

---

# The Failure of the Centralized State

Institutions and  
Self-Governance in Africa

---

EDITED BY

James S. Wunsch  
and Dele Olowu

Westview Press  
BOULDER, SAN FRANCISCO, & OXFORD

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	vii
1 The Failure of the Centralized African State, <i>James S. Wunsch and Dele Olowu</i>	1
2 Foundations of Centralization: The Colonial Experience and the African Context, <i>James S. Wunsch</i>	23
3 Centralization and Development in Post-Independence Africa, <i>James S. Wunsch</i>	43
4 The Failure of Current Decentralization Programs in Africa, <i>Dele Olowu</i>	74 ✓
5 African Economic Performance: Current Programs and Future Failures, <i>Dele Olowu</i>	100
6 State Tutelage vs. Self-Governance: The Rhetoric and Reality of Decentralization in Senegal, <i>Sheldon Gellar</i>	130
7 Proprietary Authority and Local Administration in Liberia, <i>Amos Sawyer</i>	148
8 Centralization and Development in Eastern Africa, <i>John W. Harbeson</i>	174
9 Centralization, Self-Governance, and Development in Nigeria, <i>Dele Olowu</i>	193
10 The Problem of Sovereignty in Human Affairs, <i>Vincent Ostrom</i>	228

<i>vi</i>		<i>Contents</i>
11	Reciprocity and Governance in Africa, <i>Goran Hyden</i>	245
12	Beyond the Failure of the Centralized State: Toward Self-Governance and an Alternative Institutional Paradigm, <i>James S. Wunsch</i>	270
13	Conclusion: Self-Governance and African Development, <i>Dele Olowu and James S. Wunsch</i>	293
	<i>About the Contributors</i>	319
	<i>Index</i>	321