

Equity, Privatization, and the Right to Education

Webinar 1: Introduction to Privatization of Education: Forms & Diffusion



Dr. Frank Adamson

*Assistant Professor of
Education Policy and
Leadership Studies*



SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

Webinar Series
organized by
UNESCO's
International
Institute for
Education Planning
(IIEP)

Assisted by
*Meredith Galloway,
Doctoral Candidate,
Sacramento State*

Why this Webinar Series?

- 1) Varying levels of awareness and understanding of education privatization and the right to education globally
- 2) Need for information distilled into *hopefully* comprehensible materials (including the new primer accompanying this series)
- 3) Hour-long webinars allow for manageable amounts of information on specific topics

Webinar Series Trajectory

Webinar 1: *Introduction to the privatization of education: forms and diffusion*

Webinar 2 (24 February): *Comparing approaches: lessons from different education systems*

Special guest Dr. Antoni Verger

Webinar 3 (3 March): *Moving forward: delivering on education as a human right*

Special guest Ashina Mtsumi

Webinar 4 (10 March): *Final discussion and key conclusions*

Special guest Camilla Croso

Privatization “in” and “of” education

Endogenous – Privatization “in” education

importing of ideas, techniques and practices from the private sector in order to make the public sector more like businesses and more business-like.

Exogenous – Privatization “of” education

the opening up of public education services to private sector participation on a for-profit basis and using the private sector to design, manage or deliver aspects of public education.



Webinar 1 Overview:

Piecing Together Education Privatization

- 1) Definitions and components of education privatization
- 2) National education decision-making
- 3) Five pathways of education privatization
- 4) Three country examples
- 5) Displaying global diffusion



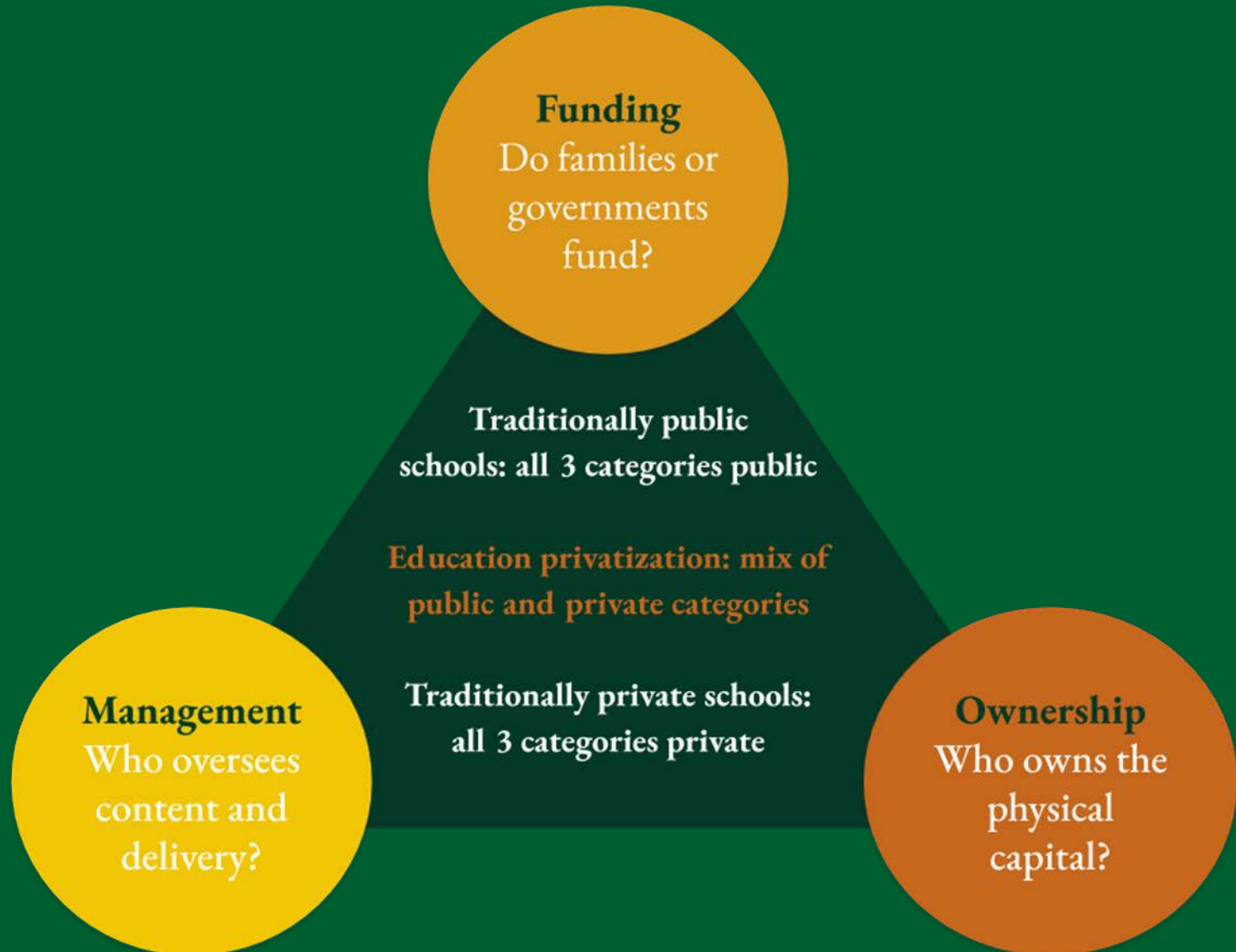
Different Ways of Defining Education Privatization

