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One of the results produced by the modern state era is that local governments make decisions related to the needs of local community within the scope of political, administrative, legal, economic, cultural and spatial systems and that they are shaped by and according to the higher political, administrative and legal system they are surrounded by. Party shaping the relations between the state (central) and local governments (local) is generally the former actor; however, it can be suggested that the local affects and transform the central today. In a sense, in today’s democracies, there is a multi-actor interaction network which is reciprocal and even going beyond the borders of the national state. Although the current form of this network and autonomous role played by local governments is not a new fact, decisiveness of local governments and the local has increased. Reflection of this situation firstly to the legal texts related to organizational structures, relations and processes and then to application is related to the thoughts, approaches, principles, concepts, suggestions developed before and the discussions centred on them. In a sense, all dynamics, initiatives and results defining the central-local relations and actors are collected under the title of “reform”. Thus, it is possible to see in what a comprehensive and complicated network the local governments’ reform is realized.

Historical, sociological, cultural, political, administrative and economic characteristics of each country are closely related to the central-local relations and local government system of that country. Therefore, local government transformation discussed under the reform title has a unique appearance. However, influence of external factors and actors (external environment) in this transformation should not be ignored. External environment, which is included in the local government literature and considered in country case studies and the dynamics of national state which covers local governments and the local itself (interior environment) are intertangled. For this reason, these two poles should be taken into consideration in the studies and analyses related to local governments’ reform. As a matter of fact, the reform takes its shape on the basis of the interaction between the two poles.

Meaning attributed to local governments and definition of the same by the public opinion and local community of the related country define the role played by local governments in the political-administrative system and the content of the reform. Meeting of social needs by a local government via services does not make it solely a service unit. In such case, units serving as extensions of the central government would be sufficient. Going far beyond being a service unit, local government is a very significant element of democracy, freedoms, rule of law and vertical division of powers. That is why local governments are both under constitutional and legal protection and an indispensable part and political representative of local community in liberal democracies. “School of Democracy” thesis to have emerged in the local government theory should be noted here. For this reason, while discussing the subjects of local governments’ reform studies; political, social, cultural and psychological characteristics of local governments should be referred to as well as their institutional status.
Higher political-administrative system including local governments is related to the reform studies. Extent, content, actors and components of local governments’ reform change depending on the higher system named as unitary, quasi-federal, federal and confederal system. For instance, in a unitary state, primary actor directing local governments’ reform is generally the national government and the parliament while it is federation/regional state or directly the local government who direct or undertake the local governments’ reform in a federated state. Primary actor affects the other variables of the reform. Scope, direction and content of the local governments’ reform are defined by the problems and needs of the related state. Thus, a colourful sub-national governments’ reform agenda arises in different countries of different continents.

Although the agenda of the local governments’ reform vary from one country to another, reform titles are similar with changing priority though. Strengthening local democracy; increasing importance of local governments for constitutional democracy; offering of solutions by decentralization for the chronic administrative, political and territorial problems of countries; civilian society strengthening at the local level; close contact between the market economy and the local in today’s world bring forward the reforms in the scope of local governance and democracy. Meanwhile, New Public Management tools, privatization policies, PPP (public-private sector partnership) practices, e-government applications and similar reforms which have taken primacy in public administration development studies have turned out to be valid for the local governments as well. Moreover, attempts to ensure an efficient, effective and economic management have even taken their place at the centre of the local governments’ reform. In brief, strengthening of governments has increased the number of common reform agenda items of the local governments.

