decentralization of Natural Resources* (2004), both available free of charge online.

**UNDP**

One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

Through its Democratic Governance Programme, UNDP works to promote decentralisation and strengthen local governance structures in 90 developing countries, both providing technical and financial support and running governance programmes. Its Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment, for example, works to promote local-local dialogue and partnership among NGOs, CBOs, local governments, and the private sector for improving the living conditions of the urban poor and influencing policies for participatory local governance. UNDP's publishing programme includes publications on democratic governance and decentralisation, most of which are available online free of charge. See, in particular, *Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy* (2004), an extensive report on the health of democracy in that region launched by UNDP in Lima, Peru, in March 2004. The report is available in full in Spanish and in abbreviated form in English. For more information, see [www.undp.org/democracy\\_report\\_latam\\_america/](http://www.undp.org/democracy_report_latam_america/).



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**UNRISD**

Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
[www.unrisd.org](http://www.unrisd.org)

This autonomous agency engages in multidisciplinary research on the social dimensions of contemporary problems affecting development, with a strong focus on issues of social and public policy. Current areas of research include civil society and social movements; democracy, governance, and human rights; identities; conflict and cohesion; social policy and development; and technology, business, and society. Many research papers are available free of charge online.

**World Bank**

1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20433, USA  
[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) and [www.developmentgateway.org](http://www.developmentgateway.org)

The World Bank has been a leading proponent of decentralisation and administrative reform, both through its prodigious output of publications, well-maintained websites, and vast online library, and in practice through conditionalities imposed on borrowing countries. The Bank's influence on the priorities and policies of bilateral donors is also extensive, and the annual *World Development Report* sets out its current thinking on a topic of major significance, such as the role of the state or poverty reduction. Its Development Gateway is a good starting point for information, resources, and links to ongoing research and other organisations working in the field. Informative websites are dedicated to most aspects of decentralisation from fiscal reform to 'glocalisation', and from popular participation to public-sector governance. The Bank's publications include many that focus on issues of democracy, decentralisation, and local governance. See, in particular, James Manor (1999) 'The Political Economy of Democratic Decentralization', available free of charge online.

**Journals**

*Democratization*

Editors: Peter Burnell and Peter Calvert. Published quarterly by Frank Cass. ISSN: 1351-0347.  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13510347.asp>

Seeks to promote a better understanding of democratisation in terms of the processes by which democratic norms, institutions, and practice evolve and are disseminated within and across national and cultural boundaries. The journal takes a comparative approach to analysing contemporary issues.

*Global Social Policy*

Editor: Bob Deacon. Published three times a year by Sage Publications. ISSN: 1468-0181.  
<http://www.sagepub.com/journal.aspx?pid=214>

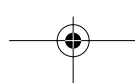
Aims to advance the understanding of the impact of globalisation upon social policy and social development and encourages discussion of the implications for social welfare of the dynamics of the global economy.

*Journal of Democracy*

Editors: Mark F. Plattner and Larry Diamond. Published quarterly by Johns Hopkins University Press. E-ISSN: 1086-3214; Print ISSN: 1045-5736.

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_democracy/](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/)

Monitors and analyses democratic regimes and movements worldwide, and includes scholarly analysis, reports from democratic activists, updates on news and elections, and book reviews.



*Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

Editor: John Kincaid. Published quarterly by the Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government and by the Center for the Study of Federalism with the Department of Government and Law at Lafayette College.

[ww2.lafayette.edu/~publius/journal.html](http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~publius/journal.html)

Dedicated to research on all aspects of federalism, inter-governmental relations, and issues of governance, including the theory and practice of federalism, federal systems in comparative perspective, federalism and inequality, and governance at the regional, state and provincial levels.

**Publishers' addresses**

**Almqvist & Wiksell International**, PO Box 7634, S-103 94 Stockholm, Sweden

[http://www.akademibokhandeln.se/\\_\\_\\_RP/akb/awi.html](http://www.akademibokhandeln.se/___RP/akb/awi.html)

**Cambridge University Press**, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

<http://uk.cambridge.org>

**CODESRIA**, Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop x Canal IV, BP 3304, Dakar, Senegal

[www.codesria.org](http://www.codesria.org)

**Curzon Press**, 15 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1BP, UK

[www.curzonpress.co.uk](http://www.curzonpress.co.uk)

**Earthscan Publications Ltd**, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK

[www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk)

**Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd**, Glensanda House, Montpellier Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 1UA, UK

[www.e-elgar.co.uk](http://www.e-elgar.co.uk)

**Frank Cass**, Crown House, 47 Chase Side, London N14 5BP, UK

[www.frankcass.com](http://www.frankcass.com)

**Fountain Publishers**, PO Box 488 Fountain House, Plot 55 Nkrumah Road, Kampala, Uganda

[www.fountainpublishers.com](http://www.fountainpublishers.com)

**IMF**, 700 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20431, USA

[www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

**International IDEA**, Strömsborg, S-103 34 Stockholm, Sweden

[www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)

**Johns Hopkins University Press**, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218-4363, USA

[www.press.jhu.edu](http://www.press.jhu.edu)

**Kumarian Press, Inc.**, 1294 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002, USA

[www.kpbooks.com](http://www.kpbooks.com)

**Leftword Books**, 12 Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110-001, India

<http://cpim.org/leftword.htm>

**Lynne Rienner Publishers**, 1800 30th Street, Boulder, CO 80301, USA

[www.rienner.com](http://www.rienner.com)

**Manchester University Press**, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NR, UK

[www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk](http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk)

**Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government**, Lafayette College, 002 Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, Easton, PA 18042-1785, USA

[ww2.lafayette.edu/~meynerc/](http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~meynerc/)

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**Nordiska Afrikainstitutet**, PO Box 1703, SE-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden

[www.nai.uu.se/indexeng.html](http://www.nai.uu.se/indexeng.html)

**North-South Center Press**, 1500 Monza Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33146, USA

[www.miami.edu/nsc/publications/NSCPublicationsIndex.html](http://www.miami.edu/nsc/publications/NSCPublicationsIndex.html)

**Oxford University Press**, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DT, UK

[www.oup.co.uk](http://www.oup.co.uk)

**Palgrave Macmillan**, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, USA

[www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com)

**Penn State University Press**, 820 North University Drive, USB 1, Suite C, University Park,

PA 16802, USA

[www.psupress.org](http://www.psupress.org)

**Pluto Press**, 345 Archway Road, London N6 5AA, UK

[www.plutobks.demon.co.uk](http://www.plutobks.demon.co.uk)

**Princeton University Press**, 41 William Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, USA

[www.pup.princeton.edu](http://www.pup.princeton.edu)

**Quorum Books**, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881, USA

**Routledge**, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE, UK

[www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)

**Rowman & Littlefield Publishers**, 4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706, USA

[www.rowmanlittlefield.com](http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com)

**Sage Publications**, M-32 Market, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi 110 048, India

[www.sagepublications.com](http://www.sagepublications.com)

**University of Notre Dame Press**, 310 Flanner Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA

[www.nd.edu/~undpress/](http://www.nd.edu/~undpress/)

**University of Pittsburgh Press**, Eureka Building, Fifth Floor, 3400 Forbes Avenue,

Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

[www.pitt.edu/~press](http://www.pitt.edu/~press)

**UNRISD**, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

[www.unrisd.org](http://www.unrisd.org)

**Verso**, 6 Meard Street, London W1V 3HR, UK

[www.versobooks.com](http://www.versobooks.com)

**Zed Books**, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK

[www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk)

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