

## **POLICY ANALYSIS IN FRENCH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*Alain Faure & Emmanuel Négrier*

The subject of the present chapter attempts to ‘deconstruct’ the French territorial question and demonstrate that territorial policy analysis can break free from the limitations imposed by the primarily ‘statist’ conceptual framework in which it has hitherto been viewed. In the first part, we must first indicate the scale and nature of the present political and administrative territorial structures and comment also on the paucity of academic research work on this subject. In the second one, we will highlight the main changes in the territorial framework of policy building, through an evolution from vertical to horizontal dialectic of powers and capacities. In the third part, we’ll be able to talk about territorialisation, as the results of a double process. On the one hand, the role of ideas in territorial policy building; on the other hand, the dynamics of differentiation that put the French model into question.