- 1) Provision and funding** - the “transfer of activities, assets and responsibilities from government/public institutions and organizations to private individuals and agencies” (Belfield and Levin, 2002, p. 19)
- 2) Management** - the “transfer of public-sector responsibility to privately owned or operated organizations or companies, for example non-governmentally run schools such as private or charter schools” (Adamson & Astrand, 2016, p. 8)
- 3) Property ownership** - “privatization is the act of reducing the role of government or increasing the role of the private sector in an activity or the ownership of assets” (World Bank, 2001)

Combining Definitions of Education Privatization

Shifting of State **responsibility** for the **management** and **provision** of equitable, high-quality **education** to the **Non-State** (private) sector, including for **funding** and/or **ownership**, thereby relegating **government** to a **subsidiary** role of allocating funds and monitoring outcomes.

Applying the Definition: Identifying Private and Public Institutions at the Individual Level



How did We Get Here?

1950's

Milton Friedman first posits public schools as monopoly power, denying consumers (parents) choice in education.

1970's



Augusto Pinochet enacts Milton Friedman's neoliberal experiment of privatizing education in **Chile**.



1980's



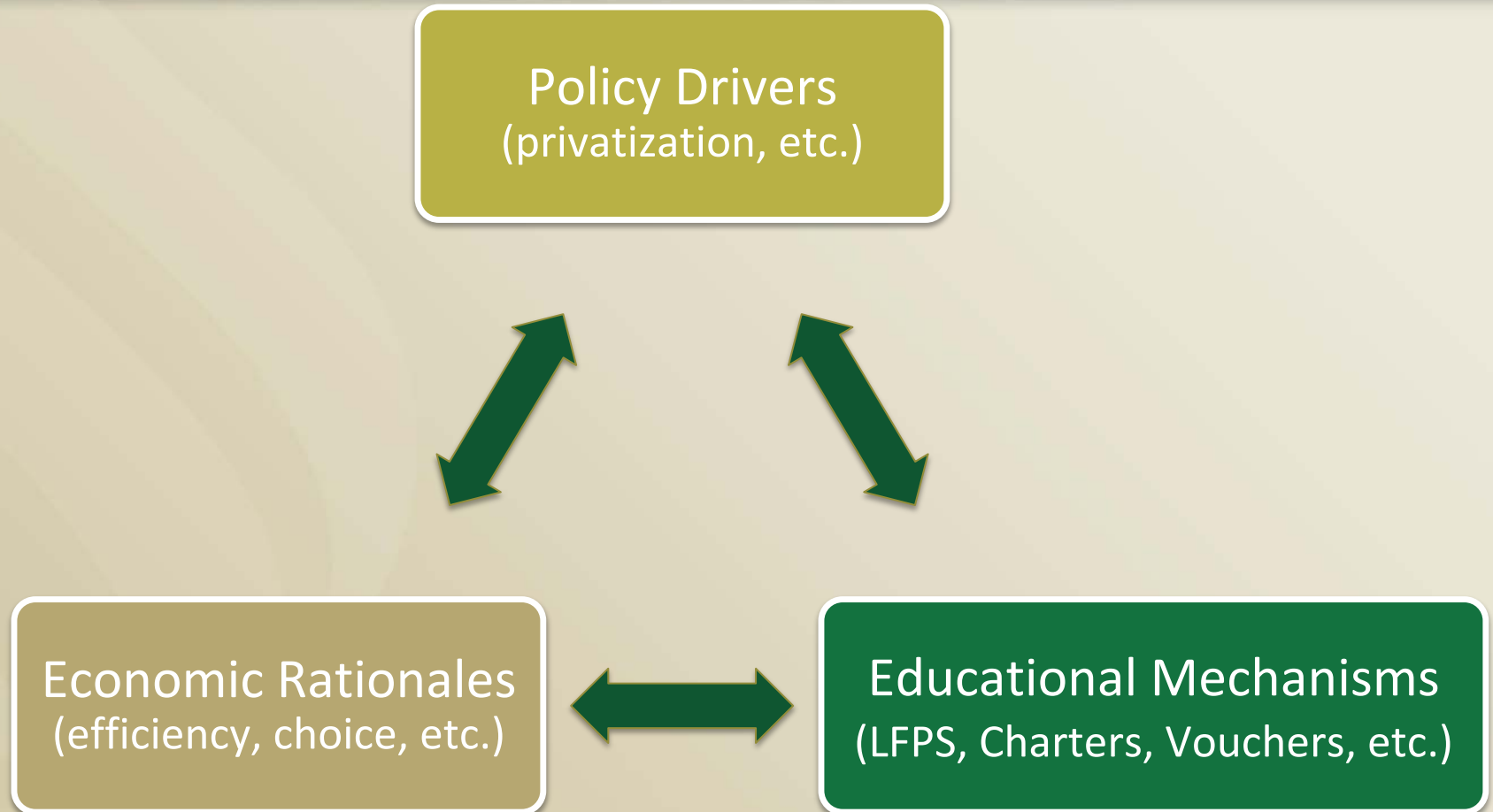
Thatcher (**U.K.**) and Reagan (**U.S.**) policy reforms promote marketization. *World Bank* lending policies strongly incentivize privatization in Global South.

