Perils of Centralization

In this provocative and wide-ranging book, Ken Kollman examines the histories of the U.S. government, the Catholic Church, General Motors, and the European Union as examples of federated systems that centralized power over time. He shows how their institutions became locked into intensive power to the executive level. The problem with these and other federated systems is that they often cannot decentralize, even if it makes sense. The analysis leads Kollman to suggest some surprising changes in institutional design for these four cases and for federated institutions everywhere.

Ken Kollman is Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor, professor of political science, and director of the International Institute at the University of Michigan. He has written numerous books and articles on political parties, political organizations, and elections. His research and written works have been recognized with multiple awards and have contributed in diverse fields such as computational social science, comparative and American politics, European Union studies, and comparative political parties and elections. He is principal investigator of the Constituency-Level Elections Archive, the largest repository of election results data in the world.
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Perils of Centralization

Lessons from Church, State, and Corporation

KEN KOLLMAN
University of Michigan
Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04252-0 - Perils of Centralization: Lessons from Church, State, and Corporation
Ken Kollman
Frontmatter
More information
This book is dedicated to the memories of Pat Dowd, Ann Rieskamp, and Marie Ritchie.
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Acknowledgments

I owe debts to many people and institutions for providing help, time, space, and financial support during the period of writing and preparing this book. I am grateful to the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford for its generous fellowship. The wonderful colleagues at the center during my time there helped set this project on course. Thanks to them for sitting through my initial attempts to describe this project in several seminars and presentations. In particular, Mike Tomz, Jonathan Rodden, Nancy Burns, Gillian Hadfield, Bob Mnookin, Jack Rakove, and Hayagreeva Rao helped when discussing the content. Daily volleyball games helped blow off steam, and fellow players Robert Bork, Laura Ruetsche, Bengt Sandin, Scott Schwenter, and Gordon Belot were a joy to play the game with. Beyond the folks at the center at Stanford, others were present at Stanford or our paths crossed in other ways during that year: Barry Weingast, Jon Bendor, David Brady, Mariano Tommasi, Robert Inman, Simon Jackman, Ken Scheve, Ken Schultz, Jonathan Wand, Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, Erik Wibbels, and Pradeep Chhibber.

Various units at the University of Michigan, as always throughout my career, provided resources of multiple kinds to sustain me toward completion: the Center for Political Studies, the Department of Political Science, the International Institute, the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, the Center for European Studies and the European Union Center, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and the Program in Organizational Studies. The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy provided early funding for research on this topic, for which I am grateful.

Of utmost importance at Michigan are the colleagues who support me, compel me to improve, and push me in new directions. Liz Gerber, Jenna Bednar, John Jackson, Jim Morrow, Skip Lupia, Jon Miller, Nancy Burns, Brian Min, Bob Axelrod, Arlene Saxonhouse, Scott Page, Jim Hines, Bill Clark, Anna
Grzymala-Busse, Greg Dowd, Andy Markovits, Ted Brader, Lisa Disch, Al Stam, Kenneth McElwain, Allen Hicken, Pauline Jones Luong, Andrew Kerners, Robert Mickey, Daniel Halberstam, Michael Heaney, George Tsebelis, Chuck Shiman, Mariah Zeisberg, Pam Brandwein, and Mark Tessler have all listened and reacted to my ideas on the topic. In particular, the ideas of Bednar and Halberstam have shaped my thoughts. Page and Jackson, in distinct ways, have deeply influenced the way I think about social science. Chuck Myers listened often to my ideas on this book and offered useful comments. Pat Lord was helpful in multiple ways toward the end of the process.

The amazing graduate students at Michigan deserve my thanks for multiple reasons. Many of them helped as research assistants on the project: Deniz Erkman, San-Jung Han, Patrick O’Mahen, David Cottrell, Dan Magleby, Ben Goldman, and Mariely Lopez-Santana. Others also were useful to bounce ideas off of: Carolina de Miguel, Janna Bray, Jennifer Miller-Gonzalez, Charles Dorriean, Andrew Feher, Tim Ryan, Richard Anderson, Molly Reynolds, and Jessuina Teran. I also had wonderful undergraduate research assistants helping with the project: Sarah Neumann, Hannah Bozian, Phil Schermer, Emma Rew, Phil Clark, Sarah Danserau, Peter Gutsche, Zachary Goldsmith, Nick Marcus, and Josh DeYoung.

Throughout this project I gave talks or led seminars at the following institutions, and I thank those who attended the sessions and those who invited me: University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC); University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); University of California, San Diego (UCSD); University of California, Davis (UCD); Stanford University; Yale University; and University of Michigan (various units).

I thank the following people for detailed conversations: John O’Malley, about Vatican II; Gary Chamberland, about canon law; and Marina Whitman, about General Motors.

The people at Cambridge University Press were supportive and have been patient, especially Lew Bateman and Shaun Vigil, as well as Abidha Sulaiman at Newgen, who managed the project through production. I appreciate the support of Margaret Levi and her good advice and feedback on the manuscript.

My family is the bedrock and they deserve all due credit for patience and tolerance. My thanks go to Colleen, Kathleen, Patrick, Paul, and Anne, but also to Dr. Paul, Fr. Paul, Carita, Anne Marie, Ron, and Ed. Some devoted friends have always been supportive to an extent they are likely not aware – Bruce and Scotti, Pete and Sandy, Herb and Sara, Al and Mary, and Paul and Cecelia. Paul Gargaro, in particular, read the entire manuscript and made numerous suggestions for improvements. I owe him a pasta dinner with Tuscan-style “gravy” and vino.

Thanks to all of these wonderful people for not asking too many questions about which book I am currently working on. It got tedious repeating the same answer for many years.