

***How Political Mechanism
Influence Digital Government
By Comparative Cases Study
of United States & China***

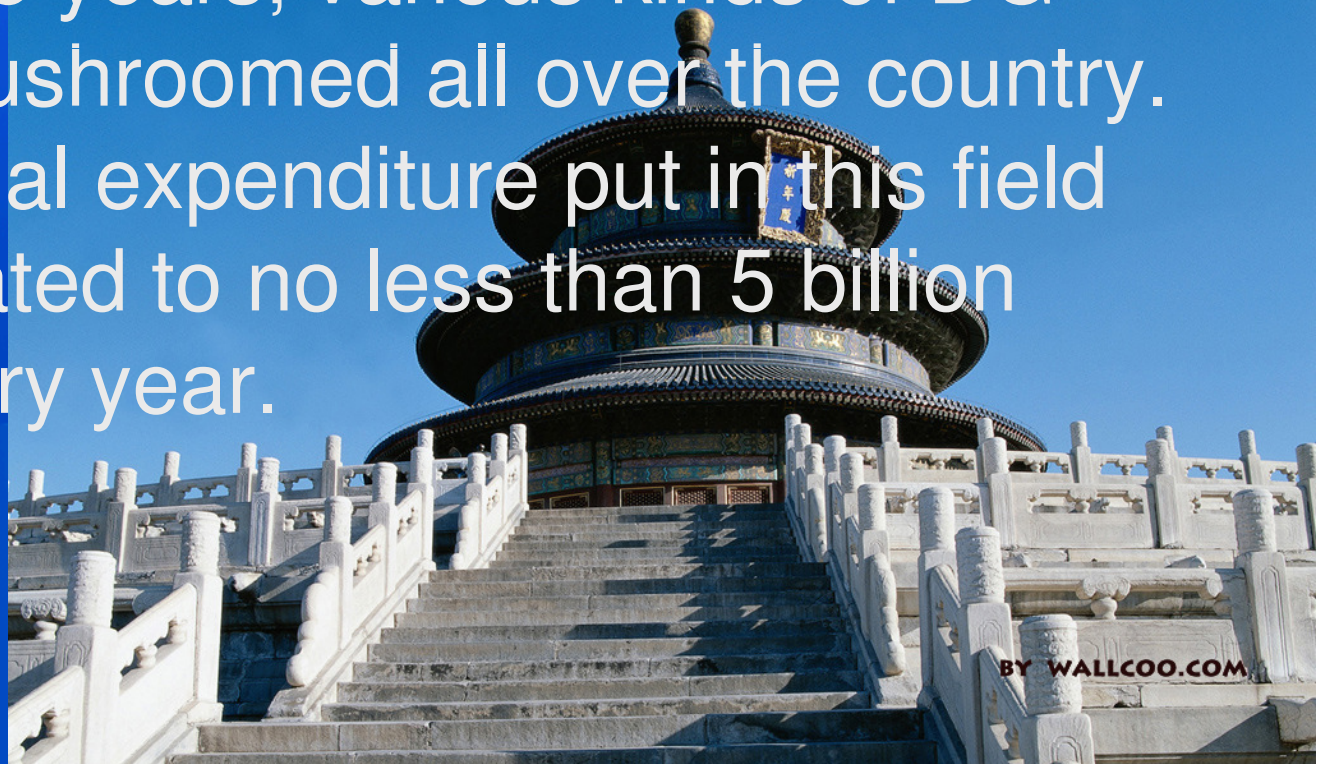
Wu Hao

Government School of Peking University

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Background of this Paper

- D-government in China
- Chinese E-Government originated in 1993
- In recent 15 years, various kinds of DG projects mushroomed all over the country. And financial expenditure put in this field was estimated to no less than 5 billion dollars every year.





Background of this Paper

- Because United States of America was birthplace of ICT and Digital Government, a lot of Chinese scholars and officers took on USA as the model of China. Some people criticized Chinese digital government by using US's cases as criterion. Others suggested that China should transplant some US's experience directly.



Background of this Paper

- An example:
- Some one suggested that China should learn from USA to establish Governmental CIO system. In 2003, one of Beijing's districts, XuanWu District nominated some Governmental CIO in some departments of government. But such a group of Governmental CIO didn't work well in practice.



