0006 Why governments move civil servants out of national capitals

1. Why governments move civil servants out of national capitals

Take Norway, which since 2006 has shifted 转移；挪动 1,600 civil-service jobs out of Oslo 挪威首都. **The competition 竞争；角逐 authority** 当局；官方；当权者 is in Bergen 挪威城市名, the second city.

The trend reflects (v.) how the world has changed.

In past eras, when information **travelled [at a snail's 蜗牛 pace]**, civil servants had to **cluster 群聚；聚集) together**. But now desk-workers can ping 发送（电子邮件、手机短信） emails and video-chat around the world. Travel for face-to-face meetings **may be unavoidable**, but transport links, too, have improved.

主 Proponents 倡导者；支持者；拥护者 of moving civil servants around 谓 promise (v.)许诺；承诺 countless benefits.
It disperses （使）分散，散开；疏散；驱散) the risk that a **terrorist attack** or **natural disaster** will cripple 严重毁坏（或损害）;使残废；使成瘸子 an entire government.
Wonks 一味苦干的人；书呆子 in the sticks 边远乡村地区 **will be inspired 赋予灵感；启发思考 by new ideas** that walled-off 用墙把…隔开 capitals cannot **conjure 变魔术；变戏法；使…变戏法般地出现（或消失） up** 使…呈现于脑际；使想起.

Example 1. 标题

主 Dispersing 使分散; 扩散 central-government functions 谓 **usually has three specific aims**: to improve the lives of both **civil servants** and those living in clogged 阻塞的；堵住的 capitals; to save money; and **to redress 纠正；矫正；改正 regional imbalances** 恢复公平合理的情况；恢复平衡. The trouble is that **these goals are not always realised** 实现.

The first aim — improving living conditions — **has a long pedigree 家谱；门第；世系；起源**. [After the second world war] Britain moved thousands of civil servants to "agreeable 愉悦的；讨人喜欢的；宜人的 English country towns" [as London was rebuilt]. But 主 **swapping** 用...替换；把...换成；掉换 the capital **for** somewhere smaller 系 is not always agreeable. **Attrition （尤指给敌人造成的）削弱，消耗;人员流失 rates** can exceed 超过（数量）80%.

Example 2. 标题

pedigree

/ˈpedɪgriː/ a person's family history or the background of sth, especially when this is impressive 家谱；门第；世系；起源;/ 动物血统记录；动物纯种系谱

→ 英语单词pedigree（家谱）源自古法语中的pied de gru（foot of crane），因为鹤的脚丫形状与树状的家谱图很像。pedigree中的pe=foot，如impede（妨碍）。 pedigree：[ˈpedɪgriː] n.家谱，血统adj.纯种的

swap

(v.) ~ sb/sth (for sb/sth) /~ sb/sth (over) : (especially BrE) to replace one person or thing with another 用...替换；把...换成；掉换

attrition

/əˈtrɪʃn/(n.) a process of making sb/sth, especially your enemy, weaker by repeatedly attacking them or creating problems for them （尤指给敌人造成的）削弱，消耗

→ attrition ⇒ 前缀at-同ad-. -tri,同turn, 转，磨。 attuned 适应的 前缀at-同ad-. tune, 曲调。指舞曲一致。

- It was a war of attrition . 这是一场消耗战。

分散中央政府的职能, 通常有三个具体的目标: 1.改善公务员和那些住在拥堵的首都中的人的生活; 2.为了省钱; 3.并纠正地区失衡。问题是，这些目标并不总是能够实现。

第一个目标——改善生活条件—— 该目标其实由来已久。第二次世界大战后，伦敦重建时，英国把成千上万的公务员迁往"令人愉快的英国乡村小镇"。但是，将首都转移到更小的地方,并不总是令人愉快的。雇员流失率可以超过80%。

主 The second reason **to pack bureaucrats off** 把...打发走 系 is to save money. Office space costs (v.) far more in capitals. [When London's **property market** stagnated 停滞；不发展；不进步; 因不流动而变得污浊 in the late 1970s] the government **lost enthusiasm for** relocation. 主 Agencies that are moved

elsewhere 谓 can often recruit 吸收（新成员）；征募（新兵） better workers on lower salaries than in capitals, where well-paying multinationals **mop (v.)拖把；墩布 up** 吸干净；吸去...的水分) talent 有才能的人；人才；天才.

Example 3. 标题

> *pack sb off (to...)*
>
> to send sb somewhere, especially because you do not want them with you 把...打发走
>
> *mop sth/sb up*
>
> to remove the liquid from sth using sth that absorbs it 吸干净；吸去...的水分
>
> 让官僚们搬离老首都的第二个原因,是为了省钱。在首都，办公空间的成本要高得多。上世纪70年代末，伦敦房地产市场陷入停滞，政府失去了搬迁的热情。搬到其他地方的机构,通常可以用比在首都更低的薪水来招聘到更好的员工，而在首都，能提供高薪的跨国公司,会挖走人才(即政府能提供的薪资比不过跨国公司,也就招不到人才)。

The third reason to shift 系 is to rebalance (v.) regional inequality.

