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Shift from Regionalism to Localism in the UK: Motives and Results

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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Academic year: 2022/2023

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my late father, who rests peacefully, and to my beloved uncle Sidi, who played the role of my father instead and who left us too and passed away in these last days. May he be reunited with his dear brother. Thank you for your magnificent love and for giving us so many reasons to live a good life. May Allah bless your souls. I believe that you would be happy to see me in this place.

To my mother, the strongest woman in the world, whose affection, love, encouragement, and prayers of day and night have made me achieve such success and honor.

To my sisters and brothers, thanks for being by my side in this life. May Allah keep you all safe for me.

To my dear husband, who has always been a constant source of love, support, and encouragement.

Ourida

I dedicate this work to my mother, the strongest and gentlest soul, who taught me to trust in Allah, believe in hard work, and that so much could be done with little.

To my father, the goodhearted teacher who inspired and stood by me during my educational journey.

To my husband, my best friend, and the amazing man who is always supporting and encouraging me to believe in myself.

To my dear sisters and brothers.

To my best friend, **Safa BERRA**.

Acknowledgements

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

First and foremost, we are faithfully grateful to Allah the Almighty, who guided our steps and helped us complete this modest work.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our supervisor, **Dr. Ahmed Zellouma**, for his trust and assistance, as well as for providing us with all academic advice throughout all phases of this dissertation.

Special thanks and appreciation go to the members of the jury for granting their precious time to read and evaluate our work.

Last but not least, our thanks and gratitude go to all the people who helped us accomplish this work.

Abstract

Like many countries, the United Kingdom has witnessed historical and ideological changes. This dissertation aims to investigate the ideological change from regionalism to localism in the United Kingdom, starting with illustrating the motives behind this shift in different aspects as follows: political, social, economic, and environmental. Moreover, it seeks to determine the consequences of the power transition from regional authorities to local authorities, In addition to the challenges that faced the regions during the shift period. The research methods that are used are, respectively, the descriptive and analytical. Through the first method, we attempt to trace the real reasons that led the United Kingdom government to adopt the localism ideology. The second method is used to analyze the outcomes of this change and its effect on British, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh people's lives. The results obtained in this research demonstrate that Localism led to empowering local communities through making their own decisions and establishing their own business that helped in the great growth of those communities, in addition to providing individuals with rights that gave them greater control over issues affecting their society, such as protecting their buildings and designing neighborhood planning. Besides the results, Localism also focuses on reducing carbon emissions in the region. On the other hand, there were some negative results of adopting localism, such as the never-ending fight for systemic change in approaches to land-use development. At the end of the study, we highlighted the challenges the United Kingdom faced during the transition process, one of which was the

region's inequalities. International examples of localism movements, therefore, should be studied to obtain successful examples of how this strategy is properly applied.

Keywords: local authorities, Localism, Regionalism, the UK.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

CEO	The Chief Executive Officer
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS	The Office for National Statistics
PM	Particulate Matter
SNP	The Scottish National Party
UK	The United Kingdom
WHO	World Health Organization
WW II	World War II
nd	No date

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

In the beginning, it is important to clarify the dominant confusion concerning the difference between the United Kingdom, Great Britain, and England. The British Isles consist of two parts: Ireland and Great Britain. England is a separate country and a part of Great Britain, which consists of Wales, Scotland, and England. Besides this, the UK consists of the upper portion of Ireland, which is Northern Ireland, in addition to the three parts of Great Britain. Thus, the full name of the UK is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All four countries have the same passport in the name of the UK. In a brief view of history, England and Wales combined in 1542. Then Scotland joined in 1707. Then Ireland joined in 1801. And then there was Northern Ireland in 1922 when the major portion of Ireland got separated to be called the Republic of Ireland (Ravenhill, Kellner, 2023). Each part has its own capital. The capital of England is London, and the capital of Wales is Cardiff. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, and Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

Before the late 19th century, the UK government adopted a strong political ideology of Regionalism that sought to increase the political power and self-determination of one subnational region, England in this case. The English central government was responsible for all the other parts of the kingdom. Since 1999, certain areas of the central government have been devolved to devolved governments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These are not parts of the English government and are directly accountable to their own institutions, with their own authority under the Crown. In contrast, there is no devolved government in England. Devolution is the parliament of the

UK's statutory granting of a greater level of self-government to the Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Ireland parliaments (Torrance, 2022).

Earlier in the 19th century, on the issue of Irish home rule, Irish politicians had demanded a repeal of the Act of Union and a return to two separate kingdoms and parliaments. Home rule came into effect for Northern Ireland in 1921 to seek devolution (Jeffery, 2006).

Ever since, individuals and organizations have advocated the return of a Scottish parliament. The drive for home rule in Scotland first took concrete shape in the 19th century, and the demand for home rule in Ireland was met with similar demands in Scotland. Wales, as such, was treated in legal terms as part of England. However, during the later part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century, the notion of a Welsh polity gained credence. England is the only country in the UK to not have a devolved parliament or assembly (Jeffery, 2006).

2. Statement of the Problem

Regionalism was critically important for the UK at some times. It was found that regionalism encouraged local governments to look beyond their boundaries and recognize that working together toward the betterment of an entire area would ultimately prove beneficial to each locality within it. However, some previous researchers studied this policy before applying any other in the UK. As a result, the current study investigates regionalism and localism as political ideologies in the UK before and after their adoption.

3. Research Questions

The current study attempts to answer the following questions:

- a. Why did the UK shift from regionalism to localism?

- b. What were the motives for this shift?
- c. What are the results of this shift?
- d. What challenges does the UK face after this shift? How?

4. Research Hypotheses

In light of the questions cited above, we hypothesize that the shift from regionalism to localism in the UK is due to four main motives, namely: political, social, economic, and environmental. This shift led to positive results in those aspects, with some expected challenges in each of these fields.

5. Aims of the Study

This study aims at identifying and investigating the move from regionalism to localism in different aspects, namely political, economic, social, and environmental, in the UK, and to determine the motives that led to such a move and what resulted in the mentioned aspects. In addition to the quest for the challenges that face the region after this transformation.

6. Significance of the Study

The significance of the current research is that it has not been discussed before from this perspective. Our research tackles unexplored areas of this topic, and its findings shed light on a new aspect of it. A salient contribution of the study is to highlight and demonstrate the main motives and results of the shift that occurred in the UK from regionalism to localism. Moreover, the investigation undertaken provides the readers, whether they are students or teachers, with clear answers to their inquiries. Even citizens can understand the real reasons behind this political shift. The most important point of our

study is that it opens the doors to other researchers investigating this topic, which is most significant to the researcher from the perspective of academic fulfillment.

7. Research Methodology

The study attempts to determine the crucial causes and consequences of the political change that happened in the UK from regionalism to localism. In order to answer the previous questions, the descriptive method was adopted in the first two chapters. It is relevant to data collection to learn about the real motives that led to this ideological shift and its impact on the present lives of British citizens. In the third chapter, the analytical method is followed to analyze the results, either positive or negative, of this ideological change and how it affected daily life in the UK.

8. Research Structure

This dissertation is divided into three chapters. The first two chapters are theoretical. The first chapter is allocated to define the main terms in the study and explain the UK in terms of politics, social structure, economy, and environment. The second one defines regionalism, and localism, their characteristics, and their influence on society. It aims at determining the motives and reasons behind the shift in the UK. The last chapter is empirical. It highlights the results and challenges of holding the localism ideology in terms of the UK's situation.

CHAPTER ONE

Background Information

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Introduction

This chapter aims to introduce the key concepts that are associated with the research topic. It is divided into four main sections in which the transfer from regionalism to localism has occurred. First, it gives a clear definition of politics in the UK, including how the British political system and parliament are working. In addition, it explains the nature of its constitution. Secondly, it provides a high level of understanding of the composition of British society and the different social classes. The third part examines the economic system of the UK. The last section is allocated to the UK environment and the challenges that exist in the country.

1.1 Politics in the UK

Political parties, parliament, and the prime minister are typically included in the definitions of politics. The British system of government is constrained by these terms when thinking of politics. The UK is a unitary state with devolution. It is ruled under a constitutional monarchy within the framework of parliamentary democracy, in which the monarch, currently Charles III, is the head of state, while the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, is the head of government (Mclean, 2005).

In the UK, the state is unitary. This means that according to the constitution, power lies with the central government and units of local governments which are: the Scottish, the Welsh, and the Northern Ireland governments (Mclean, 2005).

The system of government performs three functions: making, enforcing, and applying the law. These functions are carried out by the legislature, executive, and judiciary respectively. To prevent the consolidation of power in the hands of one person or institution, the government's powers are divided among various institutions. In the UK, the

legislative function is carried out by parliament. There are also the devolved Scottish and Welsh parliament and a devolved assembly in Northern Ireland. The executive power is carried by the prime minister and the Cabinet. It is exercised by the Sovereign, King Charles III, via his majesty's government and the devolved national authorities: the Scottish government, the Welsh government, and the Northern Ireland executive. Then, the judicial power is transported by the courts (UK Government, n.d.).

The UK has a parliamentary system. The parliament is bicameral, made up of two houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The first is elected and the second is currently based on a hereditary system and more recently, a system of appointment (The Two-House System, n.d.).

The British political system is a two-party system. Since the 1920s, the two dominant parties have been the Conservative Party and the Labor Party. Politics is about conflict and disagreement between groups or individuals on how people's lives should be managed. In Britain, the Conservative and Labor parties embody the disagreement between conservatives and socialists (UK Political Parties, n.d.).