1990's



Sweden switches rapidly from centralized social welfare state model to national marketization of education.

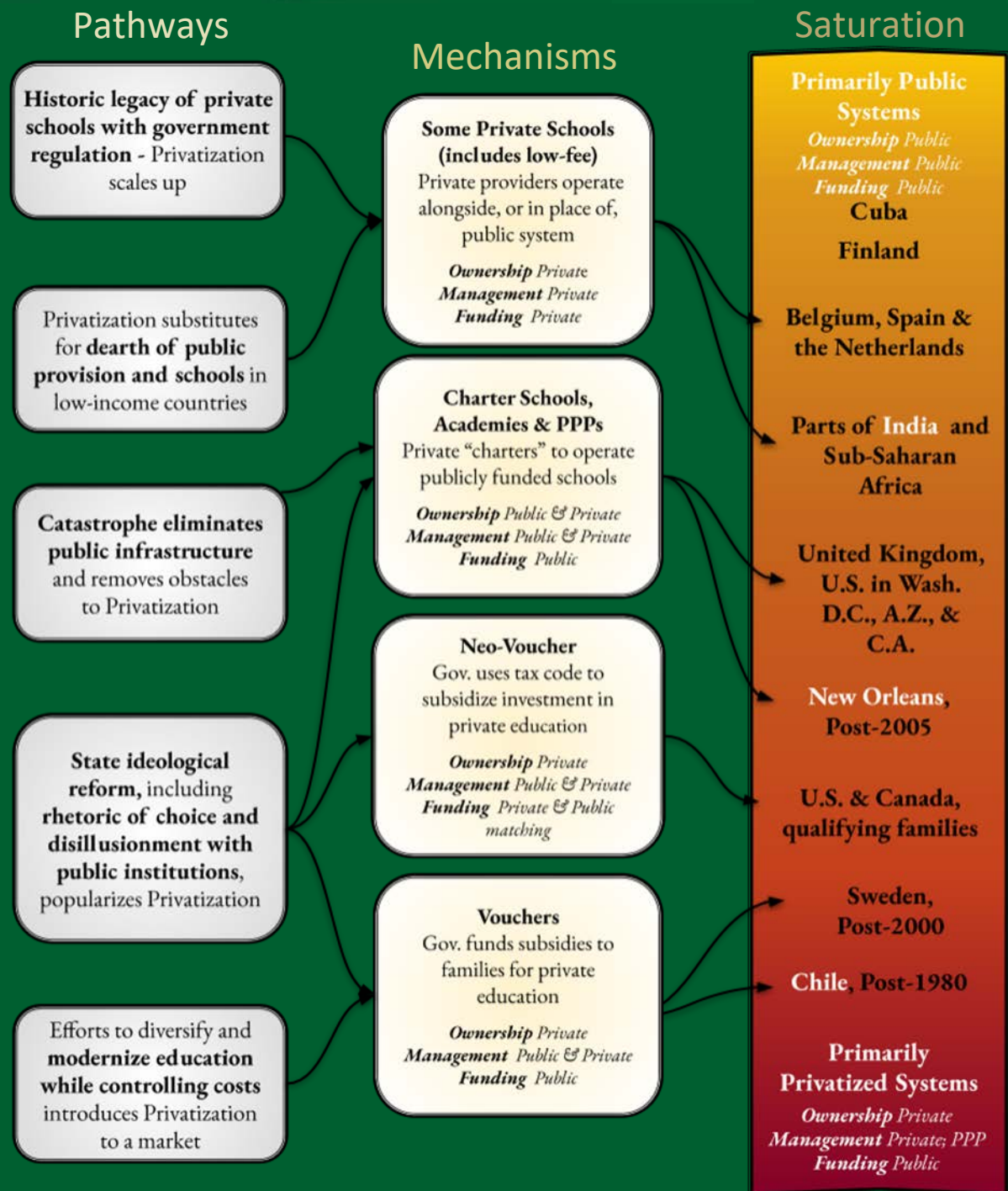
Key Elements of National Education Systems



