

Constitutional Policy in Multilevel Government. The Art of Keeping the Balance.

Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Editor:

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Why You Should Read My Book:

By Arthur Benz

The book provides the first systematic comparative analysis of constitutional policy in federal and regionalized states. In its theoretical part, it explains why constitutional reform and evolution are relevant for maintaining or restoring the balance of power between central and regional governments. Moreover, it outlines a theoretical approach to constitutional policy which is applied to nine case studies on constitutional reform. Further chapters focus on the impact of amendment rules on constitutional negotiations and on constitutional evolution in cases of failed reform. A comparative analysis identifies conditions of a successful constitutional policy and a robust federal or multilevel government. The book draws attention to an aspect so far underestimated in studies on federalism and multilevel governance. It addresses dynamics of these complex political systems from a new perspective. In view of disintegrative developments in the EU and a number of nation states, but also considering over-centralization and ineffective structures in many federations, the book deals with a topical subject and suggests ways of coping with these problems.