The British constitution is one of the last remaining uncoded constitutions in the world. This means there is no written and collected material for the country's law. Instead, it is made up of a variety of constitutional conventions, statutes, and other elements, some of which are written down, some of which are not. This system of government is known as the Westminster system. It has been adopted by other countries, especially those that were formerly parts of the British Empire. Since the British constitution is unwritten, it is frequently referred to as being flexible, it can be changed with the passage of a new law by a majority in the parliament (The UK Constitution, 2015).

1.2 Social Structure of the British Society

According to Uks (2019) British society is composed of a Population of 67,879,000 with a projection to be 70,338,000 in 2030. The UK is a multicultural country with a diverse ethnic composition. According to the 2021 estimates by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the ethnic composition of the UK is as follows:

Table 1.1: *The Ethnic Composition of British Society (Source, 2021)*

• White British: 80.5%	• White Irish: 2.2%
• Other White: 4.4%	• Indian: 2.4%
• Pakistani: 1.8%	• Bangladeshi: 0.6%
• Chinese: 0.9%	• Other Asian: 3.4%
• Black African: 1.6%	• Black Caribbean: 0.8%
• Other Black: 0.5%	• Arab: 1.1%
• Other: 0.6%	

The concept of social class has historically had a strong influence on the social structure of the UK, and it continues to have an impact on British society today. British society, like its European neighbors and the majority of societies throughout history, has traditionally been divided hierarchically within a structure involving the hereditary transmission of employment, social rank, and political influence. Since the advent of industrialization, this system has been in a constant state of revision, and new factors - education for example- are now a greater part of creating identity in the UK. Namely, there are five main groups in the British class system sequenced as follows (Uks,2019):

- ❖ Lower class: this is a controversial term to describe the long-term unemployed individuals, the homeless, and so on (Uks, 2019).
- ❖ Working class: basic low-level, unskilled, or semi-skilled workers, such as those with no university or college education. This includes occupations such as factory workers and laborers. A prominent slang term for this group is "chav," which refers to the unfavorable perception of young individuals from this group who are thought to be boisterous and loutish and who wear genuine or imitation brand clothing (Uks, 2019).
- ❖ Middle class: this category includes the great majority of British citizens, such as shop owners, white-collar professionals (literally those who wear a white collar like businessmen and office workers), teachers, journalists, nurses, and the list goes on. A slang used sometimes for this group is "champagne socialists" because they are comfortable financially but have socialist views (Uks, 2019).
- ❖ Upper class: a popular slang for this group is "toffs" which has both negative and positive connotations. A toff is someone who believes they are superior to others, whereas someone from the working class may believe a toff is someone who has no idea about actual life and lacks practical abilities. Someone with a good job such as being a barrister can be considered upper-class but if their parents were working class they may be considered to have "new money" by those that come from families where they have "old money" which means they have been rich for a long time (Uks, 2019).
- ❖ Aristocrats: the royal family and those with titles, such as lords or barons, fall into this group. They are often referred to as "blue blooded," a phrase that originated in France. The term originally referred to people who were so rich that they did not have to work and rarely went out into the sun. This kept their skin very pale, in fact, that their veins

(which appeared blue) were visible under their skin. Of course, no one really has blue blood, but the term has stuck around (Uks, 2019).

In summary, British society has experienced significant changes since WWII, including an increase in higher education and home ownership, a trend toward a service-dominated economy, widespread immigration, a changing role for women, and a more individualistic culture. These modifications have had a significant impact on the social landscape.

1.3 UK Economy

According to the Cambridge dictionary, the economy is a system of trade and industry by which the wealth of a country or region is made and used (Economy, 2023). In other words, it is the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region (Britannica, n.d.).

The UK, which consists of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is one of the most globally integrated economies. It was the fifth-largest exporter and importer in the world in 2020. England is the biggest contributing nation to the UK economy's GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The annual GDP grossing was about 1.9 trillion British Pounds in 2019 Among the four countries that make up the UK. In the same year, Scotland grossed around 166 billion British pounds in GDP, and Northern Ireland and the Welsh economy grossed over 77.5 billion British pounds in GDP. The UK economy is based on two main sectors: Agriculture sector and Construction sector (Wikipedia,).

Agriculture in the UK is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards. The country produces around 65% of its food needs. The official agricultural policy aimed to improve productivity, ensure stable markets, provide producers with a fair

standard of living, and guarantee consumers regular food supplies at reasonable prices. The most important farm crops are wheat, barley, oats, sugar beets, potatoes, and rapeseed. With the exception of sugar and cheese, the UK has achieved a high level of agricultural self-sufficiency (Wikipedia, 2023c).

The construction industry of the UK employed around 2.3 million people and contributed a gross value of £123.2 billion to the economy in 2019(Pervez. 2021). One of the largest construction projects in the UK in recent years was Cross rail, costing an estimated £19 billion. Due to start opening by Christmas 2021 (Sandle, 2022),it will be a new railway line running east to west through London and into the surrounding area, with a branch to Heathrow Airport. Ongoing construction projects include the High Speed 2 line between London and the West Midlands. Cross rail 2 is a proposed rail route in the South East of England (Route - Crossrail 2, 2023).

On the other hand, a variety of different industries, such as those that provide gas, water, and electricity, had a substantial impact on the expansion of the British economy. Along with manufacturing, the UK economy is dominated by the service sector, which accounted for 79% of GDP in 2019 and includes services like education and healthcare (Wikipedia, 2023c). Due to the significant income from tourism, which reached £28.5 billion for the British economy, it has a significant impact on the UK economy. Additionally, London had 21.7 million more visitors than any other city in the world (The Value of Tourism in England, 2022).

1.4UK Environment

According to the Britannica dictionary, the environment is defined as the set of conditions that surround someone or something and influence the growth, health,

progress, and so on, of someone or something. The basic four components of the environment are the atmosphere or the air, lithosphere or the rocks and soil, hydrosphere or the water, and the living component of the environment or the biosphere. In the UK case, there are some environmental issues that the country is facing such as air pollution, climate change, and litter (Environment Definition & Meaning, n.d.).

The climate in the UK is moderate. that means that Britain experiences warm, rainy summers and cool, damp winters. Extremes of heat or cold, drought, or wind are uncommon compared to other climates. The weather conditions are also very changeable. The climate in the UK differs depending on where one is. London, in the southeast of the UK, is a region characterized by a warm and dry climate in the summer and a cold and dry climate in the winter (The Climate of the UK, n.d.).

Cumbria, in the mountainous north-west of England, has generally cooler temperatures and more rainfall throughout the year. The Four major regions that make up the UK's overall climatic pattern (The Climate of the UK, n.d.):

- ❖ [South](#)-east – cold winters, warm and dry summers
- ❖ [South](#)-west – mild and very wet winters, warm and wet summers
- ❖ [North](#)-west – mild winter, cool summers, and heavy rain all year
- ❖ [North](#)-east – cold winter, cool summers, and steady rain all year

On the other hand, the environment and human population of the UK are being impacted by climate change. The climate of the country is warming, with drier summers and wetter winters. Storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves are becoming more frequent and intense, while sea level rise is affecting coastal communities. In addition,

having emitted more greenhouse gas per person than the world average is one of the major contributors to climate change in the UK. Moreover, this issue has economic impacts on the UK. Also, humans face a lot of health risks (Wikipedia, 2023a).

The lithosphere is one of five 'spheres' that shape our planet. The British Isles sits on the northwestern margin of the European continent and have a diverse solid geology, which is the result of a punctuated history of subsidence and tectonic activity. The rocks in the British Isles are different from one region to another because they developed at various eras and in very various environments. Despite the fact that the rocks which formed any landscape, sometimes covered by soil and vegetation, make it difficult to determine its nature but it is possible to highlight the following surface in the UK (Davis et al., 2012):

- ❖ In mountainous regions such as Scotland, Wales, and the North of England, the rock is usually exposed at the surface, and the mountains will show evidence of glaciation (Davis et al., 2012).
- ❖ In the south of England, however, much of the rock is covered by boulder clay and other soils that have been deposited by glaciers (Davis et al., 2012).

A hydrosphere is the total amount of water on a planet. It includes water that is on the surface of the planet, underground, and in the air. The UK has a coastline which measures about 12,429 km. The heavy indentation of the coastline helps to ensure that no location is more than 125 km from tidal waters. Also, it has an extensive system of canals, mostly built in the early years of the Industrial Revolution (Hydrosphere, 2023). Moreover, the UK has numerous dams and reservoirs to store water for drinking and industry. The generation of hydroelectric power is rather limited, supplying less than 2% of British

electricity, mainly from the Scottish Highlands. The length of the longest rivers, which exist in the UK, is ordered as following:

Table1.2:*The Length of Rivers in the United Kingdom*(Britain visitor, n.d.)

River	Length	Location
River Severn	350 km	Wales and England
River Thames	346 km	England
River Tay	188 km	Scotland
River Bann	122 km	Northern Ireland

As mentioned above, the environment in the UK faced some challenges. Without question, one of London's most urgent environmental issues is air pollution. The city is considered the most polluted city in the UK. The issue affects the entire city and its suburbs. In actuality, all of its citizens live in areas where pollution exceeds the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) of **PM** 2.5 particulate matter, extremely small particles capable of penetrating deep into the lungs. The major causes of this problem are energy production, industrial processes, construction, and transportation as well as a significant contributor to air pollution in the city. The volume of traffic and vehicles on the road is the single largest cause, producing nearly half the nitrogen oxides (World Health Organization, 2022).