Structure of This Paper

- Theory Base.
- Differences of political mechanism between U.S. and China.
- Different Kinds of Digital government Mode in two country.
- Some Conclusions

Theory Base: Technology Enactment Framework

Objective Information
Technology



Organizational
forms



Enacted
technology

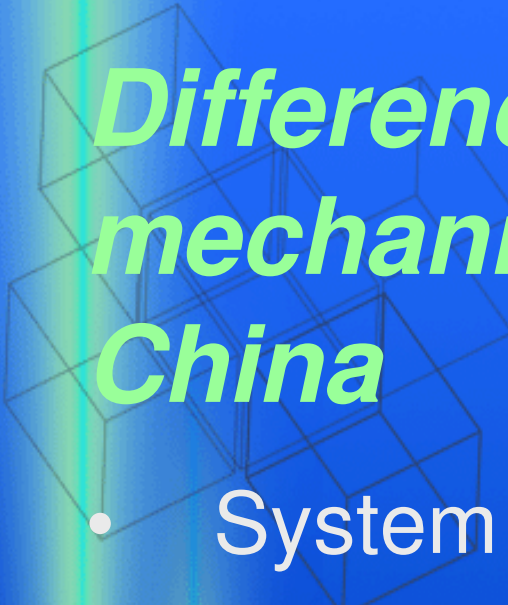


Outcomes



Institutional
arrangement

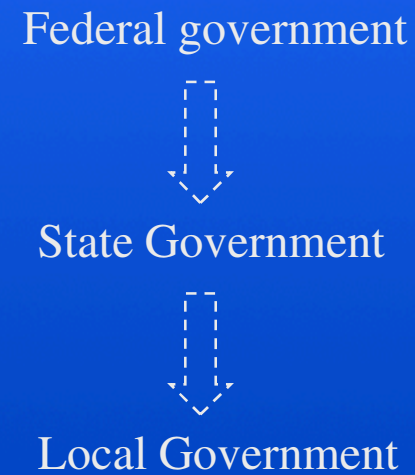
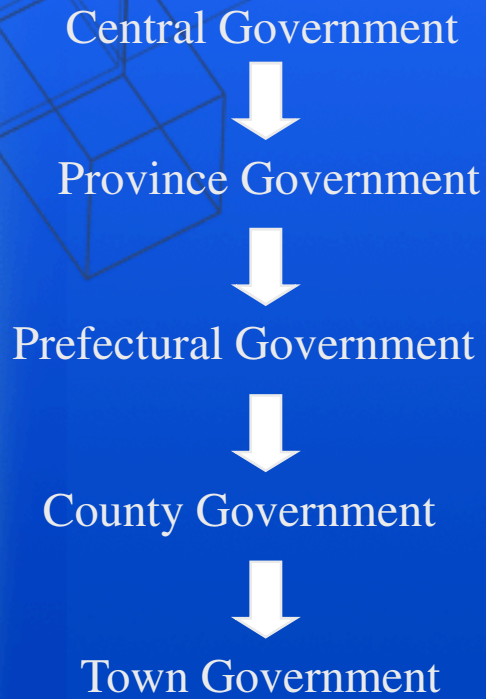
Jane E. Fountain(1992) , Building the Virtual
State , Brookings Institution Press ,
Washington D.C



Differences of political mechanism between U.S. and China

- System of Government
- Construction of Public Power
- Process of Public Policy Making
- Phase of Development

System of Government





Construction of Public Power

- U.S.A
 - decentralization
 - autonomic
 - polycentric

- China
 - centralization
 - worked as a *all-powerful government*



Process of Public Policy Making

- U.S.A
- democratic

- China
- dominating
- The prime principal of public policy making in China is *Responsibility of Administrative Chief*



Phase of Development

- U.S.A
- have already finished the mission of industrialization and begun to pursue some further aim.

- China
- hasn't finished the mission of industrialization yet.



Technology Enactment Framework

- Outcome of digital government project would be influenced by the four institutional factors including *Cognitive, Cultural, Sociostructural, Legal and formal.*
- How objective technology
Change to enacted technology in the practice of DG in U.S.A and China?



