

CITIZEN TRUST IN CENTRALIZED AND DECENTRALIZED POLICE SYSTEMS: A TALE OF TWO WORLDS

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Decentralization



Decentralization:
the transfer of power/
authority from a higher level of
government to a lower level of
government (vertical
decentralization)



THE WORLD BANK



Since the 1980s, international
organizations have promoted
and assisted in decentralization
reforms—particularly, in
developing countries



**FOCUS
OF THIS STUDY**

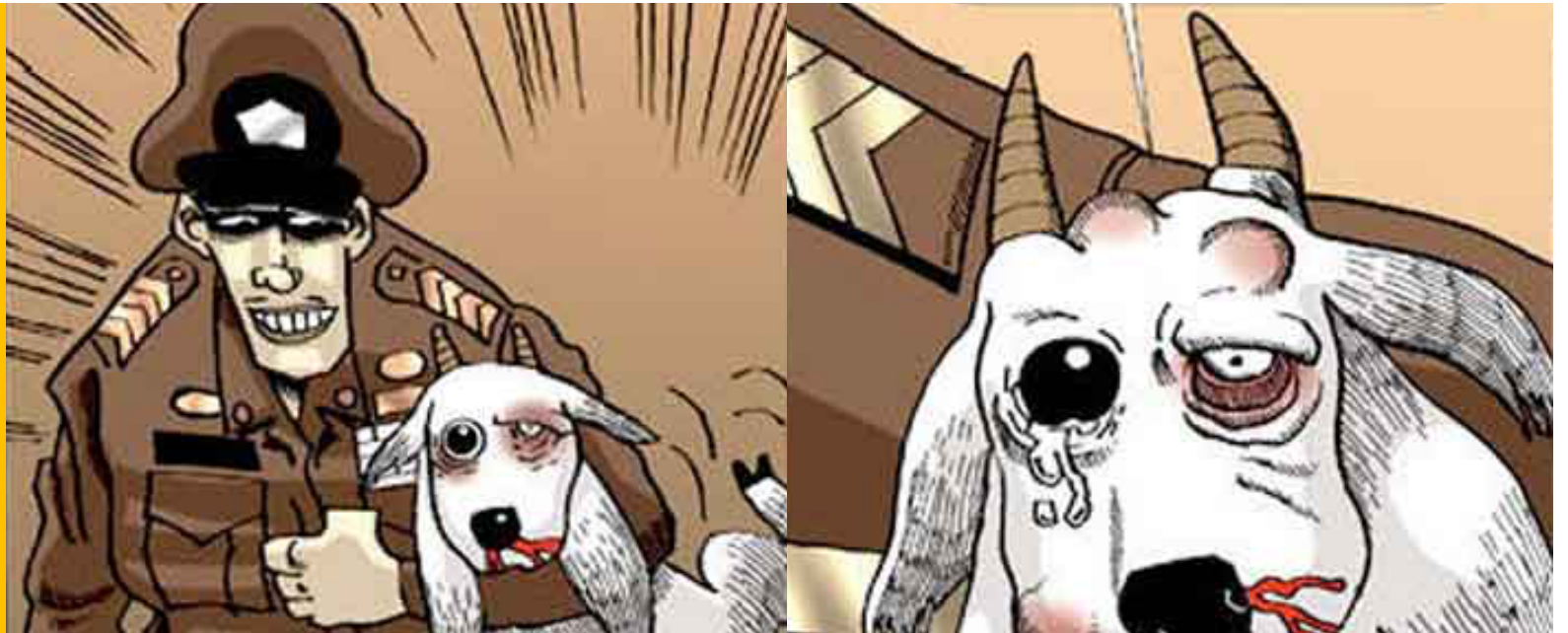
Vertical Decentralization of General-Purpose Police

General-purpose police = police
officers “with full powers of
access, arrest, and investigation
for any criminal offense
throughout the territory of the
authorizing government unit”
(Bayley, 1992, p. 517)

Context of Policing in Thailand

Least honest
public institution
(2000)

Highest level of
corruption (2013)



