

THE UK EXPERIENCE OF DECENTRALIZATION

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Abstract

This article analyzes the experience of decentralization of public administration in Great Britain. Also, as a result of decentralization reforms in Great Britain, important principles of decentralization have been revealed.

Keywords: Great Britain, decentralization, Local government, Community councils, special districts, main component of decentralization.

The roots of decentralization were laid several centuries ago, back when Great Britain was formed as a union of several fairly independent regions. According to its political and territorial structure, formed on the basis of the historical development of Great Britain, from the previous disparate kingdoms through the centralization of power and the subordination of the annexed territories to the royal will, it passed to the United Kingdom, consisting of four territories, three of which have a fairly independent status. At the beginning of history, the Anglo-Saxons were united into a kingdom called England. Later, through various foreign policy relations and instruments, previously independent Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland joined England. In the late 13th century, Wales was conquered by England and was initially an autonomous principality, but by 1536 it was considered an integral part of England.

The United Kingdom is a unitary state with autonomous territorial units, the main component of decentralization from the point of view of its political-territorial (state) structure. The status of autonomous structures and the essence of the relationship between autonomous territorial units and the central government are that they can be the basis for considering the United Kingdom as a regional state.

Throughout the historical past, the relationship between the center and the regions of Great Britain was formed on the basis of decentralization, i.e. autonomy. Although autonomy in Wales and Scotland was initially built on



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the basis of governance, they were distinguished by their independence. Thus, Scotland had its own judicial system, education system, anthem and flag. The independence of the judiciary, the education system and the Church of Scotland was guaranteed by the Act of 1707. At the same time, the interests of Scotland in Great Britain are represented by the Minister for Scottish Affairs within the United Kingdom.

In the UK, the independent football teams of England, Scotland and Wales, which participate independently in the World Cup under their own flags, demonstrate the uniqueness of autonomous relations. However, the problems of decentralization of power are still on the agenda. In the UK, the "positive" coordination of the powers of local authorities, that is, the detailed coordination of their functions and powers, is carried out in statutes established by parliament. Deviation from these statutes is prohibited (the ultra vires principle applies).

Currently, there are about 10,000 parishes operating in England, more than 8,000 of which have their own councils. There are around 900 communities in Wales, around 750 of which have their own councils.

Community councils, which operate under the Local Government Act (1973) in Scotland, differ significantly from parish councils in England and community councils in Wales in that they are much more decentralised. In England and Wales, these bodies are formed on a discretionary basis and have no statutory powers. Academic literature notes that Scottish communities are not considered to be separate tiers of government. The councils established here are seen as merely vehicles for the formation and expression of public opinion, and their activities are limited to the provision of advice [3].

As in all countries governed by common law, in Great Britain local government functions are carried out in special districts. In particular, special districts are responsible for the management of state institutions in health care and other areas.

Central government and local self-government. The absence of local officials appointed by the government does not, of course, mean that local government is completely free from state control. The justification for such control comes from the common law theory and practice developed by English lawyers that the monarch is the sole source of all power, and that



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ministers and other officials who control municipalities in the branches of power are servants of the Monarch.

An important principle of decentralization is that the forms of control of the central government over local self-government bodies are very diverse. The literature identifies forms of regulation by legislation of the forms and methods of the activities of local government bodies carried out by ministries and departments and forms of control over their activities; approval of local government bodies elected by municipalities by the relevant central government departments; inspection of the activities of city bodies on issues falling within the competence of the ministries of education and science, internal affairs (police and fire services), etc [1].

The activities of special commissions on local government issues and commissioners on local government affairs are a unique form of control. The commission and commissioners are established under the Local Government Act (1974). In the field of finance, central management control over local self-government bodies is carried out by auditors. This post was introduced under the Local Government Act (1972).

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has a special responsibility for the organization of local self-government. It is this ministry and its structures that summarize information on the state of affairs in the field and coordinate the control activities of other central departments. A number of supervisory and administrative powers in the field of local self-government are assigned to the Secretary of State for Environmental Protection, as well as to some other ministries (education and science, internal affairs, health and social welfare, finance, etc.).

Local government is carried out through a system of state corporations, such as the Atomic Energy Authority, the Water Authority, the New Towns Development Commission, the Housing Corporation, and others. In recent years, regional state corporations have also begun to form. They operate within separate territorial units. For example, the London Transport Authority, regional hospital boards, and others [2].

In short, the integration of developed European countries into the European Union, the movements of the people of Wales, Ireland and Scotland for independence required the adoption of the principles of decentralization of the British system of state governance. In order to preserve its integrity and



sovereign statehood, the British government gave greater powers to regional and local self-government bodies, created political, economic and financial conditions for them to carry out their management functions. It has become a tradition that political decisions on state governance and the implementation of various reforms are carried out based on the will and interests of local and self-government bodies.

The UK experience of decentralization of state power is of great importance for the decentralization reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan. In particular, the transfer of a large part of state power management processes to local and self-government bodies is similar to the introduction of market economy relations, in other words, self-government in the Anglo-Saxon model is distinguished by the presence of large management resources in providing the social stratum of property owners with economic freedom.

In addition, the Anglo-Saxon model of self-government provides strong incentives for the population to participate in political processes and political decision-making, and the lower-level system of government is distinguished by the fact that it is the most effective in meeting the needs and interests of the population. At the same time, the introduction of federal and confederal management methods in the conditions of a unitary state political system formed on the experience of Great Britain is a key factor in the modernization of current public administration. Of course, the use of Great Britain's experience in this area in national reforms is a requirement of the present time.

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