Reform subjects of the new period; definition, basic characteristics and normative principles related to transforming local governments; relations between local governments and the central government; scale problem of local governments; wide spreading of regional government; and reform subjects directing implementations and some fundamental problems of public administration are analysed, particularly in the scope of the results produced by the local governments’ reform, in the Book Chapters presenting theoretical basis and discussions. Studies analysing local governments in the post-reform period solely on theoretical basis as well as studies including theoretical discussions related to experiences of various state, region and city administration examples are presented in the Book Chapters. This Book aims to analyse post-reform local governments in a comprehensive and comparative way through examination of (i) unique country case studies addressing local governments, different local government traditions and experiences; (ii) unitary, quasi-federal, federal and confederal state examples; (iii) specific local and regional government examples. Starting from this point of view, this Book actually offers a theoretical discussion of the local governments’ reform.

THE CHALLENGES

This Book addresses the effects and results produced by and the new developments and new problem areas created by the recent reforms on the political-administrative system of local governments and politics. The outcomes of the reform process create new study areas with the new titles and new contents for local governments and politics in countries studied in this Book. Thereby, each chapter contributes
to development of the principles, processes and means of “the best/most ideal” example from different aspects classically sought by the comparative method. By this way, chapters on theoretical discussions, country case studies, specific issues and country comparisons are sought for specific questions to create new knowledge and achieve more mature interpretations in the related academic field and to respond at a sufficient level to the new challenges the local governments face. Since the Book generally aims to produce knowledge for both the related discipline and related actors in the area of local governments and politics, challenges related with these aims have also been determined and identified. Such challenges can be classified into the categories listed below:

- Redefining the normative basis and values of the contemporary local governments in compliance with the administrative reforms’ outcomes.
- Analysing the outcomes of different reform paradigms such as privatization, outsourcing, public-private partnerships (PPPs), economies of scale, new public management, governance, network, direct democracy and etc. which have been more determinant in transformation process.
- Providing a consensus between the actors such as central government, local governments, local politicians, market, civil society, international organizations and dynamics, neighbouring countries and etc. which have been effective on shaping the content of the administrative reform.
- Ensuring a “representative, participatory, democratic, responsible, accountable, transparent, efficient and effective local governance model which promotes development of the community, sensitive to democratic governance and is market friendly”.
- Preventing the local governments –the scale of which has broadened after the administrative reform- from becoming distant to the “local community”.
- Clarifying the risk for recentralization at local/regional/national level or “less local” local governments as a result of the administrative reform.
- Institutionalizing the Politics-Administration Dichotomy in local government after reforming the council-manager system or establishing the directly elected mayor system.
- Establishing balanced central government-local government relations through political decentralization, administrative decentralization or administrative devolution.
- Remedy negative externalities of extreme decentralization via amalgamation in the context of strict financial management and scale economy.
- Establishing Local Ombudsman or Citizenship Advocacy institutions in developed or developing countries at local government level to solve maladministration practices.
- Introducing direct democracy tools such as recall, local referendum, citizen councils and open council, citizen initiatives, right to offer agenda item and participatory budgeting.
- Eliminating the problems of low participation in elections, local elections systems, effects of national political parties on local politics, local governments and local political initiatives.
- Establishing a balance between fiscal responsibilities on one hand and fiscal autonomy, fiscal equalization, fiscal federalism, revenue transfer proportional to duties and participatory budgeting on the other.
- Strengthening local governments in the framework of administrative ethics, anti-corruption policy and open government understanding.
- Equipping local governments with skills required to face the e-government transformation and applications.
It is possible to find more problem areas and related challenges due to the subject scope of the Book. Nevertheless, it is hard to suggest that the Book addresses all these problem areas and offers solutions to them. However, it offers sufficient up-to-date contribution to the problems and discussions to have risen in the post-reform period, through not only wholly theoretical chapters but also the chapters based on country case studies.

And the chapters of this Book try to analyse the future of local governments and politics via country case studies from the perceptive of comparative local governments and politics in the new period. Thus, the Book offers information, analysis, and discussions which contribute to better understanding of these challenges and resolution of the problems of local governments.

SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION

There rose a need to remind the normative basis of local governments throughout the whole reform process. As a matter of fact, local governments’ reform came to the agenda through transformation, downsizing, decentralization and deregulation of the welfare state. There is no doubt that decentralization process went hand in hand with the strengthening of market economy. Therefore, there is a marketization at the local level as well and the local governments actually start to withdraw from service production and provision. In such case, outcomes and following course of the reforms realized with such priorities as privatization, new public management, public-private partnerships, governance, territorial integration for service scale need to be analysed in the scope of the normative basis and democratic values of the local governments.

In recent years, many studies have been published on reform attempts directed at local governments, which can be evaluated in the scope of comparative local governments and politics discipline (Denters & Rose, 2005; Loughlin, 2003; Swianiewicz, 2014; Hendriks & Tops, 1999; Hendriks & Tops, 2003; Hlepas & Getimiz, 2011; Hoffmann-Martinot & Wollmann, 2006; Kuhlmann, 2009; Kuhlmann, Bogumil, & Grohs, 2008; Vanangs & Vilka, 2006; Wayenberg, 2006; Panara & Warney, 2013; Dollery, Garcea, & Lasage Jr., 2008; Kuhlmann & Wollmann, 2014). Many others can be added to this list. Although a significant part of these studies are not addressed in this Book, each of such studies has made great contributions to understanding of the local governments’ reform and its results. However, most of these studies have analysed the local governments and reforms of the Western European democracies and some others focused on Anglo-Saxon states. Post-Soviet East European states which have undergone a fast political, administrative, financial and economic transformation mainly due to enlargement of the European Union have started to be analysed in recent years (Galuszka, Galuszka, & Libor, 2013). But, it is hard to mention a study comprehensively analysing together the local governments of countries having different traditions and historical heritage and located in different continents in the post-reform period. This book makes it possible to develop a comprehensive analysis of local governments of various states with different characteristics from whole world.

Comprehensive theoretical and applied studies analysing post-reform local governments of different countries from different continents may contribute to enrichment of comparative local governments and politics discipline and to offering of innovations by the same. Extensive academic attempts made at the beginning and in the second half of the 20th century (Harris, 1948; Humes, 1959; Humes & Martin, 1961) should be continued. With the modest attempt it makes, this Book supports this aim. Innovative dimension of this Book may be its attempt to contribute to development of a new typology of local government.
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An important number of the Western European states implemented decentralization policies starting from 1980’s and, this trend lasted in 1990’s as well. East European states also tended towards decentralization particularly in the post-Soviet Union period and this policy was adopted by both the developed and developing states in this region. However, policies named as “re-centralization” have started to occupy the agenda of the states in recent years particularly in the post-financial crises period. In this sense, “direction of the pendulum” seems to have changed. This situation has given rise to the idea that there is a tendency “from government to governance” (Gregory, 2007; Gualmini, 2008; Haveri, 2006; Haveri, Nyholm, Roiseland, & Vabo, 2009; Hood & Lodge, 2004; Peters & Pierre, 1998) and “again to government” (Bergström, 2014; Laffin, 2009). Chapter 11 presents Italy example to analyse this issue and has opened the door to a subject which will occupy more space in the agenda of the local governments’ reform in the future.

In this scope, fiscal discipline, fiscal balance, fiscal federalism and political decentralization issues (Buettner, 2008) need to be re- interpreted after the reform period. Because, local governments -with increased number of powers, duties and responsibilities and enlarged duty fields- seem to generally face financial resource problem. This problem is experienced not only in states with unitary tradition and trying to decentralize afterwards like Turkey but also in federal states which have decentralised or administrative federalism tradition like Germany (Sadioğlu, 2012). This also points the need of comparative local governments and politics discipline to cooperate with such disciplines as economy and finance. Although this Book does not specifically address economy and finance of local governments, these subjects are presented in proportion with their relation to other reform subjects.