Source: http://122.155.0.199/jabchai/images_joke/3711/3711-1.jpg

History of Thai Police Reforms

Two major reforms in modern history



Source: <http://www.facebook.com>

1933

Integrated various police agencies into Ministry of the Interior

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

POLICE DEPARTMENT



1998-2004

RTP transferred the Office of the Prime Minister

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

ROYAL THAI POLICE

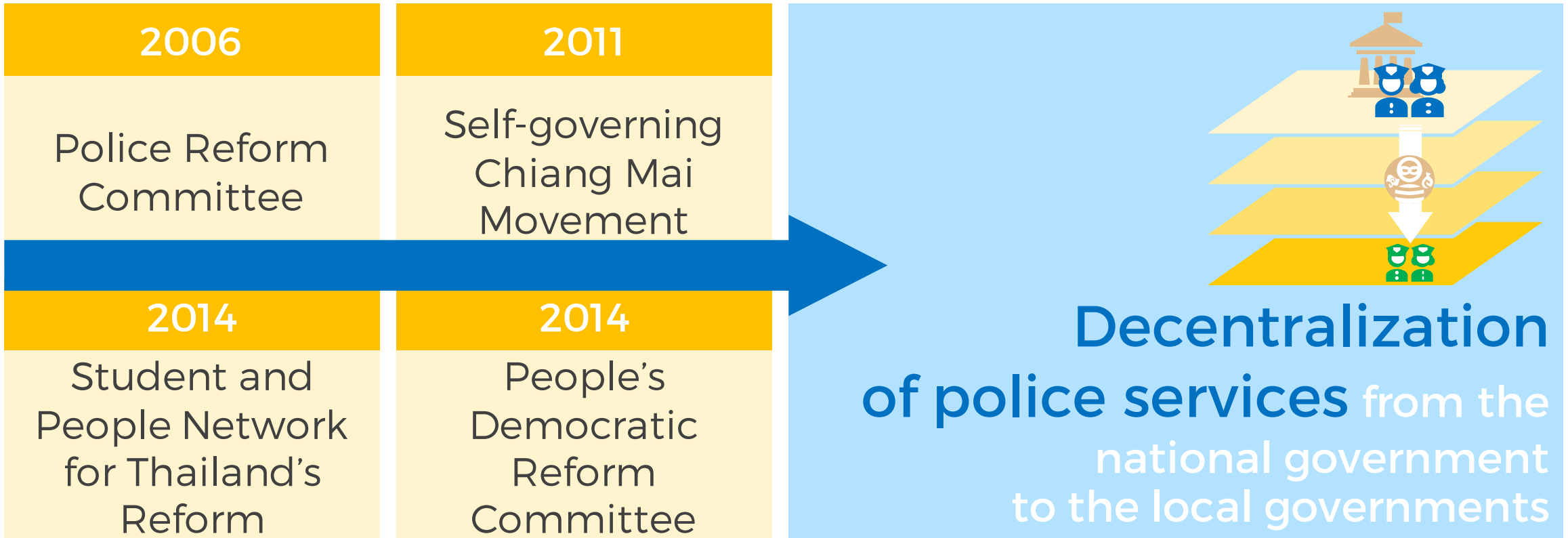
ACCOUNTABILITY,
EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY,
RESPONSIVENESS, PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Thailand started decentralizing powers to local governments in the 1990s

238 public goods/services decentralized; no police services

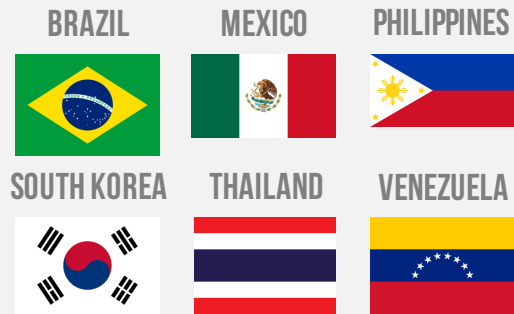
Structure of Royal Thai Police (RTP) remains highly centralized

Recent Proposals for Reforms



A Call for Research

Centralization/
decentralization of
police services is a
common policy issue
for countries around
the world



There is a gap in
empirical research

1980s-1990s

Study of the police
systems was relatively
new

Some descriptive case
studies; very few
comparative studies

More comparative,
generalizable
empirical studies
needed (Bayley, 1992)

2010s

More studies of the
police systems; mostly
descriptive

Lack of standardized
typology of police
systems

Difficult to conduct
empirical
comparative studies

Decentralization in more/less developed countries



Decentralization has stronger historical roots in developed countries than in developing countries (Mills et al., 1990; B. C. Smith, 1985)

Decentralization in most developing countries began in the 1970s or later (Cheema & Rondinelli, 2007)

Research finds differences between the more developed and less developed countries in:



Technological accumulation and production capacity (Bell & Pavitt, 1997)



Human capital (Noorbakhsh & Paloni, 2001)

