

REASONS FOR RELOCATING CAPITAL CITIES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Bachelor Thesis

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Abstract

This bachelor thesis explores the process of capital city relocation. Its aim is to create a typology of reasons, why capital cities move. In the first part the thesis describes capital cities from a theoretical viewpoint and introduces theories relevant to their relocations – the growth centre (pole) theory, the theory of nation-building, and a theory determining the relationship between capital cities, distance, and conflict. In the second part it explores the cases of fifteen relocations of capital cities since the year 1900 and two currently considered relocations. Based on these case studies I arrive at the conclusion that there are five reasons why capital cities move: 1. Nation-building purposes, 2. Spread of regional development, 3. Issues of the capital city, 4. To mitigate the threat of insurrection, and 5. The decision of the leader.