Rethinking Governance



The Centrality of the State in Modern Society

Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor



Contents

List of figures and tables	<i>page</i> xi
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

	CONTENTS	
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	

х