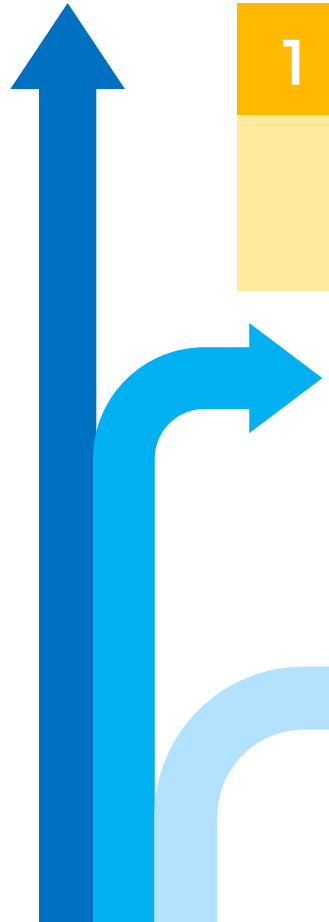


Governance capacity (Strauss, 2001)

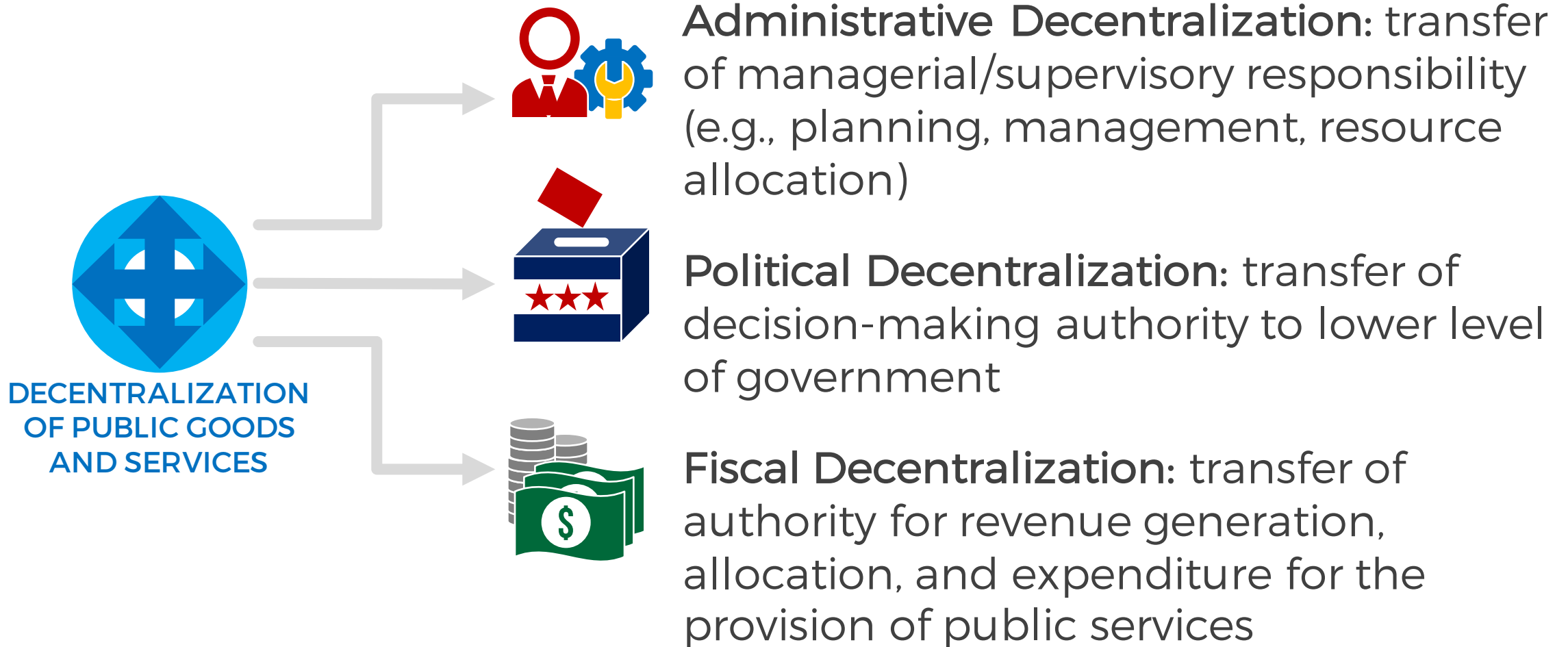


Administration of police services (Das, 2006; Kurian, 2006; Sullivan, 2005)

Objectives

- 
- 1 To develop a **typology of police systems** based on the theories/concepts of new institutionalism, decentralization, and fiscal federalism
 - 2 To **examine the effect police systems** on citizen trust in the police via empirical analyses of 72 countries
 - 3 To examine the effect police systems on citizen trust in the police in the **more and less developed countries**