Every day in the UK, more than two million items of garbage are abandoned. Over £1 billion a year goes to the taxpayers for street cleaning. According to research, litter increases crime and makes people feel less comfortable in neighborhoods(Litter & the Law, 2023.). Litter is any type of rubbish that people left it on the earth. Litter affects all forms of life on the planet, negatively. It threatens wildlife because the litter such as plastic cans

and empty tins can kill animals. Also, it increases the number of diminished land - An area degraded by rubbish- which becomes less visited at the end of the year. In addition to contamination and increasing negative behaviors, litter costs the UK government £7m. The sum is spent on clearing up litter and £56m on removing chewing gum from pavements. In 2014/15, local authorities in England spent nearly £50 million on clearing fly-tipping (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, 2021).

Conclusion

This chapter establishes the theoretical section of the research and serves as a prologue to the next one. It covers the key elements that are included in the research. It highlights the framework of the British political system on the one hand and studies the variety of British social classes on the other. In addition, this chapter defines the UK economy and the resources of its economic power. The elements of this chapter show what the environment in the UK is like as well as what the environmental issues that British citizens face in their daily lives are. The four sectors have made a salient contribution to the shift from regionalism to localism in the UK. They play a major role in driving this political and ideological change.

CHAPTER TWO

The Motives behind the Shift from Regionalism to Localism

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Introduction

In recent years, there has been a rise in interest in localism and regionalism in the UK, reflecting a growing desire among the country's diverse people to have a bigger voice in the governance and development of their own areas. This chapter looks into the interesting worlds of localism and regionalism, investigating their relevance, historical context, and impact on the UK's social, economic, political, and environmental landscape.

At its foundation, localism is a paradigm shift away from centralized decision-making and toward giving local authorities, groups, and individuals more influence over local matters. It calls for the authority to be devolved from national institutions to local, city, and neighborhood levels, acknowledging that local actors have a thorough awareness of their specific issues, aspirations, and opportunities.

Similarly, within wider geographic regions, regionalism recognizes the value of local identity, culture, and economic potential. It recognizes that certain difficulties and opportunities are best addressed through joint efforts and the sharing of resources among neighboring municipalities. Regionalism aims to create cohesive communities by using the characteristics of distinct locales to unlock their aggregate potential for economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

2.1 Regionalism and Localism Ideologies in the UK

2.1.1 Regionalism

Politics and geographical norms typically define a nation's territory. Regional identity may occasionally be greater than the national identity and may differ greatly from it in terms of cultural identity and political perspective. Regionalism is a political philosophy that emphasizes the importance of local identity, independent regional planning, and

administrative freedom. It prioritizes the interests of the region over those of the country as a whole and encourages the expression of cultural peculiarities. In other words, the region's regionalist politics are focused on that particular area. It seeks to refocus the national agenda on local concerns and provide that area more autonomy. (Juliao,2022).

2.1.1.1 Historical Overview of Regionalism in The United Kingdom

Because regionalism is fundamentally contentious and changeable, it has a complicated history due to differing opinions on whether or not it is a useful or desirable organizing principle in international politics.

The late 19th century can be considered the beginning of regionalism in the UK. The emergence of regional movements in response to the growing concentration of political power in London during the same period (Hueglin ,1973). In the early 20th century, regionalist movements in Scotland and Wales gained momentum, fueled in part by demands for greater cultural recognition and political autonomy. In Scotland, the Scottish National Party (SNP) was founded in 1934, and Wales, the Plaid Cymru party was established in 1925(Broughton,n-d).

In the post-WWII era, the Labor government-initiated policies aimed at decentralizing power and promoting regional development, which helped to further popularize the idea of regionalism. The 1960s and 1970s saw a resurgence of regionalist movements, particularly in England, where groups such as the Campaign for the North and the North East Party emerged, calling for greater regional autonomy (Paul, 2010).

During the 1980s and 1990s, regionalism continued to be a topic of debate in the UK, particularly in the context of the devolution of powers to Scotland, Wales, and

Northern Ireland. The devolution process began with the establishment of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly in 1999, followed by the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007 (Devolution, 2019). Today, regionalism remains a relevant and important issue in the UK, with debates continuing over issues such as regional economic development, infrastructure investment, and the distribution of political power. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of regional coordination and collaboration in responding to crises (OECD,2021).

2.1.1.2 The Essence Regionalism

According to Theiner (2022), a region is a limited number of states linked together by a geographical relationship and by a degree of mutual interdependence.

Regionalism: is an authentic connection to place in creating an architecture that not only responds to the basic needs of people in specific geographic locations but also is an extension of local identity and a reflection of cultural heritage(Theiner, 2022).

Depending on the context, regionalism can be used to refer to a variety of different ideas, leading to a variety of well-known definitions. Here are a few instances:

In literature and Art context, regionalism refers to works that describe distinctive local geography and culture, and to movements that value smaller-scaled representations of place over representations of a broad territorial range (Joseph,2019). In other words, it refers to a style or movement that emphasizes local customs, traditions, and landscapes.

In politics, Regionalism can be stated as that it is the doctrine carved by the political pursuits that favor the interests and beliefs of a specific group, region, or subnational entity.” The meaning of regionalism ranges from the influence of caste,

religion, and geographical factors. Strictly speaking, Regionalism is a political ideology that seeks to increase the political power and influence, and self-determination of the people of one or more sub-national regions (Calzada, 2018). It focuses on the "development of a political, social system, normative or economic interests of a specific region, group or another subnational entity based on one or more regions benefits" (Regionalism, n.d.).

In economics, refers to the process of economic integration between neighboring countries or regions. A famous definition of regionalism in this context comes from the economist Richard Baldwin, who defined regionalism as "the process of economic integration between neighboring countries that goes beyond mere free trade to include deeper forms of economic cooperation, such as common regulations, shared institutions, and joint infrastructure projects." (Regionalism, n.d.).

In other words, Regionalism is the belief that the cooperation of nation-states, also known as "blocks," strengthens political influence and authority in particular geographic areas. Their same interests, aspirations, and motivators bind them together. The increasing interconnectedness of the world results in regionalism. Therefore, regionalism aims to connect global politics and tackle the problems which any country in the world faces them. This ideology is caused by geographical, historical, cultural, economic and politico-administrative factors (Regionalism, n.d.).

2.1.1.3 Regionalism Examples

According to Juliao (2022), Regionalism is sometimes used to refer to several countries that establish common policies and agreements looking to benefit the region that they form together. There are important participants in regionalism, which include:

A. Trade blocks: a group of countries in a geographical region that maintains good trade relations; for example, members of the European Union are part of a trade block, whereby they form a single market and tariffs are reduced (Regionalism, n.d.).

B. International organizations: organizations that discuss treaties and agreements between states on a global scale such as Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Working with over 100 countries, the OECD is a global policy forum that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world (Regionalism, n.d.).

C. Supranational organization: a multinational union that influences and forms agreements collectively like the WHO is the United Nations agency working to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable (Regionalism, n.d.).

2.1.1.4 Characteristics of Regionalism

According to the Columbian architect Juliao (2022), Regionalism has two significant characteristics, which are:

A. Local Identity

Perhaps the most significant aspect of regionalism is local identity. A strong sense of place and loyalty to a certain area define this political ideology. Political leaders who use regionalism to their advantage frame their proposed policies as being beneficial to that region and that group of people. They may assert that other regions of the country are attempting to exploit the local region. According to the regionalist agendas, regional interests should always take precedence over national interests. This will unite the people in the protection of that region, even if that protection comes at the expense of the larger state (Juliao (2022)).

B. Autonomy

The next phase is to advocate for the region's and the people's autonomy once a strong sense of local identity has been established. This does not necessarily indicate that region's independence. Political or economic autonomy are both possible. Regionalism does not always manifest itself as a regional political party. It might be a component of a bigger, American political party. Additionally, it's possible that it wouldn't favor more regional autonomy. Instead, it could support regionalist objectives that have little to do with local challenges (Juliao (2022)).

2.1.1.5 The Advantages of Regionalism

More wins for everyone. That's the biggest benefit of regionalism, according to Clay Walker, CEO of NETWORKS - Sullivan Partnership. However, he adds this condition, "when done properly." (Gérard, 1998).

Regionalism can have positive consequences:

- ❖ In terms of business and industry, it can create competition between other regions in the country. They cite more efficient use of tax dollars and better opportunities to solve problems (Gérard, 1998).
- ❖ It might promote local development, protect the local cultural manifestations, and brings favorable conditions to certain regions that might have been historically relegated by the national administration (Gérard, 1998).
- ❖ It protects socio-economic interests (Gérard, 1998).
- ❖ Regionalism encourages cooperation and partnerships while making possible feats that ordinarily might not be attainable and creates opportunities that may not otherwise be available," said Steve Smith, president, and CEO of Food City. "There are very few if any, drawbacks to regionalism when implemented properly." (Gérard, 1998).

2.1.1.6 The Drawbacks of Regionalism

The most voiced drawback that regionalism addressed is a community's fear of losing its unique identity, its "sense of place, sense of community," said Margaret Feierabend, Bristol, Tenn., (Gérard, 1998). This ideology can weaken the national identity and increase passionate divisions between the members of the same society, which can lead to conflicts between them (Gérard, 1998). It might also prevent local politicians from organizing the importance of certain national issues or those in other regions (Gérard, 1998).

2.1.2 Localism

Eric Pickles (2010), a British Conservative Party politician who served as a Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from 2010 to 2015 once said: "I have three very clear priorities: localism, and we all weave that into everything we do from parks to finance to policy. My second priority is localism, and my third is [...] localism". The statement exemplifies how localism was thrust into the spotlight of British politics following the 2010 election when a coalition of conservatives and liberal democrats took office and made it their credo. Localism was viewed as a location of improvement, a locus of knowledge development, a framework of social integration and community-building, a localization of economic activities, and a site of resistance and environmental action.

