



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

[Chile: Political Handover in a Crisis](#)

In early 2010, Chile's democracy prepared for the first transfer of power between opposing political coalitions since Augusto Pinochet's ouster in 1990. The transition process had just begun when a massive earthquake devastated Chile, killing hundreds and causing billions of dollars in damage. A [new ISS case study](#)



Photo by Robert Joyce, ISS

describes how prescient planning and staff recruitment by the incoming, center-right Piñera administration and briefings by Bachelet's outgoing, left-leaning team strengthened Chile's democracy and set a precedent for future cross-coalition transitions. This case is part of a new ISS series on effective handovers of authority between parties or coalitions.

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[Innovations for Successful Societies \(ISS\)](#) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has

Featured ISS Interview

[Mohamed Fadal](#), lead researcher at the Academy for Peace and Development in [Somaliland](#), describes the country's institution-building efforts in the 1990s. He discusses the civil conflict and the subsequent conflict-resolution process, the role of clans in Somali politics, the constitution-drafting process, and the impediments to stability facing the country.

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published more than [135 case studies](#) and [370 interviews](#), all of which are available free online. Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the case studies in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

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