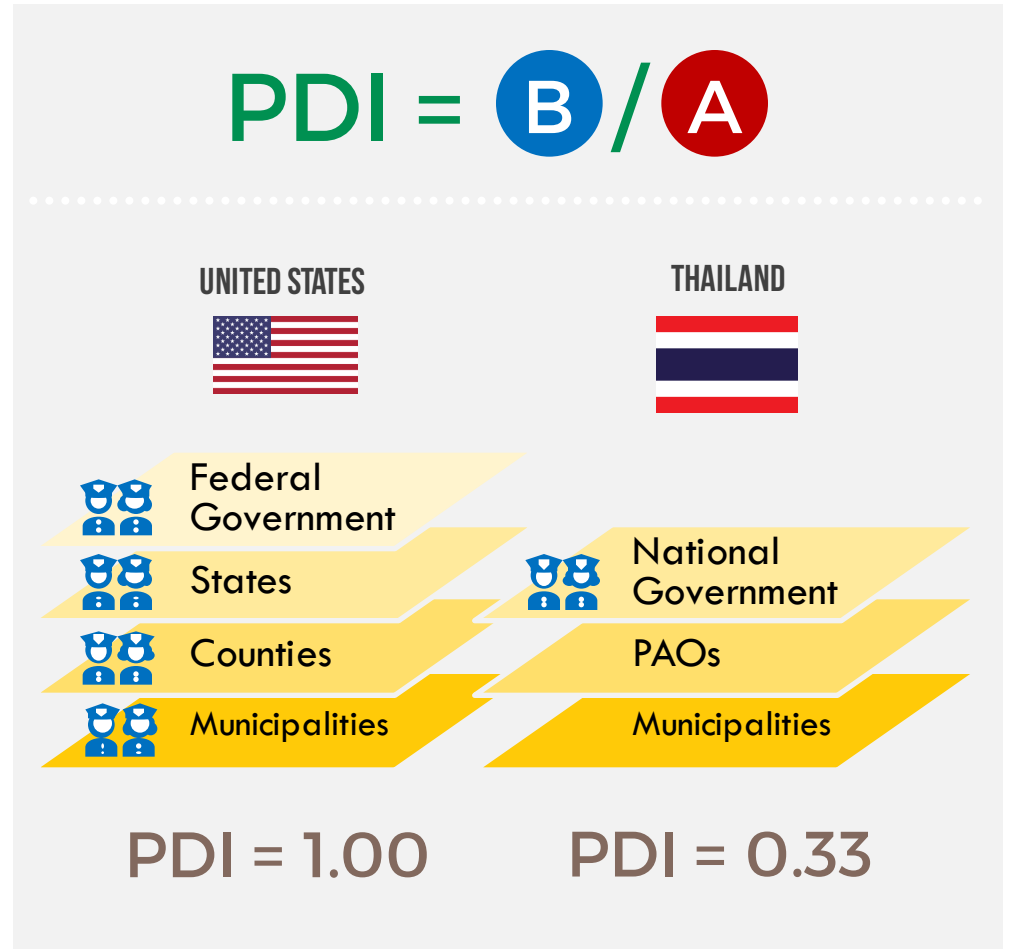
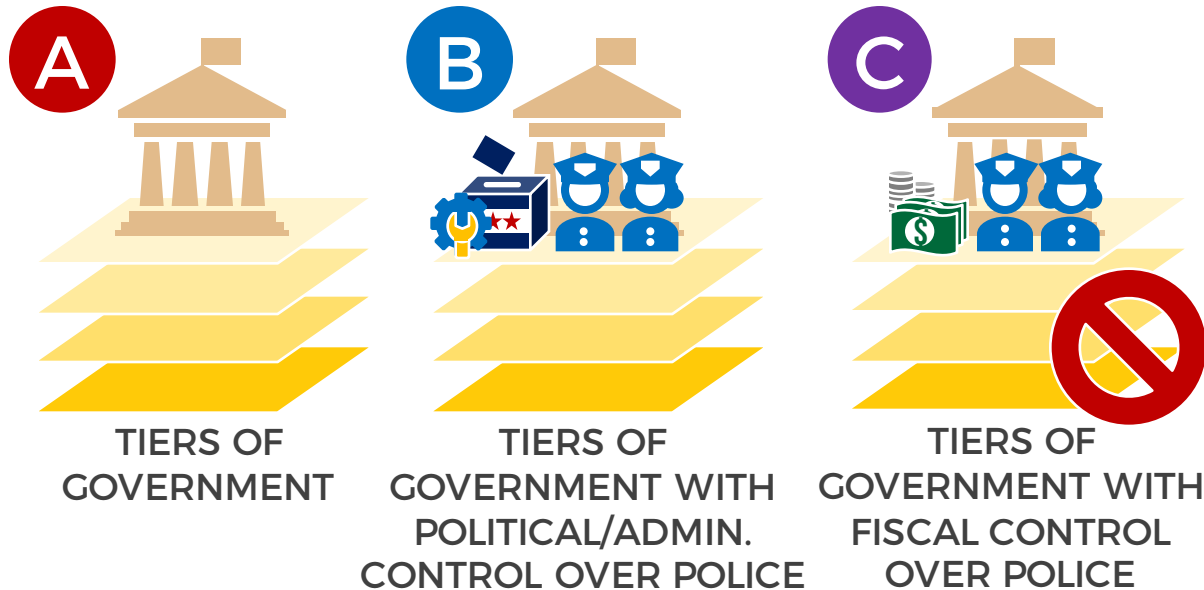
Framing a New Typology

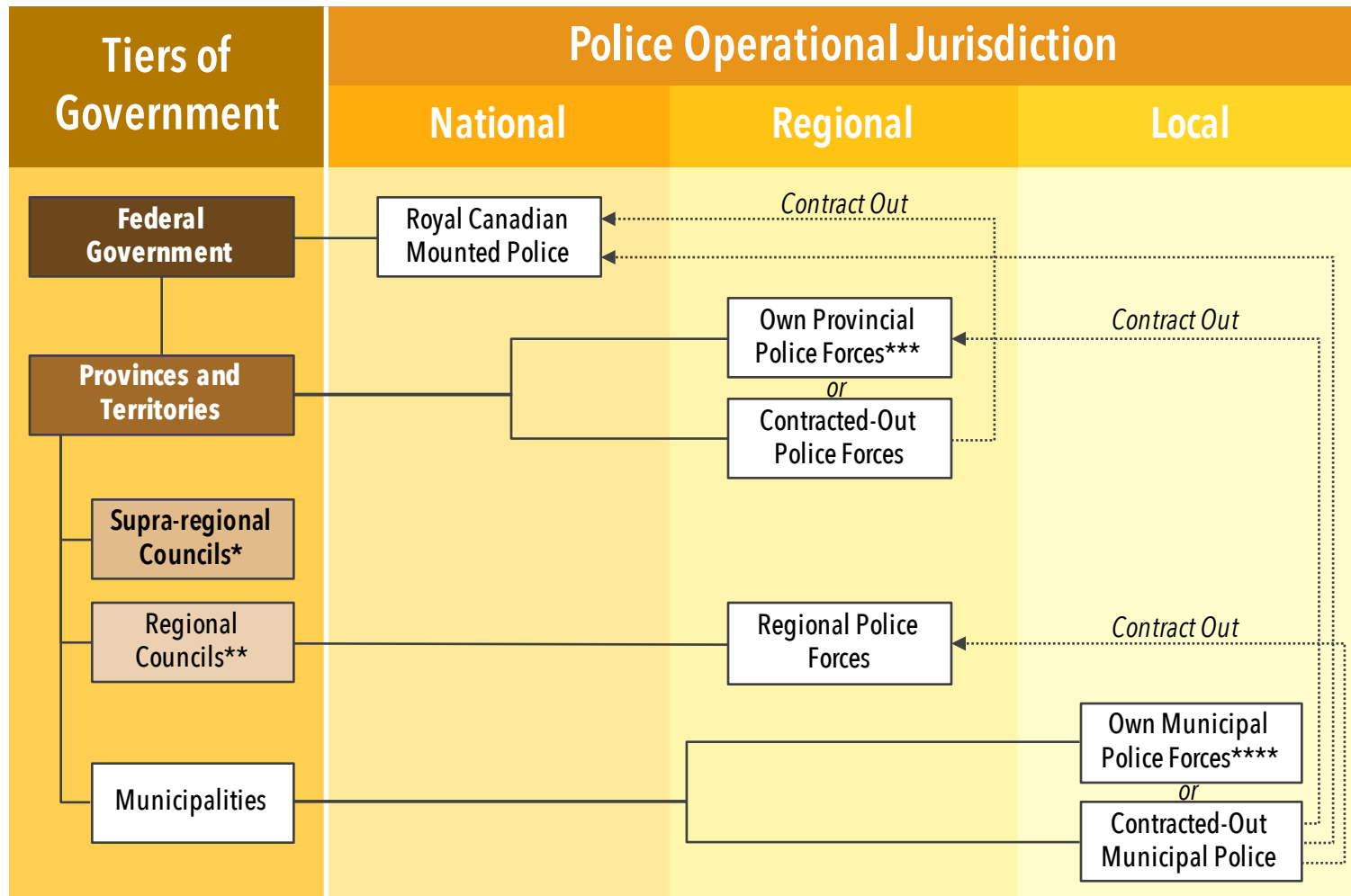


New Typology of Police Systems

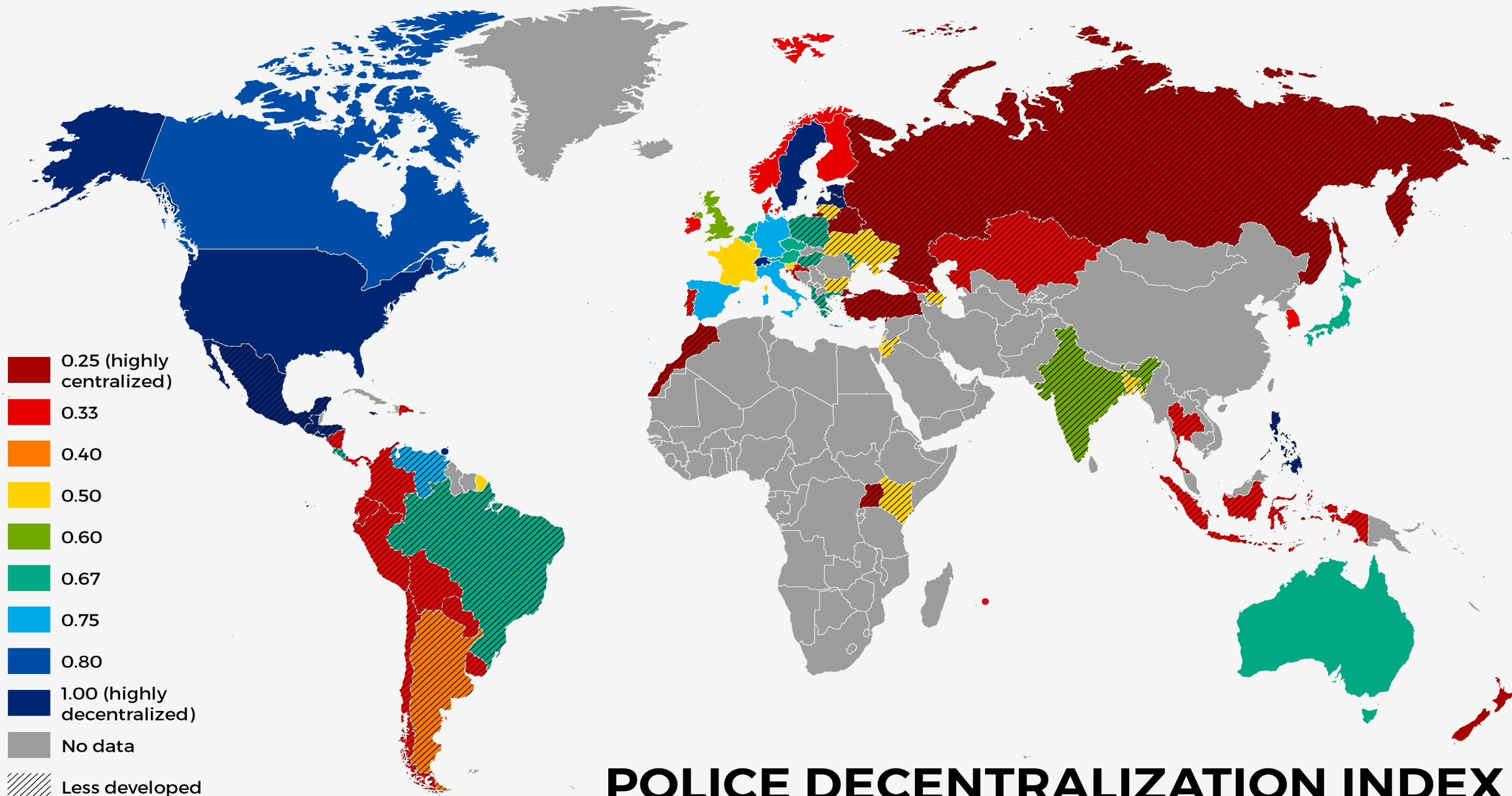
POLICE DECENTRALIZATION INDEX (PDI) measures the varying degrees of police decentralization

Based on the following components:





* Two in Quebec. ** British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec; names vary, i.e. regional, supra-local, and metropolitan authorities. *** Ontario and Quebec. **** Larger municipalities.



