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 administering 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. Chapter 10: The Europeanization of British Local Government?. Part IV: Sub-national Government under New Labour. Chapter 11: Towards Regional Government?
Successive Thatcher and Major governments promoted privatization, liberalization, de-regulation, the use of market proxies in the residual state sector, cuts in direct taxes to enhance consumer choice, and internationalization to promote capital mobility and the transfer of technology and 'know-how'.