

Smart Governance

Governing the Global Knowledge Society

von
Helmut Willke

1. Auflage

Smart Governance – Willke

schnell und portofrei erhältlich bei beck-shop.de DIE FACHBUCHHANDLUNG

campus Frankfurt am Main 2007

Verlag C.H. Beck im Internet:

www.beck.de

ISBN 978 3 593 38253 1

Leseprobe

The question is not whether there should be more or less government. Most arguments about "big government" versus "small government" are misleading and miss the point. The point is how to make the indispensable forms of government and governance more intelligent. Smart governance is, therefore, the foremost challenge for the theory and practice of governing complex societies and global functional contexts like the global financial system.

This book attempts to tackle the basic questions and propositions about smart governance. It is mainly concerned with global governance since at this most complex and encompassing level the strengths and weaknesses of present regimes of governance can be studied most fruitfully. Obviously, there are severe shortcomings of present regimes of global governance, particularly concerning the asymmetries between the advanced "rich" nations and the "Third World", between North and South or between regions rich and "poor" in natural resources. Protest and taking to the streets may be indispensable in rare cases but neither provide sustainable solutions for the underlying problems. More sustainable solutions need thorough analysis and bold ideas for extending governance regimes beyond the classic realm of politics and beyond the classic designs of formal democracy.

Global governance is a unique test bed for probing the exigencies, predicaments, limits and possibilities of smart governance. Global governance regimes evolve in different forms in various fields - i.e. the economy, finance, health, science, the mass media, sports, education, development. These global contexts experiment with different models, modes and means of governance. Above all, the respective governance regimes evolve without the guidance of an overarching political system since there is no system of global politics. Governance regimes, therefore, develop as decentered and distributed systems of a "disaggregated world order" (Anne-Marie Slaughter). They are bound to produce their own means of organizing some sort of ordered rule, and to create their own sources of legitimacy and accountability, in order to arrive at sustainable forms of governance in a world without global government.

This ambivalent setting calls for the infusion of intelligence to compensate for the lack of formal legitimacy and formal democratic structures. Knowledge and expertise become the most important resources for decision-making and collective action. The foundational concept of competence shifts from formal (for example hierarchic or democratic) competence to competence through superior expertise. Needless to say that expertise is always contested, provisional and open to revision. Fortunately, knowledge discourses have some important procedural similarities with the procedural rationality (Herbert Simon) of democratic deliberation. So, in spite of some remaining categorical differences there is no unbridgeable gulf between formal legitimacy and derivative forms of legitimacy through expertise.

When governance loses its historical connection with the nation state by extending into global contexts, the equally strong attachment of democracy to the nation state becomes unbundled. There seems to be a need for reconstructing governance and democracy outside and beyond the confines of the nation state. This is not to denigrate the nation state. It remains a most important actor in global governance. It does however become part of a more complex constellation of actors, including global institutions, transnational corporations, transnational NGOs, foundations,

social movements, global policy networks, imbedded knowledge networks (Tim Sinclair) and single-issue action groups. Again, the relevant question is not whether or not we are witnessing "the end of the nation state" because, obviously, the nation state is enjoying very stable health. The question is rather how to organize an exceedingly complex array of actors and institutions in forms of distribute