2.1.2.1 A Historical Overview of Localism in the UK Government

Modern English local government arose to address issues that arose in the middle of the eighteenth century when the use of machines began to shape the modern world. Local elected entities are required to reduce the congestion that would otherwise develop in the center. Local government, parliament, and Whitehall have all grown up with

the same powers and responsibilities. Since 1750, the thought and behavior of public men have defined the division of labor among them. However, there has never been a complete abandonment of older practices that had their origins in the simpler conditions of pre-industrial life. The concepts that have dictated the shape of modern local administration since the Reform Bill of 1832 were initially tried out in experiments launched within the previous system of local government in the eighteenth century. Prior to the industrial revolution, the primary function of government, aside from national defense, was to maintain peace and to allow farmers and artisans to cultivate the land and practice their profession. After 1066, the Norman Kings and their successors kept the peace long enough for the locals to cultivate the soil and develop whatever skills they knew. For the price of a few fiefs, they made feasible the villages, manor houses, windmills, and the few cities and markets that existed in England prior to the seventeenth century. The Kings were usually powerful enough to keep civil wars between their nobles at bay and to safeguard agricultural laborers (Smellie, 1968).

The representatives of the King were never allowed to get out of hand in the Counties, which are the country's oldest and clearest divisions for the operation of administration. Henry II held an Inquest of Sheriffs in 1170, which investigated their work and ousted them all. They were replaced by Exchequer Clerks and other low-level employees. Local lords were frequently allowed to have their own courts, which meant their own administrative system, but the King's justices, who traveled the kingdom on "their circuit," provided greater justice than the local courts to anyone willing to pay. There was no "black market" in the limited commodity of justice since the King could always break the market by supplying a superior article. The King's Justices stopped the rise of local tyrannies, whose excessive power could have jeopardized the kingdom's unity. The

appointment of Justices of the Peace in the thirteenth century to enforce peace and order in the King's name throughout the countryside was a critical innovation in the formation of local government. The economic disruptions created by the Black Death in the middle of the fourteenth century substantially increased the obligations that Justices of the Peace had to carry out. While the Justices were in charge of law and order in general, they could only do so through working with the local communities that existed at the time. These were parishes or villages with a tradition of local self-government, in the sense that the upkeep of village life - the sowing of crops, the upkeep of local bridges and walkways, and the care of stray animals - was a matter of local self-help. The sixteenth century saw the birth of the modern world of nation-states and natural science. Henry VII and Elizabeth guided England through the tensions and strains of the sixteenth-century agrarian revolution and the political and social ramifications of the Reformation. The Justices of the Peace were called to order (Smellie, 1968).

By 1832, the involvement of a forward-thinking legislature may save the system from total collapse. In 1832, there were approximately 15,000 parishes, each with its own unit of local government. However, they had never been subjected to systematic treatment by the king or parliament. Their regions and borders, as well as the number and method of appointment of their officials, varied from place to location and over time (Smellie, 1968).

In the 20th century, the writings of Leopold Kohr, E.F. Schumacher, Wendell Berry, and Kirkpatrick Sale, among others, were profoundly influenced by localism. More broadly, localism draws on a wide range of movements and issues, and it believes that re-localizing democratic and economic linkages will make social, economic, and environmental problems more identifiable and solutions more easily generated.

Anarchism, bioregionalism, environmentalism, the Greens, and more particular issues about food, monetary policy, and education are among them. Political parties of various stripes have periodically supported the devolution of power to local governments. In this spirit, Labour Party MP Alan Milburn has spoken of "making services more locally accountable, devolving more power to local communities, and forging a modern relationship between the state, citizens, and services."(Milburn, 2004).

2.1.2.2 The Definition of Localism

Localism can refer to distinct things in different contexts. From an economic standpoint, it is viewed as a process of localization, reversing "the trend of globalization by discrimination in favor of the local" (Hines, 2000); a process that nurtures locally owned businesses, employing local workers, and serving local consumers (Shuman, 2000). From a political perspective, Politicians use the term localism to refer to decentralized and grassroots forms of authority, subsidiarity, devolution, and decentralization of the state's powers, activities, and duties downwards to local governments and sideways. From an environmental standpoint, localism is regarded as a viable option. Some claim that downscaling and local self-sufficiency is required for reversing the ecological crisis. Others question the feasibility of local sustainability measures to effect systemic change; that environmental problems are global issues that require global solutions. From a social standpoint, localism brings up notions of the community, which is a contentious concept with numerous connotations. Some regard the community as an object, while others see it as a process. The structural-functionalist ideas of the 1960s (as in the Chicago School) conceptualized the community as an 'organic whole' enclosed in a tiny geographical unit; a form of shelter from anonymity and alienation. The more recent post-structural models see the community as heterogeneous and dispersed, with no necessary ties to place.

Instead, the focus is placed on the symbolic and discursive meanings of the community, as well as values and interests as the foundations for its construction (Walkerdine and Studdert, n.d.).

The word local, which comes from the Latin language and exists in numerous European languages in more or less identical forms, implies or is concerned with a specific location. The term localism is significantly newer, having first appeared in English in the early nineteenth century. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, it was first used in 1823 to describe the features of a specific location, such as local idioms, customs, and expressions that are unique to that location. As a result, authors have written about 'linguistic localism' or 'architectural localism' to define qualities that separate one location from another (Davoudi, 2015).

Since the mid-nineteenth century, the word has also acquired a political and normative sense, which has now become its principal meaning. In this latter sense, localism denotes loyalty to a locality in which individuals or groups dwell together with all the ideas, sympathies, and interests that go with it, resulting in a worldview that favors what is local. The Oxford English Dictionary cites the English traveler George Borrow in his 1843 book, *The Bible in Spain*, who mentions a strong spirit of localism, which is so common throughout Spain. Borrow said that the people of Santiago di Compostela "seemed to care little if all others in Galicia perished" and that people in the impoverished village of Ferrol boasted about their town's public walk being finer than Madrid's Prado. As a result, although the local may relate to a descriptive relationship between a phenomenon and a location, localism refers to an attitude and a disposition centered on a location. It

establishes an emotional tie, a normative link between phenomena and places, and hence contributes to the development of an ideology (Davoudi, 2015).

While the term localism was first used in the eighteenth century, the concept of local traits or the attitude of favoring what are local dates back further. It can be fairly presumed that some type of affinity for the locals has been the glue that has held people together for as long as human groups have existed. The question that needs to be addressed is the concept's modern significance and application. What is new in current debates about localism? (Davoudi, 2015).

The concept of localism as a preference for the local is frequently expressed from within a locality as an expression of a desire for self-determination and/or resistance to outside pressures. It is typically defined as a desire expressed by smaller and weaker social groups and forms of political authority to argue for and exert control over their own affairs; a push for autonomy in the face of larger and more powerful extra-local forces that may attempt to govern over them. The urge for territorialization is at the heart of this definition of localism. This is the desire to keep or reassert authority over a territory, usually from inside that territory and in contrast to other regions. Such localism may be the product of a local elite's attempt to maintain power, or it may be the expression of a local community's yearning for self-determination or some control over the processes that affect their lives. However, it is a desire that can result in a range of consequences ranging from an inward-looking attitude and intense suspicion of others to openness and management of relationships across different places (Davoudi, 2015).

2.1.2.3 Characteristics of Localism

Localism has remarkable characteristics. The following points clarify some of which:

- ❖ **Emphasis on community:** Localism emphasizes the importance of community and the well-being of the people who reside in a particular area. As local individuals have the ability to directly establish priorities and the type of local services, localism means that public services are more likely to reflect the needs and preferences of communities(10 Reasons, n.p.).
- ❖ **Support for local businesses:** Rather than relying on major corporations or global firms, localism promotes the support of local businesses and economies(10 Reasons, n.p.).
- ❖ **Preservation of local culture and customs, as well as rising diversity:** Localism prioritizes the preservation of local culture and traditions, such as language and food. Communities are not all the same. As our society becomes more varied, "one-size-fits-all" policies become increasingly unworkable. Localizing more public decision-making so that communities can alter public services to match local values benefits all of us and fosters inclusion(10 Reasons, n.p.).
- ❖ **Decentralization of power that ensure authority is shared around:** Localism advocates for the decentralization of authority and decision-making, allowing local communities more control and limiting the influence of centralized government or corporate groups. The extreme concentration of power and authority endangers all societies. Localism is one method of ensuring that power and authority are distributed throughout communities rather than concentrated in a single location. Empowering communities serves as a check and balance on central authority by granting citizens autonomy and self-governance over local issues. As a result, democracy is stronger all around(10 Reasons, n.p.).
- ❖ **Localism places a premium on the quality of life for individuals and communities over economic progress or profit.** Localism not only allows communities to try new things,

but it also stimulates innovation as our towns and cities compete in constructive ways to provide a higher quality of life and attract investment. Furthermore, policies and programs can be tested at the local level because the consequences of failure are much lower than implementing them for the first time at the national level(10 Reasons, n.p.).

- ❖ Civic participation and the coordination and integration of public services: Localism promotes civic participation and participation in local decision-making processes, fostering a sense of community ownership and responsibility. A difficulty with centralized government is that public services are frequently supplied by departments operating in silos, resulting in duplication and overlaps "on the ground" - this is known as the "public service silos" problem. Localism takes a "place-based" approach to service delivery, uniting service providers around a shared vision and problem definition(10 Reasons, n.d).

