

## **Assessing the Concept of Multilevel Governance in the Global South**

### **Summary:**

This chapter assesses multilevel governance (MLG) as a concept that was developed to explain territorial integration in Europe but that can also be usefully applied to territorial politics in the Global South. While regional integration in the Global South has nowhere led to the empowerment of subnational governments akin to what took place in European Union, MLG can indeed help illuminate other emerging and important patterns of interaction between subnational and supranational actors. MLG also provides an appealing conceptual framework with which to assess increasingly complicated relationships between subnational governments, including horizontal dynamics between subnational governments at the same tier and vertical dynamics between intermediate and local governments at different subnational tiers. Throughout, the chapter points out where MLG might outperform other territorial concepts such as federalism and decentralization.

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