

What Government Does

- **Subtitle:** Exploring the Role and Functions of Government
- **Brief Overview:** Introduction to the topic, emphasizing the importance of understanding government functions in public administration.

The Size of Government

- **Discussion Points:**
 - Expansion of government agencies, employees, and spending over time.
 - Debunking five myths about “Big Government,” such as the misconception of government size and spending inefficiency.

How Many Governments

- **Key Points:**

- The structure of the U.S. government system: one federal government, 50 state governments, and over 90,000 local governments.
- Different levels of government: counties, municipalities, towns, school districts, and special districts.

Government Employment and Spending

- **Analysis:**
 - Trends in government employment and spending.
 - The growth and reduction of federal employees and the sustained growth at state and local levels.
 - The relationship between employment growth and population growth.

What Government Does

- **Functions:**
 - Overview of various services overseen by the government.
 - Differences in government functions at different levels.
 - The role of public administrators in carrying out these functions.

How Government Does It through Public Administration

- **Mechanisms:**
 - Administrative tools used by agencies.
 - Differences between direct and indirect administration.
 - The increasing use of contracts as indirect tools.

Contracts as Indirect Tools

- **Details:**
 - Growth in the use of contracts since the mid-20th century.
 - Formal agreements between government and private parties.
 - Challenges in effective management and oversight.

Grants as a Tool

- **Functionality:**
 - Role of grants in activities between levels of government.
 - Financial assistance to encourage actions that might not be otherwise affordable or chosen.
 - The competitive nature of grant allocation.

Regulations as a Tool

- **Impact:**
 - How government regulations influence various aspects of daily life.
 - The balance between expanding government power and financial constraints.
 - Political implications and ideologies associated with regulation.

Tax Expenditures as a Tool

- Usage:
 - Role of tax breaks, loopholes, and expenditures in promoting social and economic policies.
 - Influence on state and local taxes in economic growth and investment.

Loan Programs as a Tool

- **Overview:**
 - The role of federal lending and loan guarantees as investments in the future.
 - The complexity of public-private administrative strategies.
 - Historical context and administrative decentralization.

Conclusion and Implications

- **Summary:**
 - The varying roles of government by level, function, and service provision.
 - The concept of "government by proxy."
 - Addressing the perception of "big government" as an accountability and trust issue.

Thank You

- Closing: