

# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Covid-19 Hit Europe: Patterns of Government Responses to the Pandemic</b>	<b>1</b>
	Kennet Lynggaard, Michael Kluth, and Mads Dagnis Jensen	
<b>Part I The Southern Grouping</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Introducing the Southern Grouping</b>	<b>21</b>
	Michael Kluth, Mads Dagnis Jensen, and Kennet Lynggaard	
<b>3</b>	<b>Italy: Contested Centralisation Amid Political Uncertainty</b>	<b>29</b>
	Edoardo Bressanelli and David Natali	
<b>4</b>	<b>Spain: Temporary Centralization Amidst Political Polarization</b>	<b>41</b>
	Antonio Barroso and Juan A. Mayoral	
<b>5</b>	<b>Greece: Command and Control Combined with Expert-Driven Responses?</b>	<b>53</b>
	Theofanis Exadaktylos and Sevasti Chatzopoulou	
<b>6</b>	<b>Portugal: From Exception to the Epicentre</b>	<b>65</b>
	João Carvalho	
<b>7</b>	<b>Cyprus: Exacerbating Authoritarianism</b>	<b>77</b>
	Gregoris Ioannou and Giorgos Charalambous	
<b>8</b>	<b>Malta: The Benefits of Centralised Politics</b>	<b>89</b>
	Mark Harwood	
<b>Part II The Eastern Grouping</b>		
<b>9</b>	<b>Introducing the Eastern Grouping</b>	<b>103</b>
	Michael Kluth, Kennet Lynggaard, and Mads Dagnis Jensen	



<b>10</b>	<b>Poland: The “Cardboard State” Versus the Virus</b>	<b>111</b>
	Natasza Styczyńska and Marcin Zubek	
<b>11</b>	<b>Romania: Inconsistent and Unpredictable Policy Implementation</b>	<b>123</b>
	Sergiu Gherghina and Sebastian Ilinca	
<b>12</b>	<b>Czech Republic: Best or Worst in Covid Country?</b>	<b>135</b>
	Petr Kaniok	
<b>13</b>	<b>Hungary: Populist Government Politics</b>	<b>147</b>
	Robert Csehi	
<b>14</b>	<b>Bulgaria: Swift Early Response by the Executive, Followed by a Complete Governance Failure</b>	<b>157</b>
	Dimiter Toshkov	
<b>15</b>	<b>Slovakia: Anti-Pandemic Fight Victim of Politicization</b>	<b>169</b>
	Pavol Babos	
<b>16</b>	<b>Croatia: Breaking Fragile Trust</b>	<b>183</b>
	Tena Prelec and Sanja Bojanić	
<b>17</b>	<b>Lithuania: Executive Dominance in the Context of Usual Confrontational Politics</b>	<b>195</b>
	Ramūnas Vilpišauskas	
<b>18</b>	<b>Slovenia: Ripe for Autocratisation</b>	<b>209</b>
	Danica Fink-Hafner	
<b>19</b>	<b>Latvia: From Hubris to Nemesis</b>	<b>223</b>
	Daunis Auers	
<b>20</b>	<b>Estonia: Empowering the Executive</b>	<b>235</b>
	Liisa Talving and Piret Ehin	
<b>Part III The Northern Grouping</b>		
<b>21</b>	<b>Introducing the Northern Grouping</b>	<b>249</b>
	Michael Kluth, Kennet Lynggaard, and Mads Dagnis Jensen	
<b>22</b>	<b>Sweden: A Decentralized, Coordinated Response to the Pandemic</b>	<b>257</b>
	Evangelia Petridou, Jörgen Sparf, and Hilda Broqvist	
<b>23</b>	<b>Denmark: Executive Power Concentration, Yet Still Consensus-Oriented</b>	<b>271</b>
	Michael Kluth, Mads Dagnis Jensen, and Kennet Lynggaard	
<b>24</b>	<b>Finland: Balancing Centralized Leadership and Regional Interests</b>	<b>283</b>
	Risto Niemikari and Tapio Raunio	



<b>25</b>	<b>Norway: A Pragmatic, Collaborative, and Legitimate Response</b>	<b>295</b>
	Tom Christensen and Per Lægreid	
<b>26</b>	<b>Iceland: Heeding the Experts</b>	<b>307</b>
	Gunnar Helgi Kristinsson and Gústaf Adolf Skúlason	
<b>Part IV The Western Grouping</b>		
<b>27</b>	<b>Introducing the Western Grouping</b>	<b>321</b>
	Michael Kluth, Mads Dagnis Jensen, and Kennet Lynggaard	
<b>28</b>	<b>Germany: Governance via Federal-State Conferences</b>	<b>331</b>
	Jale Tosun and Christin Heinz-Fischer	
<b>29</b>	<b>The UK: Policy as a Game of Two Halves</b>	<b>345</b>
	Edward Ashbee	
<b>30</b>	<b>France: From Centralization to Defiance?</b>	<b>359</b>
	Daniel Benamouzig	
<b>31</b>	<b>The Netherlands: The Acceptance of an Uncontrolled Centralization of Power</b>	<b>371</b>
	Ira Helsloot and Koen Heijndijk	
<b>32</b>	<b>Belgium: Cooperation Out of Necessity and Confirmation of Executive Dominance</b>	<b>387</b>
	Peter Bursens, Patricia Popelier, and Koen Verhoest	
<b>33</b>	<b>Austria: A Strong Start Followed by a Strong Descent</b>	<b>397</b>
	Franz Fallend and Eric Miklin	
<b>34</b>	<b>Switzerland: Experimental Governance and Polarized Consociationalism</b>	<b>409</b>
	Martino Maggetti	
<b>35</b>	<b>Ireland: The Executive-Centred Politics of Covid-19</b>	<b>421</b>
	Conor Little	
<b>36</b>	<b>Luxembourg: All Hands on Deck</b>	<b>433</b>
	Anna-Lena Högenauer	
<b>Part V Concluding</b>		
<b>37</b>	<b>Comparing 31 European Countries' Responses to the Covid-19 Crisis</b>	<b>447</b>
	Mads Dagnis Jensen, Kennet Lynggaard, and Michael Kluth	
	<b>Index</b>	<b>469</b>