

Factors of administrative centralization in modern democratic federations



Federal
government



Subnational
units

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A large crowd of people is gathered for a Pride parade. A large rainbow flag is being carried by the crowd. The air is filled with colorful confetti and balloons. The scene is festive and celebratory.

Why?

- The legalization of gay marriage in the United States
- The trend of the popularity of decentralization processes as a more effective

Main points

Research question

- Why do in some democratic regimes federal states pursuing a policy of centralization, while others maintain the status quo or make decentralization?

Subject

- The causes of democratic centralization in federal states

Object

- Political centralization of powers in 15 democratic federations in the period after the Second World War

Literature review

- «Transactions» (bargain) Riker, 1964
- Military security, economic efficiency and broad representation of interests as the main features of federalism. Bednar, 2008
- Decentralization and centralization. Falletti, 2010

Comparative review

- Centralization of powers in Russia. Mitin, 2008
- Sri Lanka federalism. Stepan, 1999
- System of centralized federalism in Mexico. Tulchin, 2004
- Centralized federation in Austria. Erk, 2004

Operationalization

- Fiscal, political and administrative centralization
- Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Australia and Micronesia
- Look at social reforms such as education, health, social welfare and housing reform

Hypothesis

- If the actors at the federal or sub-national level have the necessary resources or interests - there is a course to centralization
- If the federal government system does not meet the conditions for sustainable development of the federation - there is a course to centralization
- If there is a need for structural reforms - there is a course to centralization

First results

- The main reason forcing the state to centralize authority is as the provision of public services
- In some cases the only way to govern effectively is to concentrate power in your own hands

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