Contemporary Examples

Pathways, Mechanisms, & Country-level Saturation of Education Privatization

Adamson et al. 2016 & Verger et al. 2016



India: Underinvestment in Public Education Leads to Dearth of Public Schools

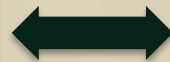
Policy Drivers

Lack of Public Infrastructure



“Low Fee” Private (and often for-profit) schools concentrated in rural & urban-poor areas.

Economic Rationales



Educational Mechanisms

School quality is highly contested & inconclusive (Ashley et al. 2014; Srivastava 2016).

Resource Scarcity/
Efficiency

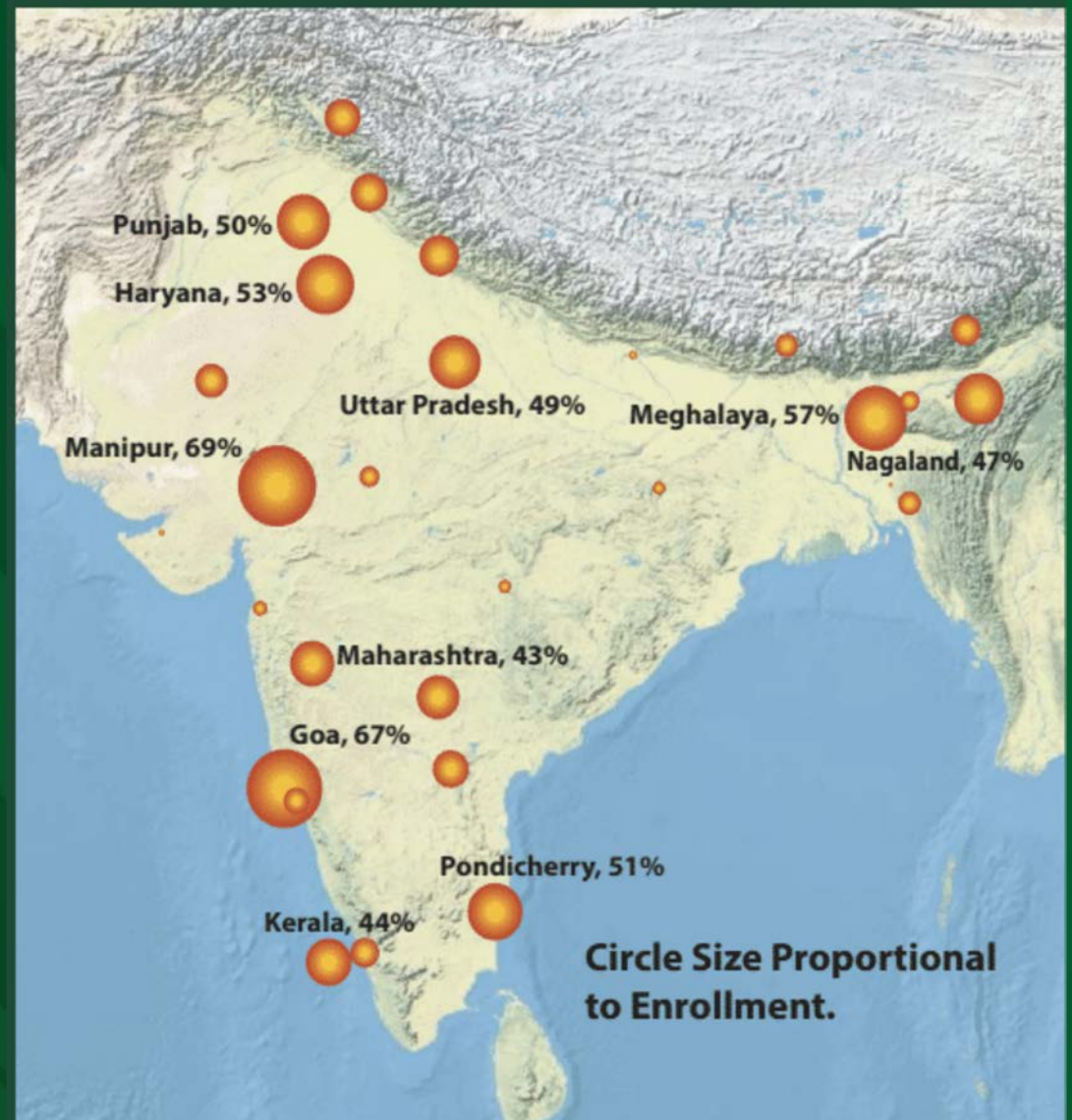
LFPS, Vouchers, &
Subsidized Private
Schools



