

## Reaction Paper Makiko Kikuchi

Brunner portrays how the governance in U.S has evolved especially in the twentieth century and explores prospective concept of governance by introducing several cases regarding natural resource conservation.

As information technology had been widely developed, people got more aware of various social issues such as moral violation, environmental hazards, and economical benefits. Consequently, governance in modern society has been strongly affected by multiple interest groups. Brunner describes this trend as follows; "Twentieth-century technologies -- including airplanes, radio, television, satellites, fiber optics, computers, and the internet -- continue to support the proliferation of agencies, interest groups, and complex issues, to interconnect them on a global scale, and concurrently to erode bureaucratic structures and control". Brunner articulates that how this trend has aggravated inherent deficits in the structure of governance designed as a system of checks and balances, which concurrently entails conflicts. "What is missing [in the system of governance], because the framers did not provide for it, is a constitutional process for readily resolving these conflicts. The missing piece becomes more important as modernization proliferates interest groups and multiplies the number and complexity of issues over which they come into conflict."

Then how can governance function as a legitimate power in the modern society? In order to answer this question, Brunner underscores the significance of constitutive reform of governance and addresses "community-based initiatives" as a lever to renovate the existing structures and implications of governance. On the other hand, he sketches several cases to express the importance of the community-based initiatives as a centripetal force that "[c]ommunity-based initiatives of various kinds have succeeded in integrating the different interests of small communities into consensus on policies that advance the common interest". He argues that "[w]e can begin to adapt it [to rewrite the Constitution] to the realities of our time from the bottom up, through the diffusion and adaptation of successful innovations in policy and governance by community-based initiatives".

Having chosen the "constitutional separation of powers" as a mode of democratic governance, almost all civil societies confront with deadlock derived from competitions and rivalry. Yet we should no longer take a top-down decision making procedure as we did in the early twentieth-century. Incentives emerging from the grass-root level must be synergetic power to craft common interest out of complicated situations, though it may look tedious and less creative in short-term insight.