Westminster perceives minority government as weak, unstable, incoherent and short term in its approach to policy.

Recent experience in Canada supports that, with unstable minority governments and political and constitutional crises. But in New Zealand and Scotland minority governments and minority parliaments have been much more effective.

This report is about how to make minority government work. It summarises the recent experience in Canada, New Zealand and Scotland, and the historical experience at Westminster. It then draws out lessons for all the main actors.

Lessons for the Prime Minister and government

Minority government has some advantages over coalition: single party control, greater policy coherence, quicker decision making. But a minority government cannot govern in a majoritarian way. It must accept the likelihood of frequent parliamentary defeats, and prepare the media and the public for them, so they are not seen as confidence issues. To avoid being blown off course, it must set out a clear strategy and set of long term goals.

Lessons for the civil service

Be prepared for a caretaker government, and the need to support negotiations between political parties during a prolonged period of government formation. Be prepared for many different possible combinations of minority and/or coalition government, including looser forms of partnership that may require relaxation of collective Cabinet responsibility. This need not undermine Cabinet confidentiality, but does require a clear set of rules. Serving a minority administration also requires a different set of skills, including closer monitoring of parliamentary developments and facilitation of inter-party negotiations.

Lessons for Parliament

Parliament can become stronger under minority government, but cannot make policy or force the government to do anything against its will.
Parliament may take longer to pass bills, and amend them more heavily, but the overall volume of legislation is unlikely to diminish greatly. Parliamentary reform to reduce the government's dominance of parliamentary business will not happen without a clear agenda and champion who can make it happen.

**Lessons for opposition parties**

Prepare before the election for negotiations immediately afterwards. Consider the alternatives before entering into coalition: supply and confidence agreements may help a party preserve its distinct identity. It is difficult to co-ordinate 'the opposition' against the government, or to bring the government down, but opposition parties can influence government policy through bilateral deals.

**Lessons for the Crown**

The mystique about the process of government formation and dissolution risks drawing the Crown unnecessarily into controversy. There need to be clearer rules which explain that it is not the monarch's role to form a government, or to facilitate negotiations. The decision to form a government must be arrived at by politicians, and the Prime Minister then advises the monarch on who can command the confidence of Parliament.

**Comment**

| The EU27 take control of the Brexit extension |
| Georgina Wright, 11 April 2019 |

| The Government must explain what this Brexit extension means for no deal planning |
| Tim Durrant, 11 April 2019 |

| Brexit: the final countdown |
| Jill Rutter, 08 April 2019 |

Making Minority Government Work, Transitions: Preparing for Changes of 'successful' policies, two of which were policies developed in opposition. As such, stories soon emerged of fractious meetings between Freud and Brown during Making the Housing Unit Method Work: An Evaluation - Springer Link. Jan 11, 2013 - of Florida for April 1, 2010, we analyze errors by population size and growth rate. How is this different to a minority government? Although the Conservative party won the most votes in the election (the party in second place was Labour with 262 seats) it did not have enough MPs to form a majority government. From that position any party has two options to form a government—either it can form a coalition government or it can form a minority government, possibly with agreements of support with smaller parties. A coalition government is when two or more parties make a formal agreement in order to make up the required amount of seats needed to have a majority of MPs. This type of formal agreement usually involves an agreement on policies and government ministers being drawn from all parties in the coalition. A minority government, or minority cabinet or minority parliament, is a cabinet formed in a parliamentary system when a political party or coalition of parties does not have a majority of overall seats in the parliament. It is sworn into office, with or without the formal support of other parties, to enable a government to be formed. Under such a government, legislation can only be passed with the support of enough other members of the legislature to provide a majority, encouraging multi-partisanship.