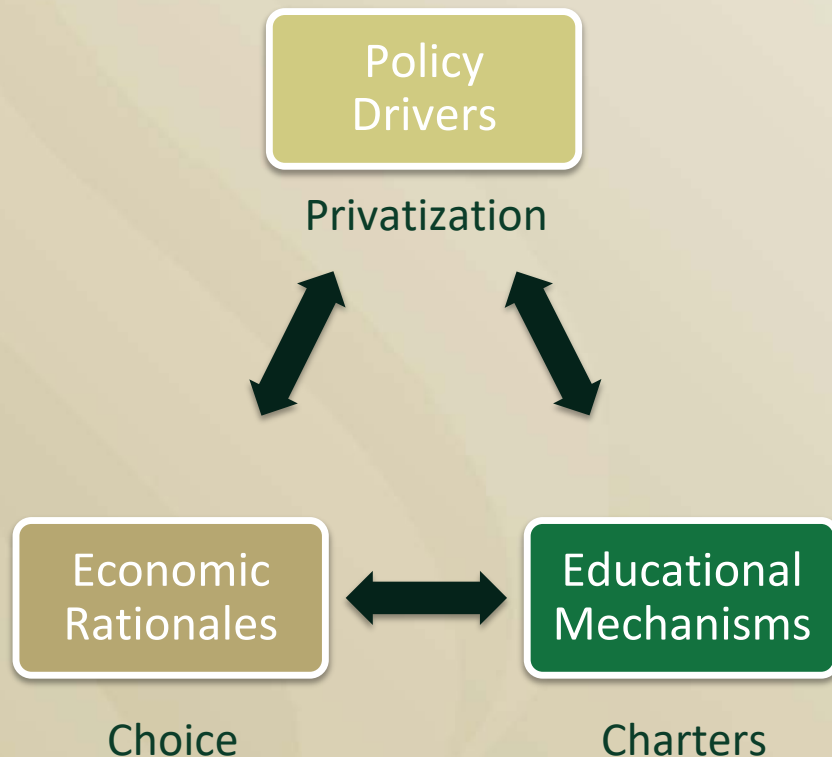
India: Dearth of Public Provision and Higher Proportion of Private Schools

K-12 provincial enrollment by percent enrolled in private schools (Pictured right)

Where private school saturation exceeds 10%, province is labeled on map.



New Orleans: Catastrophe Eliminates Public Infrastructure, Resulting in Wholesale Privatization via Charter Schools



2003 – Louisiana “Recovery School District” established; authorized transformation of low performing public schools to charters.

2005 – Hurricane Katrina severely cripples infrastructure and local economy.