Another subject to have arisen in 1990s in relation to local governments’ reform is the issue of “leadership”. Main subject of this reform was “stronger and directly elected mayor model” which is based on the idea that particularly the mayor should be elected directly by the citizens and the mayor should play a strong role in the municipality administration. Strong leadership in local governments is undoubtedly related to other both input-oriented (for political legitimacy) and out-put oriented (for economic efficiency) reforms. For this reason, directly elected mayor model was regarded as an important reform element completing new tools introduced with new public management, governance and direct democracy paradigms. However, produced results did not fully comply with the priorly justifications suggested. This Book gives wide coverage to this subject which includes the power relations between the administrative organs of the local governments. Chapter 5 makes a detailed theoretical discussion of the issue; Chapter 7 analyses the transformation of council-manager model over Ireland case together with other reform titles; and Chapter 12 compares Italy and Spain to evaluate two different practices on the basis of the principles of democratic representation, accountability and legitimacy. These Chapters offer a vision regarding status of the mayor and appointment method, which are and continue to be two important titles of local governments’ reform.

An important structure which is closely related to local governments and unique in international plain is the European Union (EU). Both the acquies it has created and the huge place it gives to local government and democracy principles in its agreements have increased the importance of the EU. More importantly, local and regional governments have been provided the institutional capacity to participate in the EU decision-making processes. Thus, “Multi-Level Governance” approach is getting stronger in the EU, which refers to interaction and co-existence of national, supranational and sub-national governments (Panara & Warney, 2013; Zerbinati, 2012). According to the current content of this approach, “multi-level governance is the process of not only transforming European or national objectives into local and regional actions but also integration of the objectives of local and regional authorities with
the EU strategies”. In addition, national responsibilities of local and regional governments should be shaped, local and regional governments should be provided a stronger participation in the coordination of European policy and, by this way, the Union policies should be shaped and realized” (Panara, 2013, pp. 410). This current approach regarding European local governments and politics should be evaluated by comparative method for the other country case studies and solutions should be offered for the question areas which are tried to be solved for a long time. Chapter 3 presents the issue of “Local Self-Government in the Contemporary State” from legal perspective with a comparative method and makes reference to the EU. This comprehensive evaluation has a satisfactory content for both the EU candidate states and EU membership-negotiating states and for participation of sub-national government levels in the global decision-making processes. Similarly, Chapter 4 analyses transformation of local governments at the European scale by referring to the European Charter of Local Self-Government and in the scope of development of local democracy.

Service scale field of local governments is an issue coming to the agenda from time to time. Small municipalities are merged to establish large municipalities in some countries while small municipalities are totally dissolved in some other countries and new large scale local government levels are defined in some others. Most important aim of this policy is to ensure efficiency in local service provision, to manage investments from one single centre and to speed up decision-making processes. Many countries have decreased the number of local governments and enlarged service and duty fields of local administrations by implementing amalgamation policy recently. Chapter 8 presents a detailed and inclusive examination and comparative analysis of the Australian municipal merger programs and makes suggestions regarding amalgamation policies of other countries. Chapter 10 presents the Flemish Region of Belgium example to show how sensitive the structural reforms regarding territorial and functional arrangements are.

Local governments’ reform requires a consensus among national decision-makers on the subject, scope and direction of the reform as much as the necessity of a demand coming from the local. Lack of a national consensus results in remaining of the local governments’ reform on the agenda. Most important subject that requires consensus is the relation between the centre and the local and providing assurance for the local. Chapter 9 approaches the issue over the New Zealand example and discusses that un-agreed areas will undoubtedly remain on the agenda in the future.

