The New Politics Of British Local Governance

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British local government is set in a wider political, social and theoretical context. Throughout, the authors argue that the attempt by the Thatcher and Major administrations of 1979-97 to push local government into the role of merely administrating centrally defined policies was largely short-circuited. While outlining and explaining these changes and their effects, the authors argue that far from being defenceless victims of central government, local authorities devised numerous strategies to protect their independent policy-making role.

Under the British system, the government is required by convention and for practical reasons to maintain the confidence of the House of Commons. It requires the support of the House of Commons for the maintenance of supply (by voting through the government's budgets) and to pass primary legislation. By convention, if a government loses the confidence of the House of Commons it must either resign or a General Election is held. The monarch takes little direct part in governing the country, and remains neutral in political affairs. However, the legal authority of the state that is vested in the sovereign, known as The Crown, remains the source of the executive power exercised by the government. The New Politics of British Local Governance. Helen Sullivan and Chris Skelcher Working Across Boundaries. Tony Travers The Politics of London. David Wilson and Chris Game Local Government in the United Kingdom (3rd edn). Perri 6, Diana Leat, Kimberly Seltzer and Gerry Stoker Towards Holistic Governance.
This book examines the changing nature of local politics, drawing on the latest research from the ESRC Local Governance Program. It assesses the emergence of new forms of elite organizations and changing power relations in the context of increasing roles for business and other partners. The book concludes with a consideration of the extent to which the emerging system of local politics, drawing on the latest research from the ESRC Local Governance Program. It assesses the emergence of new forms of elite organizations and changing power relations in the Scotland and Wales have control over local government spending on devolved services and they have the right to establish their own expenditure priorities. Moreover, at least Scotland enjoys more public spending than those English regions whose GDP per head is lower. The constitutional imbalance accentuated by devolution could lead to a serious economic imbalance favourable to Scotland and Wales, but unfavourable to the less privileged English regions (Bogdanor, V 1999: 266). In the general elections of October 1974, the Scottish Nationalist Party used the British economic crisis to win 30% of the vote and 11 of Scotland’s 71 Westminster seats. Now under the same circumstances, the consequences for the British union could be even worse.