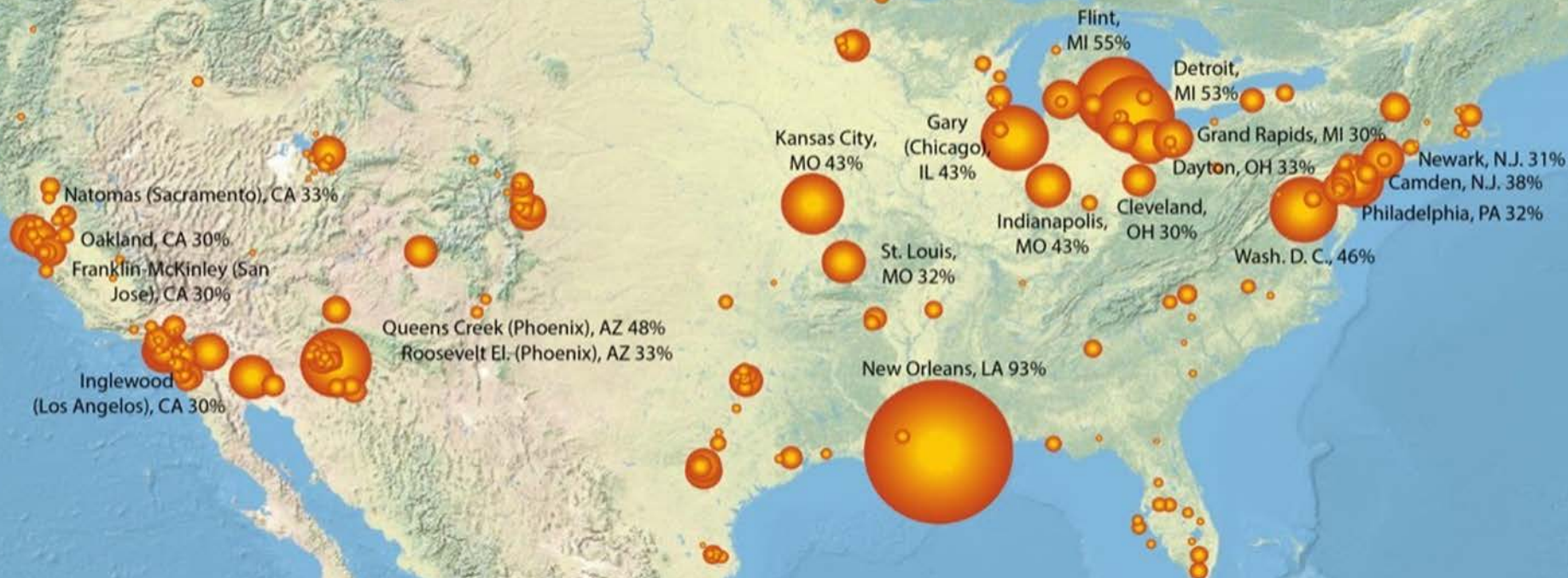
2005 – First NOLA “failing” schools chartered; over 7,000 teachers fired without due process

2012 – Student expulsion rules change

2015 – Remaining NOLA public schools chartered

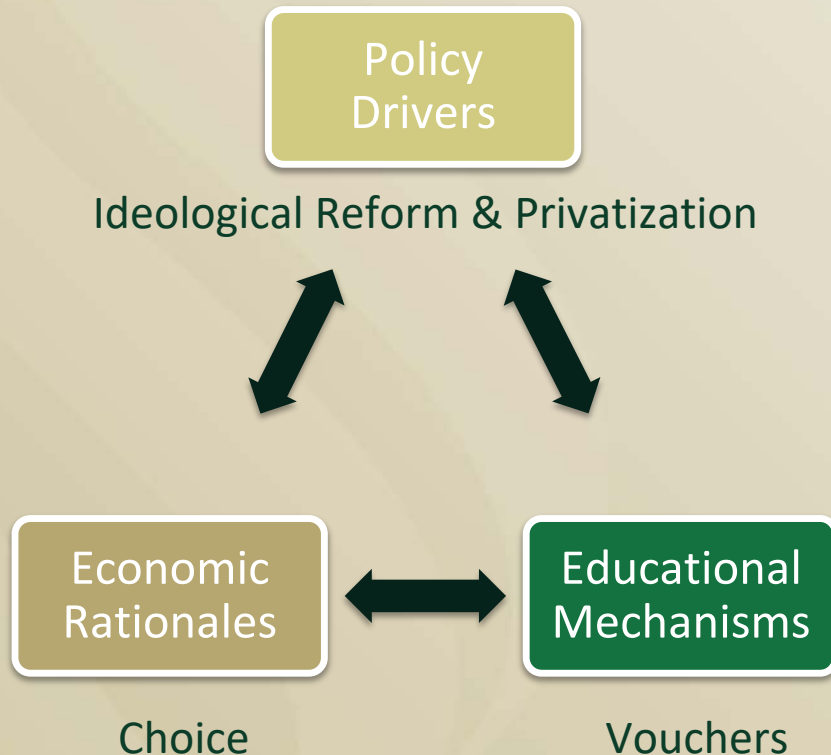
New Orleans: Largest U.S. Example of Education Privatization Targeted at BIPOC and Urban Communities

United States K-12 Districts with Charter School Enrollment (as a percent of total K-12 enrollment) Greater than 10%.