Developments in the information and communication technologies have had significant impacts on local governments and politics. E-government facilities open interesting doors to efficiency and democracy goals which are expected to be achieved by the local governments in the reform process. E-democracy tools enable involvement of new public management-centred reforms (which are focused on solely economy-based objectives) in the politics and policy-making processes. It will not be surprising for the local e-democracy tools and facilities to occupy a larger space in the agenda of the local governments in the future for the sake of participatory and deliberative democracy. Chapter 13 analyses on the basis of Finland example the ability of local governments (the roles of which have changed in the reform process) to utilize e-democracy tools in the participation dimension. Accordingly, an important point to be mentioned here is that local e-government investments generate important resources and differences develop in this issue among the municipalities. This situation again raises the issue of “digital divide”. Chapter 19 presents a case study showing that social media applications - a reflection of information and communication technologies - can be used to solve some important problems of local governments. This case study mentioned the cooperation and coordination achieved between citizens through their
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Facebook pages after the earthquake that hit Van Province and resulted in loss of many lives. By this way, wounds of a disaster were healed by solidarity achieved through social media. Areas offered by the social media for cooperation and solidarity among local communities and local governments may result in new reform initiatives.

Local governments’ reform corresponds to a broad basket of policies. This basket contains development and strengthening of regional governments as well. Being a new government unit to have created a new government level between the classical local governments and national governments and having relations with these upper and lower government levels, regional governments become more and more widespread. Regionalization policy is pursued sometimes to realize economic development policy at the local level (soft regionalism) and sometimes to ensure sharing of state authority with the subnational governments via territorial decentralization (hard regionalism) (Kuhlmann & Wollmann, 2014). It is hard to think regional governments independently from local governments’ reform. For this reason, Chapter 14 presents Poland case to analyse regionalization policy pursued in recent years. This analysis shows that subnational government units have similar problems. Clarification of particularly the duty sharing between the central and regional governments and strengthening of financial aspects and administrative capacities of regional governments are the issues of priority. Today, some countries (Turkey) discuss establishment of regional governments while some others (France) prefer policies aimed to decrease the number of regional governments. Studies on local governments’ reform need to analyse regional government level within its political, administrative, economic, cultural and social network. Chapter 15 presents Russian case, the state with the largest surface area in the world and the centre of the Soviet Experience, to analyse strengthening of local governments and prevention of dissolution via local autonomy in a federal but imperial state in the scope of territorial decentralization. With the theoretical contributions it makes and the state it analyses, this Chapter shows that decentralization policies of big states will attract more attention.

Priority titles of local governments’ reform, which are (i) strengthening of local governments and (ii) relations between the central and local government point out a competition between the two levels of government. This is true; but, one should keep in mind at this point that there is a fundamental cooperation between the two and we mention two actors active in the same policy field and, so to say, “navigating on the same vessel”. For this reason, it is an undeniable need to seek solutions together to social, economic, cultural, psychological, physical and spatial needs. Important problems of the societies may force states with strong centralized tradition to make reforms to strengthen local governments. Chapter 16 presents Japan case to analyse this exact issue. Having unique state traditions, homogenous social structure and need for radical reforms; Japan faces problems related to decreasing and aging population. These problems have necessitated cooperation between the local governments and national government and the local governments’ reform. Japan case presented in Chapter 16 interprets local governments' reform with a pragmatic purpose. Success of this attempt requires further comparative studies analysing the produced results of this study. At this point, Chapter 17 analyses Bolivia example, which has a totally different historical experience. Complicated structure to have resulted from the decentralization and the tension increased by legitimacy problem between the political elements in Bolivia are analysed over the state and other social components. Different decentralization and local governments’ reform experiences show the capacity of the basket to offer innovations. It is probable that local governments' reform discourse will continue to be voiced in the related countries in the post-reform period.
Investments and expenditures of local governments have naturally increased in parallel with the increase in their duties, powers, responsibilities and resources in the local governments’ reform process. This situation has resulted in closer and various relations established by the local governments with the market actors. As these relations intensify; the doubts, findings and discourses related to corruption turn out to be a more encountered problem. On the other hand, maladministration, corruption, bribery, favouritism and unethical government practices which are classically encountered in a public administration can possibly be faced by the local governments as well. There are different political, institutional, social, economic, cultural and psychological tools to challenge this most important problem of the public sector. It is possible to make regulations, establish institutional mechanisms, develop programs, set codes and give trainings for realization of the principles of governance which are participation, accountability, transparency, pluralism, predictability and compliance with laws. Chapter 18 examines the reasons behind the low corruption levels recorded in Yogyakarta City unlike the rest of Indonesia. It is detected that informally-strengthened accountability played a more important role than the formally-strengthened accountability in corruption prevention in this example. It seems possible that second generation local governments’ reforms will include corruption prevention reforms, reforms for strengthening of ethical administration and supportive reforms by taking into consideration the issue of corruption which is one of the most important reasons offered by those who remain distant to the local governments’ reform.