Two Different DG Mode Influenced by Political Mechanism

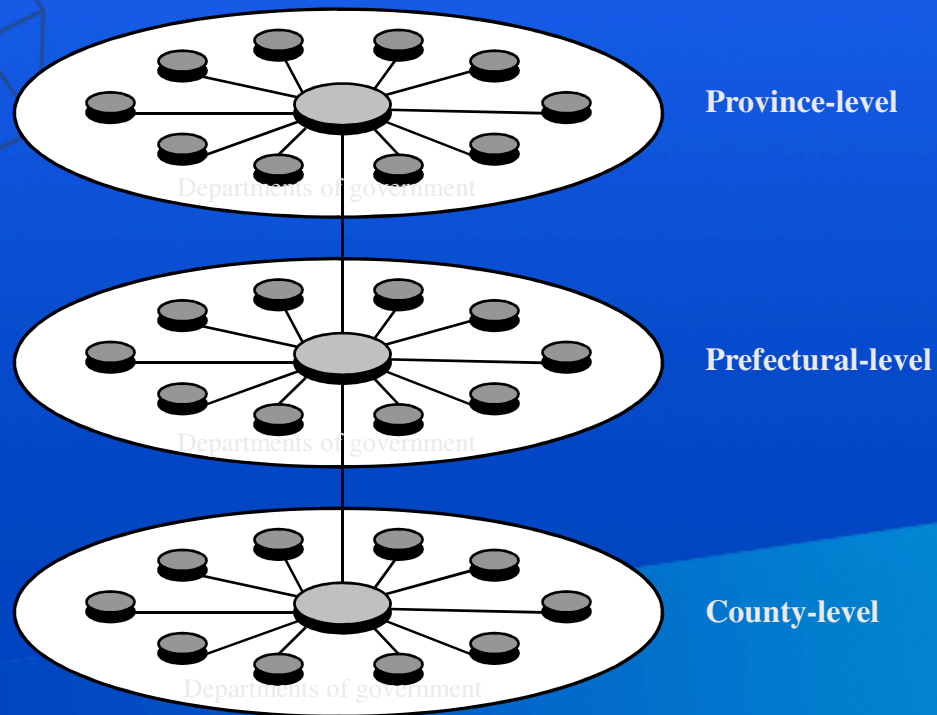
- (1) Network System of Government
- (2) Construction Speed of DG Programs
- (3) Diversity
- (4) Relationship of Government & Business
- (5) Service Consciousness



Network System of Government

- U.S.A
- Federal governments launch some federal-level digital government programs while state governments and local governments launch state-level and local-level digital government programs respectively.
- China
- Network of government must be divided to such two parts: one was Governmental Inside-Nets the other named Governmental Outside-Nets.

Typical province-level Governmental Outside-Nets in China



Construction Speed of DG Projects

- U.S.A
- influenced by its time-consuming process of public policy making, the execution of some DG programs often is put off after a long-term discussion and debate.
- China
- have great authority to make strategies and initiate large-scale digital government project in a short time.



Diversity of DG Projects

- U.S.A
- Affairs of States and Local governments are rarely intervened by the superiors, therefore digital government in the United States has the congenital characteristic of diversity.
- China
- Digital government in China reveals the characteristic of homogeneity.



Relationship of Government & Business

- U.S.A
- Especially in recent year, with the influence of reform movement of government, more and more governments in U.S. usually solve governmental problem in virtue of market.
- China
- More than 2/3 informants believed that the technical job of digital government was mainly done by governments themselves .



Service Consciousness

- U.S.A
- Citizen-centered, not bureaucracy-centered
 - *E-Government Strategy(2002, February 27)*
- China
- Today, large majority of digital government projects are not prepared for the citizens but for the governments themselves.

Conclusions

Objective Information
Technology



U.S.A & China



Enacted
technology



Network System

Construction Speed

Diversity

Relationship of G&B

Service Consciousness



System of Government

Construction of Public Power

Process of Public Policy Making

Phase of Development



Conclusions

- Firstly, because large diversity of political mechanism between U.S & China determines the different modes of digital government in the two countries, so China should not imitate U.S. in the field of digital government.




Conclusions

- Secondly, Based on political difference, I made some hypotheses about the characteristics of Chinese digital government:
 1. Some large-scale programs can be promoted and implemented in short time.
 2. Digital government in China reveals the characteristic of homogeneity.



Conclusions

- Thirdly, it is hard to judge which mode is better now, since each has its own advantages and disadvantages. The answer to this question can be found only after a long-term practice.

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- This paper is one part of an ongoing research. Some unexamined assumptions promoted by this paper should be explored in greater detail and be proofed by data which will be the main job of future research.

Thanks!

- Welcome to join my research concerning about DG in China and comparative study about China and other country.
- My E-mail:
- yyry@163.com

