

## **The Politics of Governance**

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The concept of governance has enjoyed great attention in the past two decades, both in development studies as well as development policy. It has been endowed with great potential for fostering the institutional underpinning of democratic political and productive economic regimes. However, the empirical realities have shown less optimistic results. Not least from a social-scientific perspective it is a deeply contested term, frequently derived from technocratic and normative premises that find little correspondence to social norms and practices. The quest of this paper is to develop a framework which pays more attention to agency, actors and power in the formation of political order, with a specific focus on the provision of public goods. The paper will draw on case studies from a mid-sized city in Côte d'Ivoire.