2.1.2.4 Disadvantages of Localism

In the following points, some disadvantages are explained:

- ❖ Local communities may lack resources, making it difficult to offer the required services and infrastructure to their residents. As a result, the quality of life may be worse than in larger areas with greater resources(Edspira, 2018).
- ❖ Localism can lead to a restricted concentration on local community interests at the expense of broader social concerns. This could lead to a lack of cooperation and coordination across diverse groups, undermining efforts to address broader issues(Edspira, 2018).
- ❖ Local decision-making is often slower and less efficient than decision-making at higher levels of government. As a result, serious or difficult situations may receive delayed or inadequate attention(Edspira, 2018).

- ❖ Localism may result in discrimination against specific groups, particularly those viewed as outsiders or different. This could lead to exclusion and marginalization, which could harm social cohesion(Edspira, 2018).
- ❖ Local communities may not have access to the same degree of experience as higher levels of government, limiting their ability to make well-informed choices and solve complicated challenges efficiently(Edspira, 2018).
- ❖ Localism may result in inequitable resource distribution, with some communities receiving more support and investment than others. This has the potential to exacerbate current inequities while also creating new ones(Edspira, 2018).

2.2 Regionalism vs. Localism

Localism and regionalism are normally seen as conflicting conceptions of metropolitan area governance (Briffault,2000). Regionalism refers to the idea of creating larger administrative regions, such as the North of England or the Midlands, that have more power and autonomy than local councils (Gérard,1998). Localism, on the other hand, is the belief that decision-making should be devolved to the lowest possible level, such as individual towns and villages (The National Association of Local Councils,2010).

Obvious similarities exist between the two political ideologies in that both of them prioritize economic development in their respective regions or localities. Additionally, these philosophies share a focus on local identity, culture, and heritage. Moreover, these ideologies seek to promote and preserve the unique characteristics of a particular region or locality. In terms of power devolution, both regionalism and localism support the transfer of authority from the central government to local governments. They hold that individuals who are best familiar with the area and its requirements should make decisions regarding local issues and underline the value of community engagement.

Despite all those similarities between regionalism and localism, they also differ in some points. As any two different perspectives, regionalism focuses more on the creation of distinct regional entities with their own governing structures and the community's fear of losing their identity(Foster, n.d.) while localism emphasizes the importance of empowering individual communities within those regions to make decisions that affect their daily lives and more responsive to their specific needs and circumstances.

2.3 The Motives of the Shift from Regionalism to Localism in the United Kingdom

In the UK, localism ideology saw a significant shift from regionalism. This change occurred in a gradual and ongoing process moving through many political acts. Firstly, one of the key events that led to this political shift is the passing of the localism act in 2011. The former contains a wide range of measures to devolve more powers to councils and neighborhoods and give local communities greater control over local decisions like housing and planning (An Introduction to the Localism Act, n.d.). The second event that resulted from this historical move is the Brexit vote in 2016. The vote to leave the EU was largely driven by a desire to take back control and return decision-making power to the UK from Brussels. Moreover, It calls for greater devolution of power and resources to local communities and authorities in order to increase local control over taxation and public services, and greater involvement of local communities in decision-making processes (Brexit, Localism and Devolution, n.d.).

2.3.1 Political Motives

- ❖ Localism distributes power and authority: While the distribution of powers is typically defined in a country's written constitution, it is even more significant in countries without constitutional provisions that provide for local administration, or in those

without constitutional papers at all as the case in the UK(10 Reasons, n.d.). This function was described by GW Jones, a British political philosopher, as follows:

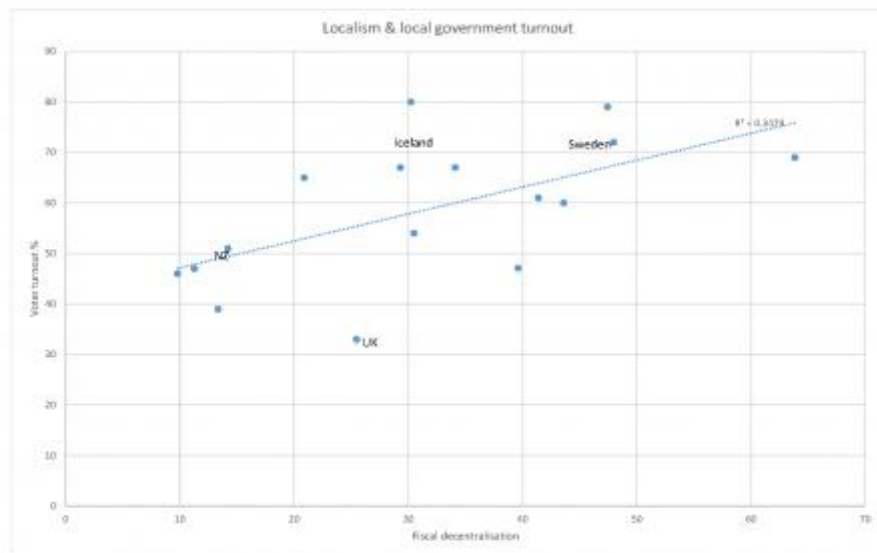
In a country without a written constitution, local government takes on an added significance, since it is the only legitimate check on the power of central government. In a unitary state [...] local government has to be a substitute for constraints on arbitrary power that are provided elsewhere by the checks and balances of federalism and a written constitution(10 Reasons, n.d.).

- ❖ Localism is excellent for local democracy: Delegating more decision-making to communities and their councils gives individuals greater reasons to run for and vote in local elections. Having a greater influence over whether and how a community grows and develops would stimulate interest in local government and attract people with more knowledge and experience to run for and serve on councils(10 Reasons, n.d.).

Strengthening local governments and communities will have a transformational effect on the efficiency of local governments and revive interest in democracy at the local level due to two factors:

- A. In the first instance, there will be greater interest in elected member performance as a result of councils having access to various types of finance (buoyant taxes) that ensure successful council programs and investments benefit communities rather than the central government(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- B. In the second case, delegating authority to local governments raises the relevance or importance of the issue. Greater salience is related to increased turnout and citizen involvement as a result of greater relevance. The following figure shows the positive correlation between decentralization and voter turnout(10 Reasons, n.d.).

Figure 2.1: The Relationship between Decentralization and Voter Turnout (LG) (10 Reasons, n.d.).



Local government is frequently touted for the chances it gives for direct political participation by residents due to its proximity to communities.

- ❖ Resilience: reminding us of the old adage of "not putting all your eggs in the same basket", resilient networks or systems are distinguished by their ability to continue operating even when a component of the system fails catastrophically. Sharing decision-making across several governing bodies lessens the impact of any single institution's policy failure and provides the possibilities for innovation and policy learning. As a result, tiny self-contained systems are more likely to tolerate shock than huge networked systems(10 Reasons, n.d.).

Finally, resilience will be determined by citizens' and community organizations' ability to manage themselves in times of crisis, which necessitates governing models that enable citizens to develop the skills and capability of self-government(10 Reasons, n.d.).

The issue was addressed by recent work undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation and the 100 resilient cities network which found:

Through city case studies, public administration literature identifies a series of conditions under which urban resilience would likely improve: decentralization and local autonomy, accountability and transparency, responsiveness and flexibility, participation and inclusion, and experience and support (Urban Institute, 2018, p.76).

2.3.2 Social Motives

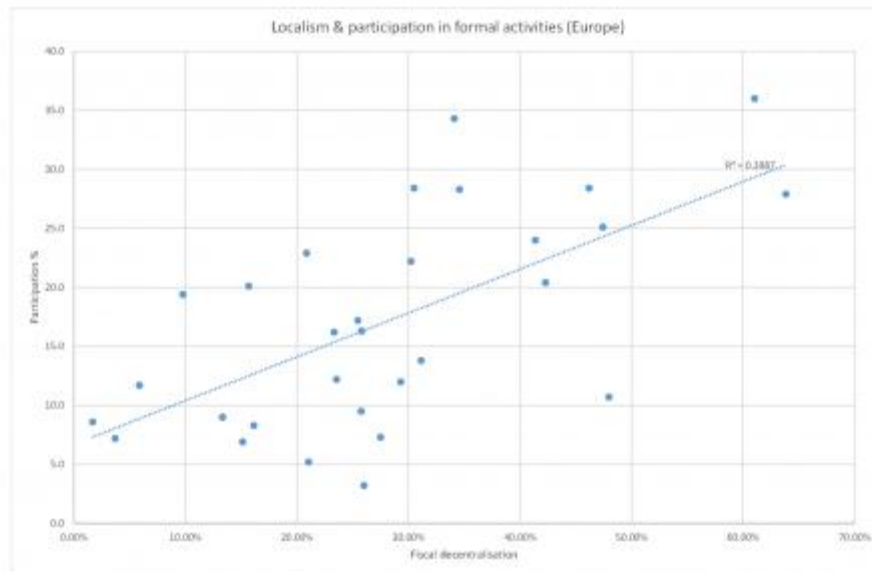
- ❖ Localism promotes the constitutional function of local government by increasing citizens' capacity and possibilities for self-governance. Local citizens now have more chances to design policies and programs in response to local issues that the central government may have overlooked (10 Reasons, n.d.). Prof John Roberts, a former professor of public administration at Victoria University, articulated this duty well when he stated:

The growing power of government as evidenced by its increasing intervention in the economic and social affairs of the people constitutes another reason for the existence of an efficient system of local government; an effective local government structure is an important counterweight to the growth of central government power. Local government provides the democratic machinery for the expression of local opinion on all matters of public policy (Roberts, 1968).

- ❖ Giving more power to locals and enhancing their decision-making powers allows residents to have a greater say in how their towns, cities, and neighborhoods are governed. This is related to a willingness to participate in both official and informal

community activities(10 Reasons, n.d.). The EU has examined such participation in its member states and discovered a substantial association when compared to their relative levels of fiscal decentralization. See Figure 2 below.