When Britain moved 20% of London's civil servants between 2003 and 2010, it often picked areas with high unemployment, **such as** Newport, a Welsh city **hit by industrial decline** that now houses (v.)给（某人）提供住处；收藏；安置 **the headquarters 将（组织的）总部设在某地；设立总部 of the Office** for **National Statistics** (ONS). Norway **treats federal jobs as a resource** every region **deserves to enjoy**, like profits from oil.

Example 4. 标题

> 将公务员搬出首都的的第三个目的,是重新平衡地区之间的不平等。
> 2003年至2010年间，当英国将伦敦20%的公务员迁出时，它经常选择那些失业率高的地区，比如威尔士的纽波特市，该市曾遭受工业衰退的打击，现在则是

国家统计局(ONS)的总部所在地。挪威将联邦政府的工作视为是每个地区都应该享有的资源，就像石油带来的利润一样。

Where government jobs go, **private ones** follow. 主 A study of Berlin after Germany's federal workforce 全体员工 was moved from Bonn in 1999 谓 found that the arrival of 100 government jobs in an area helped create 55 private-sector (经济的) 私营部分 jobs. 主 A review 评审，审查，检查，检讨（以进行必要的修改）of Britain's relocations 重新安置 in the 2000s 谓 found the same ratio 比率；比例.

The jobs (created) tend to be in services, often the law or consultancy 咨询公司.

Example 5. 标题

哪里有政府的工作，哪里就有私人的工作随之而来。1999年, 德国联邦员工们从波恩转移到柏林后，一项对柏林的研究就发现，一个地区100个政府工作岗位的到来, 会帮助私营部门创造出55个工作岗位。一项对21世纪头10年英国迁徙情况的回顾，也发现了同样的比例。创造的就业机会往往在服务业，通常是法律或咨询行业。

The dilemma （进退两难的）窘境，困境 is obvious. 主 Pick small, poor towns, and areas of high unemployment 谓 get new jobs, but it is hard to attract **the most qualified workers**;
主 **opt for** 选择；挑选 larger cities with infrastructure and better-qualified residents, and （表示结果）结果是；那么；就 the country's **most deprived 贫穷的；贫困的；穷苦的 areas** 谓 see little benefit.

Example 6. 标题

opt (for/against sth) :
to choose to take or not to take a particular course of action 选择；挑选

deprive
⇒ de-, 夺去，损毁。-priv, 自己的，私人的，词源同private, property.

and

as a result （表示结果）结果是；那么；就

这种两难境地是显而易见的。选择小的，贫穷的城镇，和高失业率的地区，作为搬迁目的地，能够为这些地方创造出新的工作岗位，但是却很难吸引最合格的员工；而选择那些有基础设施和更合格居民的大城市为政府搬迁地，则会使国家中最贫困的地区几乎看不到什么受益。

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2. <pure> Why governments move civil servants out of national capitals

Take Norway, which since 2006 has shifted 1,600 civil-service jobs out of Oslo. The competition authority is in Bergen, the second city.

The trend reflects how the world has changed. In past eras, when information travelled at a snail's pace, civil servants had to cluster together. But now desk-workers can ping emails and video-chat around the world. Travel for face-to-face meetings may be unavoidable, but transport links, too, have improved.

主 Proponents of moving civil servants around promise countless benefits. It disperses the risk that a terrorist attack or natural disaster will cripple an entire government. Wonks in the sticks will be inspired by new ideas that walled-off capitals cannot conjure up.

Dispersing central-government functions usually has three specific aims: to improve the lives of both civil servants and those living in clogged capitals; to save money; and to redress regional imbalances. The trouble is that these goals are not always realised.

The first aim — improving living conditions — has a long pedigree. [After the second world war] Britain moved thousands of civil servants to "agreeable English country towns" [as London was rebuilt]. But swapping the capital for somewhere smaller is not always agreeable. Attrition rates can exceed 80%.

主 The second reason to pack bureaucrats off is to save money. Office space costs far more in capitals. [When London's property market stagnated in the late 1970s] the government lost enthusiasm for relocation. Agencies that are moved elsewhere can often recruit better workers on lower salaries than in capitals, where well-paying multinationals mop up talent.

Balancing act

The third reason to shift is to rebalance regional inequality. When Britain moved 20% of London's civil servants between 2003 and 2010, it often picked areas with high unemployment, such as Newport, a Welsh city hit by industrial decline that now houses the headquarters of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Norway treats federal jobs as a resource (every region deserves to enjoy), like profits from oil.

Where government jobs go, private ones follow. A study of Berlin after Germany's federal workforce was moved from Bonn in 1999 found that the arrival of 100 government jobs in an area helped create 55 private-sector jobs. A review of Britain's relocations in the 2000s found the same ratio. The jobs (created) tend to be in services, often the law or consultancy.

The dilemma is obvious. Pick small, poor towns, and areas of high unemployment get new jobs, but it is hard to attract the most qualified workers; opt for larger cities with infrastructure and better-qualified residents, and the country's most deprived areas see little benefit.