POLICE DECENTRALIZATION INDEX

Theoretical Framework

A move from a centralized police system to a decentralized one denotes an institutional change that is hypothesized to lead to changes in behavior and performance of the police

Institutions provide information and affect individual's behavior and performance

**NEW
INSTITUTIONALISM**

Decentralization is more responsive to citizens' preferences, and enhances accountability and responsiveness

DECENTRALIZATION

Decentralized provision of public goods/services reveals citizen preference/demand and enhances efficiency

FISCAL FEDERALISM

Hypotheses



H1 72 COUNTRIES



Higher level of citizen trust in the police (+ relationship)

H2 COUNTRIES COMPARISON



More developed countries will have higher level of citizen trust in the police than less developed countries

Empirical Analysis

DATA Unbalanced panel data



ENTITY

72
countries



TIME

12
years



TOTAL OBSERVATION

321
country-years

Select Sources of Data



VARIABLES

Y

Dependent Variable



Citizen trust in police (%)

X

Independent Variable



Police decentralization index

C

Control Variables



Governance measures



Environmental measures



Socio-economic measures



Demographic measures

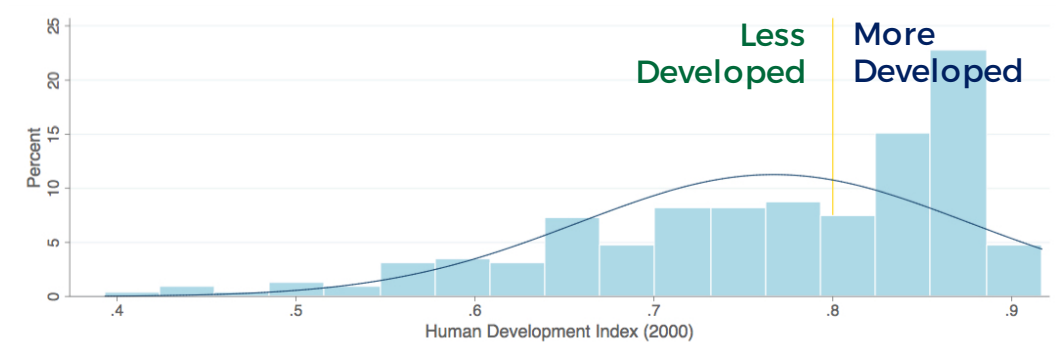


Geographic measures

Empirical Analysis (cont.)

MODELS One-way (year) random effects

- 72 countries**
- More developed countries (24)**
Human Development Index ≥ 0.8
- Less developed countries (48)**
Human Development Index < 0.8



- More Developed**
- Australia
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Canada
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Ireland
 - Israel
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Korea, Rep.
 - Luxembourg
 - Netherlands
 - New Zealand
 - Norway
 - Slovenia
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - Switzerland
 - United Kingdom
 - United States

- Less Developed**
- Albania
 - Argentina
 - Azerbaijan
 - Bangladesh
 - Belarus
 - Bolivia
 - Brazil
 - Bulgaria
 - Chile
 - Colombia
 - Costa Rica
 - Croatia
 - Dominican Republic
 - Ecuador
 - El Salvador
 - Estonia
 - Georgia
 - Greece
 - Guatemala
 - Honduras
 - Hungary
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - Jamaica
 - Jordan
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kenya
 - Latvia
 - Lithuania
 - Mauritius
 - Mexico
 - Moldova
 - Morocco
 - Nicaragua
 - Panama
 - Paraguay
 - Peru
 - Philippines
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Russian Federation
 - Thailand
 - Trinidad and Tobago
 - Turkey
 - Uganda
 - Ukraine
 - Uruguay
 - Venezuela

Descriptive Statistics

Y	DEPENDENT VARIABLE	OBS.	MEAN	SD	MIN.	MAX.
	Citizen trust in the police (%)	321	58.17	19.51	12.20	91.90



X	INDEPENDENT VARIABLE	OBS.	MEAN	SD	MIN.	MAX.
	Police decentralization index	321	0.55	0.24	0.25	1.00

POLICE DECENTRALIZATION INDEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
0.25	6	8.33
0.33	22	30.56
0.40	1	1.39
0.50	11	15.28
0.60	2	2.78
0.67	13	18.06
0.75	4	5.56
0.80	1	1.39
1.00	12	16.67
Total	72	100

C	CONTROL VARIABLE	OBS.	MEAN	SD	MIN.	MAX.
Governance						
	Democracy index	321	8.89	2.30	-6.00	10.00
	Corruption perception index	321	5.79	2.29	1.70	9.70
	Civil conflict index	321	0.28	1.08	0.00	7.00
Environmental						
	Police rate	321	297.83	114.86	82.07	692.54
	Armed police	321	0.91	0.28	0	1
	Formal contact rate	321	1762.94	1512.44	25.05	7094.88
	Homicide rate	321	7.59	13.32	0.40	91.40
	Firearm ownership rate	321	17.66	17.92	0.50	88.80
Socio-economic						
	GDP per capita	321	22981	19733	485	112477
	GDP per capita (log)	321	9.51	1.21	6.18	11.63
	Income inequality index	321	36.36	9.88	22.70	58.00
	Unemployment rate	321	7.16	3.23	0.70	25.20
	Years of schooling	321	9.76	2.39	3.50	13.10
Demographic						
	Median age	321	34.84	7.22	15.43	45.52
	Ethnic heterogeneity	321	0.30	0.22	0.00	0.93
Geographic						
	Population density	321	131.30	137.12	2.91	1099.60
	Neighbors' homicide spillover	321	8.67	11.79	0.00	63.21



