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- Great **reflections on research design and inference** potential to set an agenda for non-causal study of bureaucratic politics?

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- Are there scope conditions for this approach to reform to work

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- While the politics of reform is not at the center of the argument, the story seems to have multiple rich implications for the politics of reform

A follow up paper on the politics of reform?

Chapter 8 also distills this alternative approach into a set of three simple rules of thumb that reformers everywhere can apply to their own contexts:

- 1. Focus first on what can be done within existing formal rules and processes; think of changing formal rules and processes as a last resort rather than a first step.
- Approach change as a process of collective learning-by-doing, rather than as rolling out
 a pre-designed blueprint. The priority should not be to make the perfect plan, but rather
 to start changing actual practices even small or apparently minor ones as early as
 possible.
- Decentralize the leadership of reform as much as possible. The role of a leader is to encourage and support dispersed improvement by other actors across the system, rather than to drive it by themself.