Figure 2.2: *Fiscal Decentralization and Participation* (10 Reasons, n.d.)



The figure shows the positive correlation between participation in formal activities as an aspect of localism and fiscal decentralization.

- ❖ Community emphasis: localism emphasizes the importance of community and the well-being of the people who live in a certain place. Because residents have the capacity to directly determine priorities and the type of local services, localism implies that public services are more likely to match community needs and preferences(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ Localism prioritizes the quality of life for individuals and communities over economic progress or profit: Localism not only allows communities to experiment with new ideas, but it also encourages innovation as our towns and cities compete in constructive ways

to provide a higher quality of life and attract investment. Furthermore, policies and programs can be tried at the local level because the costs of failure are considerably lower than when they are implemented for the first time at the national level(10 Reasons, n.d.).

2.3.3. Economic Motives

As mentioned above, one of the main goals of regionalism is to promote the economic development of a particular region within a country. Regionalism seeks to achieve economic integration between regions or neighboring countries in order to set economic policies, which results in successful economic cooperation between them including free trade, shared institutions, and joint infrastructure projects. Despite the economic purposes behind regionalism ideology, it still has many drawbacks on the economic level that negatively affect the regions' benefits. Therefore, the UK coalition adopted localism due to its advantages in this field(10 Reasons, n.d.). However, the UK ideologies transformation has many economic motives, which are:

- ❖ In addition to the shift in the making decision system from central government to local authorities, Localism involves the cost of government. One of the basic features of localism is managing the overall cost of government. Decentralization helps to address the risk of under or over-provision of local public services, thus resulting in more efficient use of public resources (Martin,1983). The ability of citizens to Exit or use Voice to express their preferences is one of the mechanisms by which efficiency is promoted (Briffault, 2000). Therefore, the citizens are able to meet all their requirements wherever they live that results to reduce the overall cost of government including transportation, public institutions, and services agents(10 Reasons, n.d.).

- ❖ One of the main drivers of this trend is the desire to support local businesses and communities. Consumers are increasingly interested in knowing where their products come from and how they are produced. This has led to a growing demand for locally sourced goods and services, which in turn has stimulated the growth of local economies. Furthermore, workers have shorter commutes, and businesses rely on brick-and-mortar operations or local delivery services (Kurland et al., 2012). Meanwhile, the local government may see increased tax revenue due to the area's economic activity. With this money, they may be able to improve local public services and infrastructure(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ In contexts of international trade, the term 'regional' may be used as the equivalent of 'sectional', and in some cases, 'regional' may refer to an entity the size of a European country (Development of Regionalism, 2016). So, inhabitants share common shopping, employment, and other economic relationships without limitations or policies that may secure equal benefits for all regions(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ The UK has significant regional economic disparities, with some regions such as London and the Southeast having high levels of economic development and others such as the North East and West Midlands having lower levels of economic development (Centre for Cities, 2021). This thinking led to unbalance economy between regions. In contrast, localism provides equal opportunities to all the regions within a country to produce their own goods and contributes to local growth and economic development(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ On the basis that "every place is unique and has the potential to progress", the localism movement encourages people and businesses to support local, independently owned enterprises. It aims to re-energize local economies, particularly in historic downtown

business districts, to maintain and grow a sense of place, and to encourage the neighborhood to "be a reflection of people's personalities rather than a cookie-cutter approach. Where everything looks the same" When these organizations are successful, they boost the economic and social influence of local, responsive businesses and individuals (Kurland et al., 2012).

- ❖ By adapting localism, the UK government emphasizes rebalancing the economy, by reducing over-dependence on public sector employment in some parts of the country and a national over-reliance on financial services in the UK economy overall, through creating the conditions to enable private sector growth (Bailey et al., 2013).
- ❖ Another reason for adapting localism as a new ideology is that the government aims to promote efficient markets, by introducing supply-side reforms, such as to the planning system, to incentivize business and housing investment and growth (Spray, 2012).
- ❖ Moreover, Economic sustainability is best secured by the creation of local self-reliant, community economies (10 Reasons, n.d.).

2.3.4. Environmental Motives

In addition to political, social, and economic motives that lead to the political shift from regionalism to localism in the UK, the environment plays a significant role in this change as well. The environment can be defined as a total of all the living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. Sociologists influenced by Marx's political the economy is pessimistic; they suggest that there is a deep contradiction between the growth logic of capitalism and the ecological constraints posed by aggregate environmental deposits and withdrawals into local and global ecosystems (Pellow et al. 2000; Schnaiberg and Gould 1994; York and Rosa 2004).

In the UK case, there are many environmental reasons, which contribute to the transfer from regionalism ideology to localism, such as:

- ❖ As a result of the rapid economic development, the growth of greenhouse gases increased (mainly CO₂). The latter lead to global warming and increasingly frequent extreme climate crises (European Parliament, n.d.). To cope with this global environmental shock, promoting carbon emission reduction during economic growth become the main subject of scientific agreement and attention on a global scale(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ One of the negative consequences of regionalism is climate change. Regionalism has a high contribution to the climate change field. That can occur through the uneven division of greenhouse gas emissions especially in industrial or agricultural regions that can lead to disparities in emissions and climate change at the end (Linking Climate, 2021).
- ❖ With regard to territorial restructuring, we can gain inspiration from the “exit and voice” framework which combines the ideas of Stein Rokkan and Albert Hirschman (Hirschman, 1970; Rokkan, 1999; Rokkan & Urwin, 1983). This framework addresses that regionalism ideology gives the right to some regions or countries to make the political and socio-economic and cultural decision which concerns other regions or country without existing any borders between them as in the case of the EU(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ Another reason drive to this change, regionalism also results in negative environmental impacts such as increased transportation emissions due to greater trade distances or exploitation of natural resources without regard for conservation efforts(OECD, 2021).
- ❖ As the other features of regionalism, there are promoters of integrated water management who suggest establishing new institutions at the hydrological basin level,

as well as the expansion of existing organizations, even those that are part of the same industry, like associations for water supply or wastewater treatment (Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM, 2008.)). Hence, the creation of new structures for different functional spaces may always entail the fragmentation of service delivery in another. Thus, the emergence of eco-regionalism raises a significant problem regarding the coexistence of many (functional) places(10 Reasons, n.d.).

- ❖ According to regionalism, there is a region that is interested in industry or agriculture more than other regions. Therefore, it needs more resources of water that may lead to overuse or depletion of rivers and other bodies of water. Additionally, the existence of a considerable number of factories in a particular region more than others results to concentrate water pollution in certain regions and increases the number of contaminated local waterways(10 Reasons, n.d.).
- ❖ By favoring some regions over others in terms of resource allocation and investment opportunities, regionalism may promote intra-regional inequality (Floerkemeier et al., 2021). There are also worries about the erosion of some regions' resources and wealth at the expense of other region's behalf.

Conclusion

This chapter investigated the revival of localism and regionalism in the UK, recognizing their importance in empowering local communities, boosting democratic processes, and forging regional collaboration. it have being seen the ebb and flow of centralization and decentralization through a historical lens, emphasizing the changing structure of governance in the UK. In addition, it highlights the reasons behind the tendency toward localism.

Localism, with its emphasis on devolving authority to local governments and citizens, has gained popularity as a means of increasing responsibility and responsiveness. Localism encourages a participatory democracy that may better address local needs and preferences by acknowledging the specific difficulties and aspirations of local communities. It exemplifies the concept that decisions that influence people's lives are best made by individuals who understand the complexities of their local setting.

CHAPTER THREE

The Results of the Shift from Regionalism to Localism in the UK

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Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to examine and analyze the results of the shift from regionalism to localism in the UK government, shedding light on the political, economic, social, and environmental outcomes and implications that have emerged as a consequence. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intended outcomes and aspirations of localism in the UK and to highlight both the positive and negative consequences that have emerged as a result of this paradigm shift.

No political transition comes without its challenges and criticisms, and the shift to localism in the UK is no exception. In this chapter, the challenges faced by localism are critically analyzed, such as the potential for inequalities between regions, the capacity of local authorities to handle increased responsibilities, and the potential conflicts between local and national interests. By providing a balanced analysis, it is sought to present a comprehensive view of the realities and complexities of localism in the UK.

3.1. Results of the Shift

3.1.1. Political Results

In 2011, the government introduced the Localism Act in the expectation of duplicating successes on a larger scope. The need for the act, according to Ron Clark, MP for Decentralisation, is stated as follows: “For too long, central government has hoarded and concentrated power. Trying to improve people’s lives by imposing decisions, setting targets and demanding inspections from Whitehall simply does not work. (...) It leaves no room for adaptation to reflect local circumstances or innovation to deliver services more effectively and at lower cost. And it leaves people feeling ‘done to’ and imposed upon – the very opposite of the sense of participation and involvement on which a healthy democracy

thrives.” The act was intended to provide local governments more authority over pressing issues including health, education, and housing, allowing them to create new services by drawing on local knowledge. The act's goal was also to strengthen communities by reconnecting residents with the process of making decisions and enabling foundations for local votes. Despite these great goals, the enthusiasm that followed the announcement of the Localism Act waned fast. Two years after the localism Act went into effect, Hackney Mayor Jules Pipe stated that "the Localism Act has had little effect on the balance of power between local communities and Whitehall, or on the balance of power between central and local government." In short, despite its good intentions, the Act was unable to arrive at a significant effect. The results were still missing, control remained too centralized, and funding were insufficient to actually allow councils to adapt and face new challenges(Cuau, 2020).

In 2016, the Communities and Local Government Devolution Act was proposed in an attempt to push localism more deeply. The legislation strengthened communities' and local governments' ability to oversee housing, transportation, planning, and policing policies, and also authorized the appointment of elected mayors. Despite these developments, pessimism about the impacts of localism remained(Cuau, 2020).

In general, the political results of Localism in the UK have had both positive and negative perspectives. Here are some key points:

- ❖ Devolution of power: Localism has resulted in a greater devolution of authority from the national government to local authorities in some regions. As a result, devolved institutions such as the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly have been established. These bodies have been given

legislative and executive authority to make policy choices in sectors such as education, healthcare, and transportation (Jeffery,2006).

- ❖ **Local Decision-Making:** Localism advocates for choices to be made at the most suitable level, closest to the people affected. As a result, local governments now have more say over matters such as development, housing, and community services. This has given communities a larger say in developing their own neighborhoods(Jeffery,2006).
- ❖ **Empowerment of Communities:** Localism seeks to empower communities by including them in decision-making processes. This has resulted in the implementation of systems such as neighborhood planning, in which local communities control the development of their own neighborhoods, and participatory budgeting, in which citizens decide how public funds are spent locally(Jeffery,2006).
- ❖ **Inequalities between regions:** While localism has advantages, it also has drawbacks. One complaint is that it can result in a postcode lottery, with the quality and availability of services varying depending on local governments' resources and priorities. Critics argue that this can result in inequalities between different regions and communities(Jeffery,2006).
- ❖ **Impact on Political Parties:** Localism has affected the methods and objectives of political parties. Some political parties have embraced localism in order to reconnect with constituents and get support. It has also inspired independent politicians that focus local issues while challenging traditional party politics (Jeffery,2006).

It is crucial to highlight that the exact political outcomes of localism in the UK might vary based on location and government implementation of localism policies.

Furthermore, localism is a complicated and changing term, and its impact is still being debated by politicians and academics.

3.1.2. Social Results

The primary strand of localist reform is empowerment through rights that give individuals greater control over issues affecting their society. The Localism Act of 2011 established Community Rights to allow locals to band together and exercise more control of the places where they lived. The key Community Rights are discussed below: the Right to Challenge, the Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value), and the Community Right to Build, which is part of Neighborhood Planning(10 Reasons, n.d.).

- ❖ The Community Right to Challenge has had the lowest degree of influence. In truth, its influence has been modest. The right allows local community groups, parish councils, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and council workers to challenge the provision of services by their local authority and seek to run them themselves. Its goal is to promote greater diversity in service delivery, increase innovation, support the volunteer and community sector, and empower people in the area. However, the right is limited by various limitations, and the local government has the discretion to reject petitions on a variety of grounds. The government has granted financial assistance to 216 groups in order to enable them developing their challenges, but just three contracts have been approved as a consequence. The bill's Impact Assessment expected 500 expressions of interest per year, with 60% leading to a procurement process. It is important to note that although Community Right to Challenge has come to an end, community transfers of assets have not. The Right to Challenge may have played a role in motivating action, but reductions in funding and forthcoming closing have driven councils, community groups, and service user groups to establish agreements to save parks, play areas, social centers, libraries, and other valuable places. These assets may or may not survive in the

long run as a result of local ownership, but their fresh lease of life is not the product of the business community's action intended by Right to Challenge. They emerged as a result of requires (Paul Buddery,2016).

❖ There has been a stronger implementation of the Community Right to Bid. It helps communities to identify and gain some degree of protection for buildings and places significant to them. Significant levels of interest indicate that this is important to people and something that they can easily organize around. Over 1,800 properties and amenities have been proposed by local communities-parish councils and community organizations. A third of these have been public places of business, with the help of an established and well-connected community of interest. Many other campaigns have brought varied communities altogether and ensured that new viewpoints on what matters are taken into consideration in policy and planning. However, it is unclear how much of a difference this local mobilization and listing has made in how these assets are eventually used or owned. If the goal was to make it "easier for local citizens to hand over the amenities they like and maintain them as part of local life," the results have been disappointing. Listing allows for a six-month pause on disposal, during which time communities can prepare commercial bids; however, the pause in disposal has only been invoked in 122 cases, and the process has resulted in community ownership in just a small number of cases. The owner of the asset is able to sell to whoever they like (Paul Buddery,2016).

❖ Neighbourhood Planning had undoubtedly the greatest effect of all Community Rights, though the shift in control has not been as powerful as intended, and the policy has revealed some of the drawbacks of localism at the society dimension and in the context of national structural issues. Neighbourhood Planning empowers local residents to get

together and plan for potential land use in their surrounding areas in order to address social, economic, cultural, or environmental issues that are important to them. According to case studies, many locals who have been involved in the process are pleased with the results and the discussions it has sparked within communities. In some regions, groups formed to produce the plan have gone on to form bodies such as community trusts to keep an active role in development. The government is also optimistic about their influence on new home supply, claiming that plans have not only allowed for sensitive accommodation of existing planning goals, but have in some cases exceeded them. The proof of their overall effect in this regard is still unclear. Despite financial incentives, Community Right to Build (which can be implemented as part of a neighborhood Plan or on its own) has had little impact on supply. Only eight proposals to support Community Right to Build Orders had been submitted to the entities in charge of managing the £14 million allotted to the initiative as of July 2014 (Paul Buddery, 2016).

Community Rights, for the most part, have not been a significant engine of the government's localist objectives. They have demonstrated — if proof were needed — that communities of place and interest are eager and capable of organizing and agreeing on shared goals; but, the rights have been insufficient to transfer power, ownership, and control in local places. This is due in part to the fact that, despite being presented in terms of empowerment, they were supposed to be protective. They blend localism's trust in civil society with its distrust of political power. Community Rights are checks and balances on the power of local governments (10 Reasons, n.d.).

3.1.3. Economic Results

Localism, a movement to encourage consumers and businesses to purchase from locally owned, independent businesses rather than national corporations, has grown rapidly in the past decade. It is a primarily urban movement, promoting economic justice, environmental responsibility, and social fairness (Kurland et al., 2012). Moreover, localism ideology is not just moving from central making decision to local authorities and organizations, it also achieves a high level of economics resilience. Proponents of localism argue that it can enhance economic resilience by promoting diversified local economies. By encouraging local businesses, supporting entrepreneurship, and investing in local infrastructure, communities can become less dependent on external factors and more capable of weathering economic shocks (Liu et al., 2022).

One of the important consequences of localism is the job creation. Localism ideology provides a considerable number of unemployed people with a great chance to work in fairly situation. When local businesses thrive, they tend to hire from the local labor force, thereby generating employment opportunities and reducing unemployment rates (Mowbray, 1983). For example, fewer than 15% of unemployed people were in sustained employment after being referred to the centrally-controlled Work Programme (10 Reasons, n.d.).

Localism advocates that consumers and firms purchase from independent businesses in their local area. It seeks to re-energize the economies of local communities, especially in traditional downtown commercial districts (Kurland et al., 2012). It includes encouraging local industries and projects provides local citizens to express their personalities, cultures, beliefs and traditions through their work. Therefore, they have an opportunity to show who they are (Kurland et al., 2012).

Localism gives local supply chains and enterprises the first priority, promoting economic development in particular areas. This can give those areas some additional benefits through programs like giving local suppliers preference in government contracts, assisting regional retail and hospitality businesses, and encouraging homegrown investment (Pike et al., 2015).

Another result of shifting to localism is the emergence of unique currency or local currency (Hargrave, 2020). For instance, the town of Totnes, England, from 2007 to 2019 used the Totnes Pound, which was backed by the British Pound sterling at a one-to-one ratio. The idea behind using a unique, local currency is to keep money flowing through the community while preventing money from leaving or relying on money to enter the community. This allows a community to become self-sufficient, have enough funds to create an energy source for the community to use, and eliminate transportation costs for bringing products into the community (Wikipedia, 2023b).

Additionally, localism argues that it can potentially hinder overall economic efficiency and competition. Prioritizing local businesses may limit access to goods and services that could be sourced more cost-effectively from elsewhere (Bárcena, 2014).

New paying- taxation system is emerged with the raise of localism. However, localism ideology supports other critical public services, they're also more likely to partner with other local businesses like banks, suppliers, and community organizations. For every \$100 one spends at a local business, \$68 will stay in their community, which is 3x more than what a chain competitor would contribute. Small businesses are also responsible for $\frac{2}{3}$ of private sector jobs (Wirthman, 2017).

3.1.4. Environmental Results

As the previous parts mentioned, shifting to localism has many results as following:

At the community level, localism frequently promotes sustainable development techniques. Local governments might give environmental projects a higher priority than other initiatives, such as those involving renewable energy, green building techniques, trash minimization and recycling schemes, and the preservation of open areas. These initiatives support the region's overall environmental health (Curtis,2003)

Localism can aid in lowering the carbon footprint related to logistics and transportation by fostering regional companies and supply chains (How to Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Your Supply Chain, n.d.). Local sourcing of goods and services has the potential to reduce long-distance transportation emissions, resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and better air quality (Curtis,2003).

Localism achieves the Biodiversity Conservation. It can facilitate the preservation and enhancement of local biodiversity. Communities can implement measures to protect natural habitats, create wildlife corridors, and promote the use of native species in landscaping and conservation projects. These actions contribute to the conservation of local flora and fauna and help maintain ecological balance (Curtis, 2003).

Climate Change Resilience: Localism can increase a community's ability to withstand the effects of climate change. By prioritizing local decision-making, communities can assess and address specific climate-related risks and vulnerabilities. This could entail modifying infrastructure to resist harsh weather conditions, putting in place flood control measures, and creating local water management and food security plans (Dowing, nd.).

