

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71283-5 - Rethinking Governance: The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Rethinking Governance

The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Several problems plague contemporary thinking about governance, from the multiple definitions that are often vague and confusing, to the assumption that governance strategies such as networks and markets represent attempts by weakening states to maintain control.

Rethinking Governance questions these assumptions and seeks to clarify how we understand governance. Arguing that it is best understood as ‘the strategies used by governments to help govern’, the authors counter the view that governments have been decentred. They show that far from receding, states are in fact *enhancing* their capacity to govern by exerting top-down controls and developing closer ties with non-government sectors.

Identifying several ‘modes’ of governance, Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor use a wide range of practical examples to explore the strengths and limitations of each. In so doing, they demonstrate how modern states are using a mixture of governance modes to address specific policy problems.

This book demonstrates why the argument that states are being ‘hollowed out’ is overblown. *Rethinking Governance* refocuses our attention on the central role played by governments in devising governance strategies.

Stephen Bell is Professor and former Head of the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland.

Andrew Hindmoor is Senior Lecturer in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71283-5 - Rethinking Governance: The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Rethinking Governance

The Centrality of the State
in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71283-5 - Rethinking Governance: The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521712835

© Stephen Bell & Andrew Hindmoor 2009

First published 2009

Cover design by Adrian Saunders

Typeset by Aptara Corp.

Printed in Australia by Ligare

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication data

Bell, Stephen.

Rethinking governance : the centrality of the state in modern society / Stephen Bell,

Andrew Hindmoor.

9780521712835 (pbk.).

Bibliography.

Political science.

Hindmoor, Andrew

320

ISBN 978-0-521-71283-5 hardback

Reproduction and communication for educational purposes

The Australian *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:

Copyright Agency Limited
Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9394 7600
Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601
E-mail: info@copyright.com.au

Reproduction and communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act (for example a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review) no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All inquiries should be made to the publisher at the address above.

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables and other factual information given in this work are correct at the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-71283-5 - Rethinking Governance: The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*For Jo and Hillary,
and Jane, Jordan and Asha*

Contents

List of figures and tables	<i>page xi</i>
Preface	xiii
Chapter 1: A state-centric relational approach	1
Society-centred governance	3
A fundamental transformation?	6
A state-centric relational approach	10
Modes of governance	16
Conclusion	18
Chapter 2: The resilient state	20
Public choice theory and state failure	21
Government overload and the fiscal crisis of the state	23
The implementation gap?	27
A crisis in legitimacy?	29
The decentring of government	32
Globalisation	39
Conclusion	44
Chapter 3: Metagovernance and state capacity	46
The functions of metagovernance	47
Metagovernance as a problem of public good provision	55
State capacity: a state-centric relational account	59

viii	CONTENTS	
	The challenges of metagovernance	66
	Conclusion	69
	Chapter 4: Hierarchy and top-down governance	71
	Rolling back the state?	72
	Hierarchical governance: challenges and adaptations	85
	Self-regulation in the shadow of hierarchy	89
	The growing volume of governance	92
	Conclusion	95
	Chapter 5: Governance through persuasion	97
	Legitimacy, persuasion and governance without government	99
	The metagovernance of persuasion	105
	Persuading states	106
	Combining modes of governance: persuasion and hierarchy	108
	Social capital and governance through persuasion	109
	Conclusion	113
	Chapter 6: Governance through markets and contracts	115
	The marketisation of governance	116
	State capacity and markets	120
	The resilience of hierarchy	121
	The metagovernance of markets: markets through hierarchy	123
	Policy learning and metagovernance	126
	Relational capacity	129
	Governance through business?	131
	Conclusion	135
	Chapter 7: Governance through community engagement	137
	Citizen and community engagement	139
	The foundations of community engagement	144
	Willing and capable citizens and communities?	146
	Accountability and legitimacy	149
	A willing and able state?	151

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-71283-5 - Rethinking Governance: The Centrality of the State in Modern Society
Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

	CONTENTS	ix
Power-sharing and the state	155	
Do-it-yourself community engagement	158	
Conclusion	160	
Chapter 8: Governance through associations	162	
Forms of associative governance	164	
Private-interest government	169	
The role of the state within associative governance	174	
Governance without government?	181	
Conclusion	184	
Chapter 9: Conclusion	186	
Notes	192	
Bibliography	194	
Index	223	