Data year: 2017

Chile: Coup d'état Followed by Adoption of Neoliberal Ideology



Education Reforms:

1. Voucher funding for K-12.
2. Incentivized structure increases to private school supply.
3. Scaled autonomy and accountability through decentralization and mandatory high-stakes standardized testing.

Chile: Coup d'état and the Neoliberal Model

1973 Military Coup

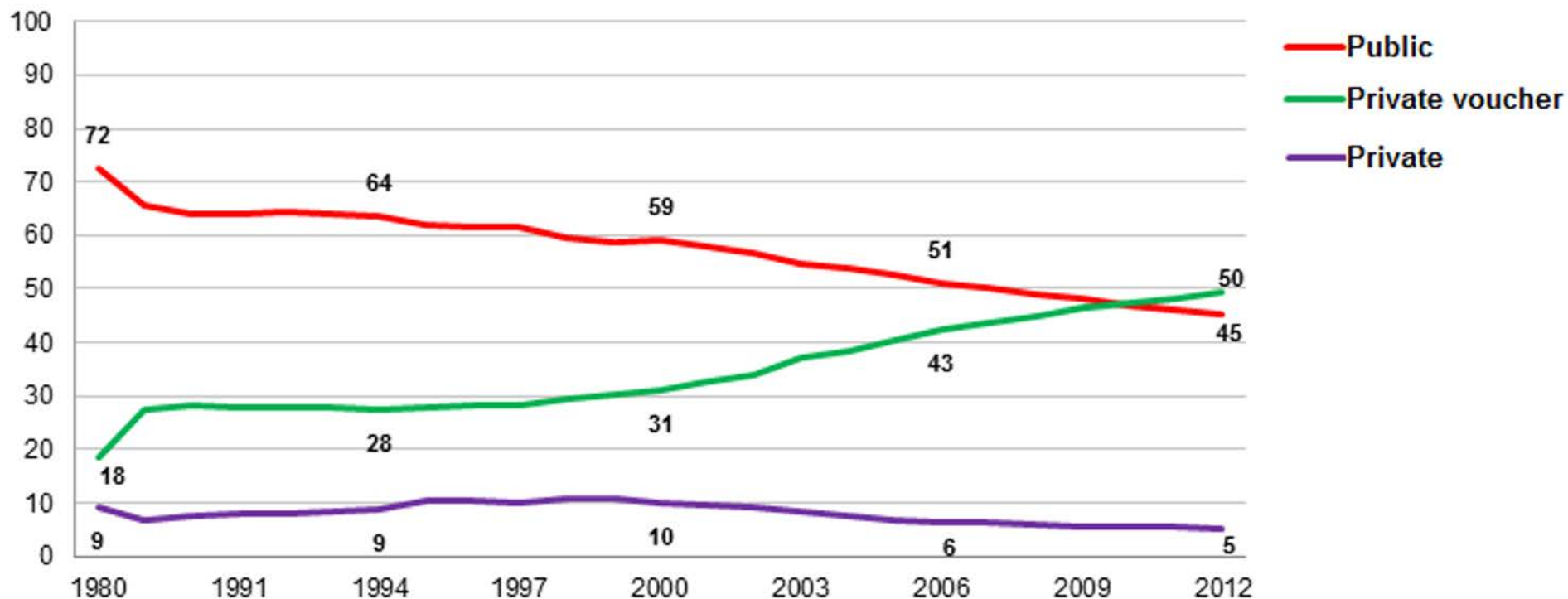


Changes possible due **violence** and **repression** towards opponents of the military regime.

1. Chilean conservatives and U.S. join to **prevent** left-wing parties from implementing **socialist policies**.
2. Friedman's **neoliberal policies** seen as solution to political development and economic structure of Chile.
3. Results change Chile from a **Welfare State** to a **Subsidiary State**

Chile's Growth in Private Voucher School Enrollment (1980-2012)

Private voucher schools (50%) overtake public schools (45%),
due to **co-pay** and **student selection**.