Key Findings: Police Decentralization Index and Citizen Trust

MODELS	COEF.	STD. ERR.	
72 countries	1.593	2.984	Rejects H1
 More developed	21.102 ***	6.414	} Supports H2 Opposite directions, not just higher of lower level of trust
 Less developed	-10.745 **	4.323	

Literature finds mixed effects of decentralization on trust

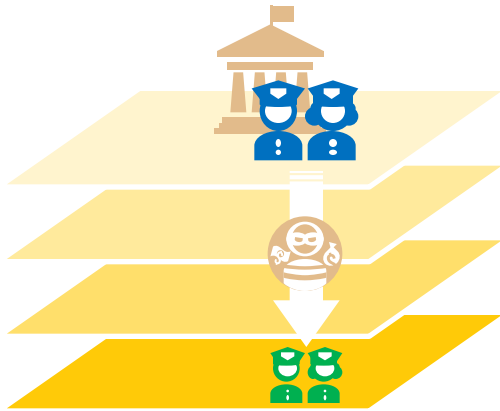
- Ostrom and Parks (1973): positive relationship
- Esparza (2012): inverse relationship
- Morris (2014): no significant relationship

Research finds differences between the more developed and less developed countries in administration of police services (Das, 2006; Kurian, 2006; Sullivan, 2005)

Findings

VARIABLE	72 COUNTRIES			MORE DEVELOPED			LESS DEVELOPED		
Governance Measures									
Police decentralization	1.055	(2.938)		21.102	(6.414)	***	-10.745	(4.323)	**
Democracy index	-0.670	(0.284)	**	2.505	(1.361)	*	-0.748	(0.343)	**
Corruption perception index	4.335	(0.537)	***	0.865	(1.015)		5.386	(1.137)	***
Civil conflict	3.215	(0.565)	***	8.876	(4.069)	**	2.791	(0.640)	***
Environmental Measures									
Police rate	-0.018	(0.006)	***	-0.069	(0.015)	***	-0.0175	(0.009)	**
Armed police	-4.638	(2.143)	**	-10.412	(2.822)	***	4.259	(5.021)	
Formal contact rate	0.000	(0.001)		0.002	(0.001)	***	0.001	(0.002)	
Homicide rate	-0.262	(0.070)	***	-2.195	(1.352)		-0.122	(0.088)	
Gun ownership rate	0.206	(0.048)	***	0.237	(0.097)	**	0.337	(0.144)	**
Socio-Economic Measures									
GDP per capita (log)	3.664	(1.296)	***	9.003	(2.042)	***	4.870	(1.921)	**
Inequality index	-0.169	(0.103)		-0.606	(0.268)	**	-0.452	(0.180)	***
Unemployment rate	0.955	(0.174)	***	1.091	(0.299)	***	0.821	(0.237)	***
Years of schooling	-2.429	(0.406)	***	-3.935	(0.725)	***	-0.885	(0.602)	
Demographic Measures									
Median age	0.590	(0.211)	***	0.289	(0.409)		-0.085	(0.331)	
Ethnic heterogeneity	-2.917	(3.162)		4.940	(5.002)		0.744	(5.759)	
Geographic Measures									
Population density	0.010	(0.005)	**	0.001	(0.008)		0.038	(0.009)	***
Neighbors' homicide spillover	0.0718	(0.076)		-0.576	(0.309)	*	0.0175	(0.089)	
Constant	11.124	(10.235)		0.177	(24.492)		8.779	(16.112)	

Policy Implications



For more developed countries:

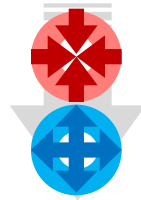
- Transferring police services to local governments may increase citizen trust in the police



For less developed countries:

- Decentralization by itself does not improve citizen trust in police
- For decentralization to work, countries may need to improve managerial systems, human resources, and technological capacity

Future Research



In-depth comparative case studies of countries that changed their police systems

- Brazil
- Philippines
- Venezuela



Adaptation/application of an index such as the PDI to study decentralization other public services (health care)

**Thank you
for your
attention!**



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user_data/file_data/201204/12/12744fa
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