Territories like American Samoa, Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands and the Faeroes are sub-national island jurisdictions (SNIJs). They all share some measure of autonomous government, and are easily construed as independent states-in-waiting. Yet most of these territories exhibit no urgency to become independent. Instead, they appear to have decided that there are political and economic benefits accruing today when island territories are autonomous but not sovereign. In an uncertain world, a substantial degree of autonomy, respect and protection for local culture and identity, reasonable provision of employment opportunities, welfare and security by a larger and benign metropolitan state, have collectively weakened most local thrusts for independence. In spite of the mandate of the United Nations Committee on Decolonization, there is a strong case to be made today for non-sovereignty, and it is the SNIJs that provide clear evidence.

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The Case for Non-Sovereignty
Lessons from sub-national island jurisdictions

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and David Milne
This volume is dedicated to Peter H. Lyon OBE, in grateful acknowledgement of his generous support and service to the Island Studies programme, its faculty and students at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, over many years. Peter's contribution to the development of the Institute of Island Studies and to the interdisciplinary graduate programme in Island Studies at UPEI has been exceptional, as has been his unfailing support and enthusiasm for our research and publications in Commonwealth outlets, including The Round Table.
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