

MLG Dynamics Today



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MLG Dynamics Today

- Traditional Federations – USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Australia etc.
- Newer federal models – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nepal, etc.
- Increased forms of decentralization – Devolution in the UK and Kenya, political decentralization in France, administrative decentralization in Armenia and Vietnam, fiscal decentralization in North Macedonia, Italy, Brazil and South Africa
- Pressure to decentralise / federalise in several countries across the globe (often linked to conflict resolution) – Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine

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MLG and Global Stability

- New forms of MLG emerging

(1) Anarcho – MLG

→ Local and regional level actors provide key services (e.g. education/health care) in the absence of functioning state structures

Example: Myanmar, Yemen



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MLG and Global Stability



- New forms of MLG emerging

(2) MLG dynamics in Secessionist Territories

→ Parallel structures of service delivery in territories such as Transdnistria (Moldova), North Cyprus, Somaliland and until recently AANES in Syria

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MLG and Global Stability



- New forms of MLG emerging

(3) MLG and state reconstruction

- Rebuilding of services at local and regional levels in cases such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq and Nepal

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Dynamics and its Lessons

- Establishing functioning, democratic and accountable MLG in fragile contexts is hard, but not impossible □ How is it done and what is needed?

Key: Expectation management, clear planning, best practices!

- Key challenges include financial sustainability, clear division of competences and overall institutional reform and strengthening, including those not primarily linked to MLG (such as Courts)

Key: Avoid past mistakes, allow arrangements to evolve and adapt, invest in the Rule of Law!

- Focus of MLG needs to be service delivery for citizens – this is what matters, builds trust and ensures their recognition by the population

Key: Avoid overcomplication, buy groups in without paralysing the system and ensure accountability mechanisms

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Thank you very much!

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