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**Revisiting State Restraints**

**Presentation**

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# UNCTAD RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM FOX/HEALEY: REVISITING STATE RESTRAINTS

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GENEVA 7 JULY 2025

# THESIS AND OUTLINE

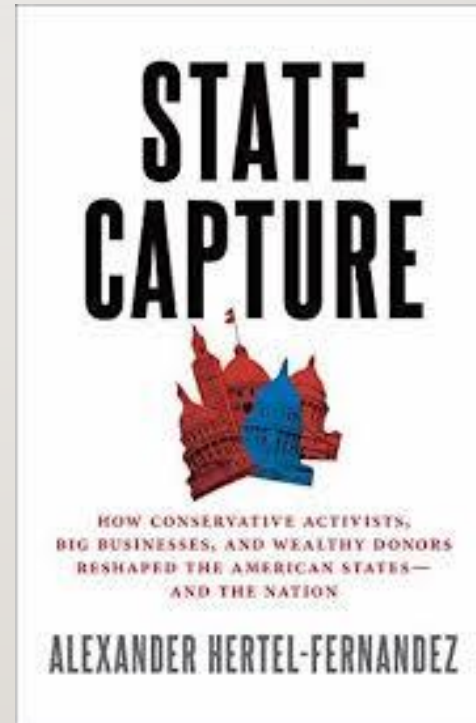
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- I. State and local government restraints and hybrid public/private are the most invidious and least well controlled
- II. Fox/Healey surveyed the field in 2012-14 through UNCTAD RPP; On revisit:
  - a. Cross-border
    - Even more important: market integration projects; nationalism as setback
    - Integrating [Africa]
    - Food project in ICN+ – building up from basics to identify: what is wrong?
  - b. Municipal, local – advances: Egypt, Brazil examples
- III. Conclusion

# I. INVIDIOUS RESTRAINTS

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- The EU example
  - Good ideas for developing countries
- The challenges: Why so hard to control?
  - Government as culprit; sovereignty, politics





## II. FOX/HEALEY OUTLINE

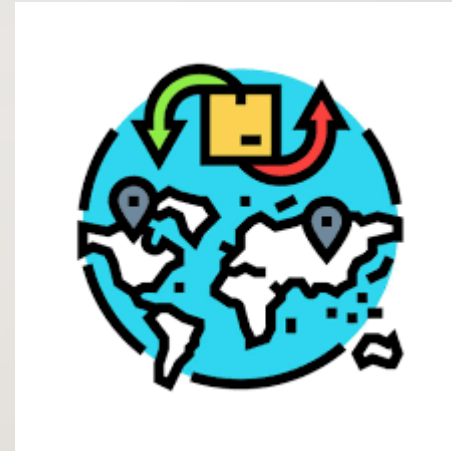
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- 1 SOEs and exclusive rights and privileges
- 2. Border restraints that protect monopolies and oligopolies, raise price of necessities, keep continents unintegrated
- 3. Public procurement, corruption, bid-rigging
- 4. Local: a. municipal monopolization see Eastern European countries' law
  - b. widely unnecessary local restrictions (bureaucratic barriers)

# III. CROSS-BORDER RESTRAINTS

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- Their harm
- How to control them
  - What is transparent and what is not
- Building on common market design: Integration of internal market trade and competition



# CONT'D THE FOOD PROJECT

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- Why?
- ~300 million people face catastrophic hunger; the data
- Origins – U of Johannesburg
- ICN plus
- A big part of the problem is almost surely state restraints



# IV. LOCAL RESTRICTIONS - TEARING DOWN BARRIERS

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- Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Russia
- Peru
  - The most guilty ministries, the best removers:
    - <https://www.globalcompliance.com/2024/08/21/peru-rankings-that-promote-the-removal-of-bureaucratic-barriers/>
- Brazil
- Egypt
  - “Minister of Finance Ahmed Kouchouk confirmed that **promoting competitive neutrality** and fair competition remains a top government priority, vital for improving the business climate and attracting both local and foreign investment.”
    - <https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2025/04/28/eca-marks-20-years-officials-call-for-stronger-competition-policies-economic-reforms/>





CONCLUSIONS

PROGRESS

SUGGESTING A FOCUS ON TWO  
PRONGS: LOCAL AND CROSS-BORDER

HOW YOU CAN HELP