Above-summarized subjects encountered by the local governments and politics in the post-reform period and new process comprehensively is re-addressed in the scope of this book on the base of the chapters containing theoretical contributions, current empirical studies, and literature works. By this way, the book originally contributes to comparative local governments and politics field of study through different cases and theoretical discussions.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

We analyse theoretical foundations and discussions on reform in local governmental systems, local governments and politics issues and inter-governmental relations in many distinctive political-administrative systems in this book. Local government composes a new research field in comparative public administration since issues such as decentralisation, local governance and democracy, new public management, grassroots democracy movements, subsidiarity, participatory administration and reform, local cultures and communities gained greater demand from individual actors and, thus, increased attention from the scientific community in the last decades. In the last 30 years, large states experienced intensive political and administrative reforms, and such reforms highly influenced local governments and local politics at every instance. Thus, we substantially focus on sub-national governmental systems and politics in a sample of states, which are generally from Western and Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Eurasia, Asia, Latin America and Oceania, explore the variation in administrative and political systems and examine differences in outcome of the administrative reform processes in this book.

The Book is organized into nineteen chapters. A brief description of each of the chapters follows:

In Chapter 1, Ugur Sadioglu and Kadir Dede analyse the outcomes of local government’s reform from comparative perspective via different theoretical discussions and country case studies in short. This chapter presents current theoretical discussions an introduction to comparative local government studies introduced in general terms throughout the book. Particularly the question remarks to have arisen after the local government reform will be addressed and analysed.
Chapter 2 evaluates the local government’s core definition after the reformation process and progress in local democracy. Rusen Keles brings back the normative base of local governments with reference to history of political thought and historical background of relations between central and local governments.

Chapter 3 analyses the key features of local governments in contemporary state. While focusing on different European systems, Carlo Panara also underlines the importance of strong local decentralization to fulfil fundamental goals of constitutionalism.

Chapter 4 analyses the formation process of decentralised government in Europe. Tim Lisney and Andreas Kiefer then map out the main characteristics of the development of a European model of local democracy. They examine the main forms of cooperation in this area with a special emphasis on the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Chapter 5 examines the reformist claim behind the directly elected mayor model by referring to the core assumption of the “difference hypothesis”. Werner Pleschberger investigates the democratic deficits of the indirectly elected mayor (IEM) model through the analysis of the city of Vienna from 1973 until 2013. He focuses on the importance of the mayor election and relates this situation with democratic features.

Chapter 6 tries to achieve a serious reflection about Inter-municipal cooperation state of the art. Filipe Teles and Pekka Kattunen also investigate the results of cooperation cause unwarranted negative side-effects and diminish the democratic capacity of the participating municipalities. They discuss reasons and importance of cooperation between municipalities and present the research agenda on inter-municipal cooperation, especially through the analysis of its scope, motivations, and perceived costs and benefits.

Chapter 7 discusses the evolution of the council-manager form within the Irish local government system. Mark Callanan also examines the other reform themes in Irish local government, such as territorial and structural changes, functional and financial reforms, efforts to facilitate greater citizen participation in local government, and the influence of New Public Management and efficiency reforms in response to the financial crisis and great recession after 2007.