Localism encourages community participation and engagement in environmental issues. Local citizens have more influence over environmental policy when decision-making is decentralized, which raises public knowledge of and

participation in sustainability programs. This could lead to increased level (Guo & Bai, 2019).

The annual British public attitudes survey has recorded a rise in the proportion of people recycling, from 42% in 1991 to 51% in 2001, to 86% in 2010. When asked why they recycled, 89% of people in 2010 identified the danger of climate change as a motivator (Newton, 2021).

A considerable number of reports addresses that experts and policymakers come together to protect the environment. As the State of Nature report testifies, the popular campaigns have achieved some spectacular conservation successes in recent years. In addition to recent surges in energy saving, community flood prevention schemes to save threatened species we have seen people (Newton, 2021).

3.2. The Challenges and Issues which Faced the Shift

As it is mentioned in the previous parts, the UK had numerous struggles in its way to adopt localism as a region policy. It is difficult to narrow the findings concerning this point; however, here is mentioned some key ideas:

- ❖ One of the significant challenges that the UK government faced during this transformation was creating regional inequalities means that it reduced the capacity of the government to plan strategically and allocate resources where they are most required (The Constitution Society, 2011).
- ❖ It caused also the fragmentation of the society. citizens and community organizations have been encouraged to mobilize independently to address local problems with service delivery, in addition to commitments that cannot be centrally coordinated since they are by their very nature voluntary, episodic, and motivated by certain interests and passions (The Constitution Society, 2011).

- ❖ Lack of public demand: People want their councilor to act on their behalf because they lack the time and motivation. Also, they don't have the necessary comprehension of complicated subjects. While the council members lack the time, money, and expertise to support localism (The Constitution Society, 2011).
- ❖ Increased costs: localism reduced opportunities to maximize economies of scale due to the cost of promoting and supporting the market for community involvement, which may outweigh any savings realized through the disposal of services and assets (The Constitution Society, 2011).
- ❖ Politicians risk being held personally responsible for the quality of services they have no control over if accountability is not devolved, which would increase political costs (The Constitution Society, 2011).
- ❖ Reconciling the interactions between localism networks and local chambers of commerce is an additional challenge. While some networks collaborate with their local chambers, others openly or covertly rival them. The more prosperous networks also seem to operate as the de facto chamber of commerce or fill a void left by the chamber (as represented by their network leaders). Often, there is a philosophical distinction (Kurland, McCaffrey, & Hill, 2012).
- ❖ In response to a question regarding their biggest challenges, respondents listed other numerous difficulties. These difficulties included the anticipated lack of resources (financial and human), the attitude that "someone else will do the work", consumer ignorance, the never-ending fight for systemic change in approaches to land-use development, the requirement to influence federal food policy, and a lack of leadership (Kurland, McCaffrey, & Hill, 2012).

- ❖ The loss of a 'voice' for the North East, many believed that the North East may now find it difficult to convey important messages to the Center. This was considered to be especially crucial, given the area's tiny size, remote location, and political seclusion. Concerns were also raised regarding the North East's ability to compete with other regions, especially in light of the financial resources and economic authority enjoyed by the Scottish government and the Mayor of London. Without regional institutions, it was also argued, the North East might be left politically helpless and isolated. Particularly at a time when only four of the region's MPs belonged to the two ruling parties and no North East politicians are currently in government (Shaw, Robinson, 2012).

Conclusion

The shift towards localism represents a significant departure from the centralized decision-making processes of the past, emphasizing the empowerment of local communities and authorities. Through the previous analysis, insights have been gained into the outcomes and complexities associated with this paradigm shift. Hence, the results and challenges arising from the transition from regionalism to localism in the UK were examined.

The examination of the results reveals several significant outcomes. First and foremost, localism has led to the devolution of power, with the establishment of devolved institutions in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. This has enabled these regions to make decisions on specific policy areas and given them a greater sense of autonomy. Additionally, local decision-making has been enhanced, with local authorities being granted more control over issues such as planning, housing, and community services. This has

provided communities with the opportunity to shape their own areas and has fostered a sense of ownership.

While localism has produced positive outcomes, it has also faced challenges and criticism. One significant challenge is the potential for a postcode lottery, where the quality and availability of services vary depending on the resources and priorities of local authorities. Critics argue that this can lead to inequalities between regions, creating disparities in access to essential services. The journey towards effective localism is an ongoing process, and by learning from the results and challenges encountered thus far, the UK can pave the way for a more empowered and engaged society.

General Conclusion

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a great region with a deep history of changing policies and ideologies throughout the centuries due to the variety of changes in different aspects of the region such as demographics, cultural backgrounds, national politics, and leaders, partition of the region, and revolutions. One of the crucial changes that happened in the region in the last few decades was the shift from regionalism to localism.

The current study investigates regionalism and localism as political ideologies in the UK. The study's aim is to search for the motives that led the UK to shift from regionalism to localism and the effects that resulted from this shift. This transformation emerged after various clashes between the supporters of the two ideologies and the demands of some parts of the region and some supporters of the localism tendency.

The transformation was the result of different motives in all the aspects of a country's life: politics, economy, society, and environment, as it was hypothesized at the very beginning of the study. That is illustrated in a descriptive method in the theoretical part of this study-the first two chapters- where it is aimed to cover as much as possible the reasons that led the region to adopt localism and tend to the devolution of power among the region's parts: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Moreover, this research sought to investigate the results after the mentioned transformation with an analytical method in addition to analyzing the challenges and risks that faced the region. Likewise, the results were found in four fields of life: political,

economic, social, and environmental, and they were, as expected, mostly positive with some issues.

From a political perspective, one of the significant motives was seeking resilience and sharing decision-making all around the UK region across several governing bodies that lessens the impact of any single institution's policy failure. As a result, devolved institutions such as the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly have been established. From an economic perspective, localism, as a governance approach, aims to promote equal opportunities for all parts of a region to produce their own goods and stimulate local growth and economic development. However, the implementation of localism in the constituent countries of the UK has revealed disparities and inequalities, primarily due to the uneven distribution of resources across the region. Socially, the primary strand of localist reform is empowerment through rights that give individuals greater control over issues affecting their society, and this is what resulted in the establishment of community rights by the Localism Act of 2011 to allow locals to band together and exercise more control of the places where they lived. Environmentally speaking, as a result of rapid economic development, the growth of greenhouse gases increased, mainly CO₂, which led to global warming and increasingly frequent extreme climate crises. Therefore, localism aids in lowering the carbon footprint related to logistics and transportation by fostering regional companies and supply chains. Local sourcing of goods and services has the potential to reduce long-distance transportation emissions, resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and better air quality.

However, the current study, like the majority of studies, has some limitations. First, due to the novelty of the topic, some obstacles was faced in gathering information. Second, some paid articles and books were unavailable. Third, some time issues was encountered due to the broadness of the topic and the insufficient time devoted.

Finally, the current study recommends future studies to examine the relationship between central government, devolved administrations, and local authorities and explore mechanisms for effective collaboration and coordination. It also recommends conducting comparative research to analyze and compare the experiences of different regions within the UK that have embraced localism, considering variations in approaches, outcomes, and challenges. Moreover, it may propose to study international examples of successful localism movements and policies to draw lessons and insights applicable to the UK context.

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الملخص

مثلها مثل العديد من البلدان، شهدت المملكة المتحدة تغيرات تاريخية وأيديولوجية. تهدف هذه الرسالة إلى التحقيق في التغيير الأيديولوجي من الإقليمية إلى المحلية في المملكة المتحدة بدءًا من توضيح الدوافع وراء هذا التحول في جوانب مختلفة على النحو التالي: السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية والبيئية. علاوة على ذلك، يسعى إلى تحديد نتائج هذا التحول من السلطات الإقليمية إلى السلطات المحلية. بالإضافة إلى التحديات التي واجهتها المناطق خلال فترة التحول. ومن أجل تحقيق هاته الأهداف، فإن طرق البحث المستخدمة هي على التوالي الطريقة الوصفية والتحليلية. من خلال الطريقة الأولى، نحاول تتبع الأسباب الحقيقية التي دفعت حكومة المملكة المتحدة إلى تبني الأيديولوجية المحلية. تليها الطريقة الثانية بهدف تحليل نتائج هذا التغيير وتأثيره على حياة الشعوب البريطانية الأسكتلندية والإيرلندية والويلزية. من أبرز النتائج المتحصل عليها من هذه الدراسة أن المحلية أدت إلى تمكين المجتمعات المحلية من خلال اتخاذ قراراتهم الخاصة وإنشاء أعمالهم التجارية الخاصة مما يساعد في النمو الكبير لتلك المجتمعات بالإضافة إلى تزويد الأفراد بالحقوق التي تمنحهم سيطرة أكبر على القضايا التي تؤثر على مجتمعاتهم مثل حماية مبانيهم وتخطيط الأحياء. إضافة إلى ذلك فإن السياسة المحلية المتبعة تركز أيضًا على تقليل انبعاثات الكربون في المنطقة. من ناحية أخرى، كانت هناك بعض النتائج السلبية لتبني المحلية؛ مثل الكفاح الذي لا ينتهي من أجل التغيير المنهجي في مناهج تنمية استخدام الأراضي. وفي نهاية هذه الدراسة، سلطنا الضوء على التحديات التي واجهتها المملكة المتحدة أثناء عملية الانتقال السياسي من الإقليمية إلى تبني السياسة المحلية، على سبيل المثال: عدم المساواة في المناطق.

الكلمات مفتاحية: السلطات المحلية، المحلية، الإقليمية، المملكة المتحدة.