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"Metropolitan Governance without Metropolitan Governments? The Case of Post-Communist Czech Republic"

This paper deals with the forms of metropolitan governance developed since 1990 in the Czech Republic. In the undemocratic Communist regime, where the local governments were considered only territorial branches of the state, to govern the large metropolises was relatively easy task as the growth of the metropolitan areas was regularly followed by the forceful amalgamation of the suburban settlement. In any case, the excessive power of the state could be always used to solve potential conflicts among large core cities and surrounding municipalities. After the breakdown of the regime when the municipalities regained their autonomy the situation became more complicated. The bad memories of the Communist government have generated large-scale process of municipal splitting and blocked attempts to create new forms of stronger supra-municipal governments. But as the growth of metropolises was encouraged by the change of regime, new forms of metropolitan governance emerged.