Chapter 8 examines the municipal merger programs in the different Australian state and territory local government systems. Brian Dollery, Michael Kortt and Joseph Drew discuss whether the amalgamation policies have met the claims made about their efficacy by advocates of amalgamation. They also outline the characteristics of Australian local councils in comparative perspective, briefly describing the major problems confronting Australian local government.

Chapter 9 presents the local government reform in New Zealand. Mike Reid takes lessons for other nations, particularly the lack of a consistent direction and any overall coherence. He foresees that reform will continue in such a country where the lack of any national consensus about the role of local government and the lack of constitutional status for them.

Chapter 10 scrutinizes the ongoing debate on structural reform in local government in the Flemish Region of Belgium in recent years. Koenraad De Ceuninck, Kristof Steyvers and Tony Valcke discuss the territorial and functional arrangements in reform agenda.

Chapter 11 presents the effects of long political transition on institutional policy of Italy in the last decades. Silvia Bolgherini and Andrea Lippi scrutinize the changes occurred in these years on local and meso-governments by looking at the different strategies adopted. The Re-allocation of legal power (decentralization in the light of NPM), Re-shaping of the institutional setting (devolution) in favour of subsidiarity and Re-scaling of functions in terms of recentralization (upscale) and a search for an optimal territorial scale in times of economic crisis are analysed respectively.
Chapter 12 presents the comparative study on the Italian and the Spanish case discussing the influence of having elected or appointed mayors on local government systems. María Jesús García García and Alessandro Sancino scrutinize the effects of two different models on efficiency in terms of quicker and faster decision making processes, democratic representation, accountability and legitimacy patterns.

Chapter 13 discusses local governance renewals and the recent development of local democracy in Finland. Hanna Vakkala and Jaana Leionen focus on the changing roles of the municipalities, and give importance to electronic services and governance have been developed nationally and locally, and solutions of e-Democracy have been launched to support participation. They are interested in strong municipal self-governance and local governance renewals meet and how the role and status of municipalities are changing from the local democracy perspective.

Chapter 14 presents the Polish development policy stages from 1989 to 2014. Andrzej Klimczuk and Magdalena Klimczuk-Kochańska discuss the new regional policy’s plans, instruments and strategic framework. They also bring suggestions for a clearer division of powers between the centre and regional governments and the importance of strengthening the financial basis and institutional capacity building of regional governments.

Chapter 15 discusses the Kropotkin’s idea that in the design of governance systems there are two fundamentally opposed principles - Imperialism (concentrated, vertical power) and federalism (distributed, horizontal power) through the development of state and city relations in Russia. Adrian Campbell also analyses the case of local government reform in Russia from 1990.

Chapter 16 aims firstly to explain the historical background and structure of local government system in Japan. In addition to this, Satoru Ohsugi examines the varieties of recent reforms putting impact on local government system, such as decentralization reform, structural reform and so on. The chapter also consider the policies of the central and local governments how to tackle with many challenging problems in the age of aging, shrinking population society.

Chapter 17 aims at answering Why a country having a centralist tradition became one of the most radical and complex decentralisers in Latin America? Gustavo Xavier Bonifaz explains the evolution of decentralisation in Bolivia up to its current complex structure from the perspective of the relationship between political legitimation.

Chapter 18 discusses the corruption issue in Indonesian local governments by analysing Yogyakrta City as an exception. Muhammad Ichsan Kabullah and Syaiful Wahab try to provide additional insight in existing theoretical perspectives on accountability.

Chapter 19 presents the social media use by local governments and other policy actors after the 2011 Van Earthquake in Turkey. Mete Yildiz and Kamil Demirhan compare and contrast the performance of social media use of different policy actors with that of local governments. The findings of the chapter suggest that, if institutional arrangements conducive to collaborations are present, social media platforms can be effective means of disaster relief and recovery, especially for communication among citizen after a disaster.

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