Chile's Student Distribution by School Type and Socioeconomic Quintile (2012)

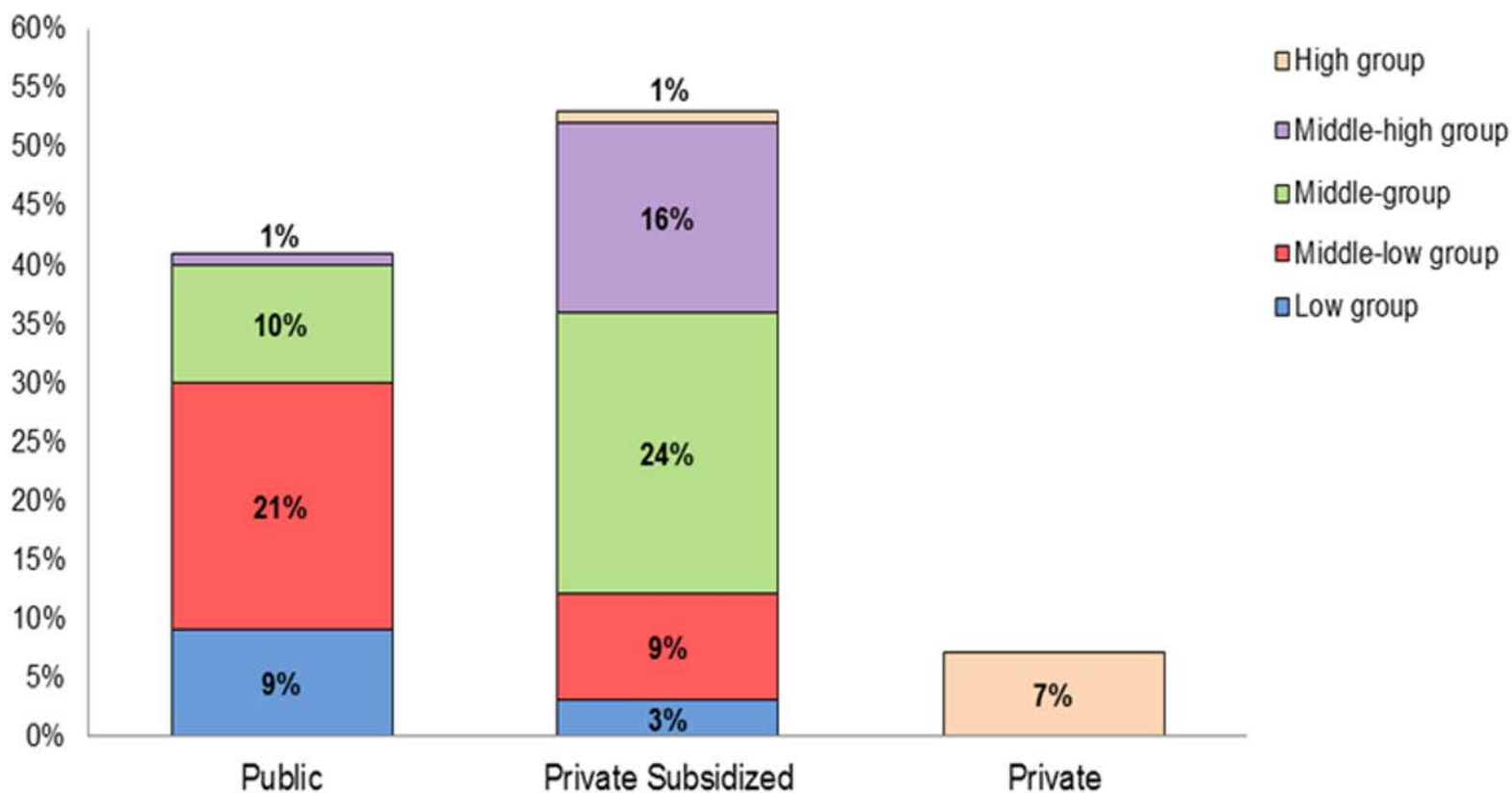
Results:

1) Radical stratification

2) *Apartheid* in education (Waissbluth, 2013)

3) The most segregated educational system (OECD, 2011)

Figure 6. Distribution of Students by Administrative Affiliation and Socioeconomic Group 2012. Percentages.



Source: Agencia de Calidad de la Educación (2013)

Challenges in Tracking and Mapping Education Privatization

- 1) Private providers of education not necessarily compelled to disclose the number of pupils served.
- 2) The *OECD*, *World Bank*, and *UNESCO* have not specifically tracked this emerging phenomenon by collecting data on the definitional categories of funding, management, ownership.
- 3) Private providers at times operate without State recognition or knowledge.



How Widespread is Education Privatization?

Remember our key definitional components:

- **management, funding, and ownership**

However, international data only available for aspects of:

- **management and funding**

Country-level education privatization = Average of 1 & 2 below

- 1) mean % enrollment in private (**management**) &

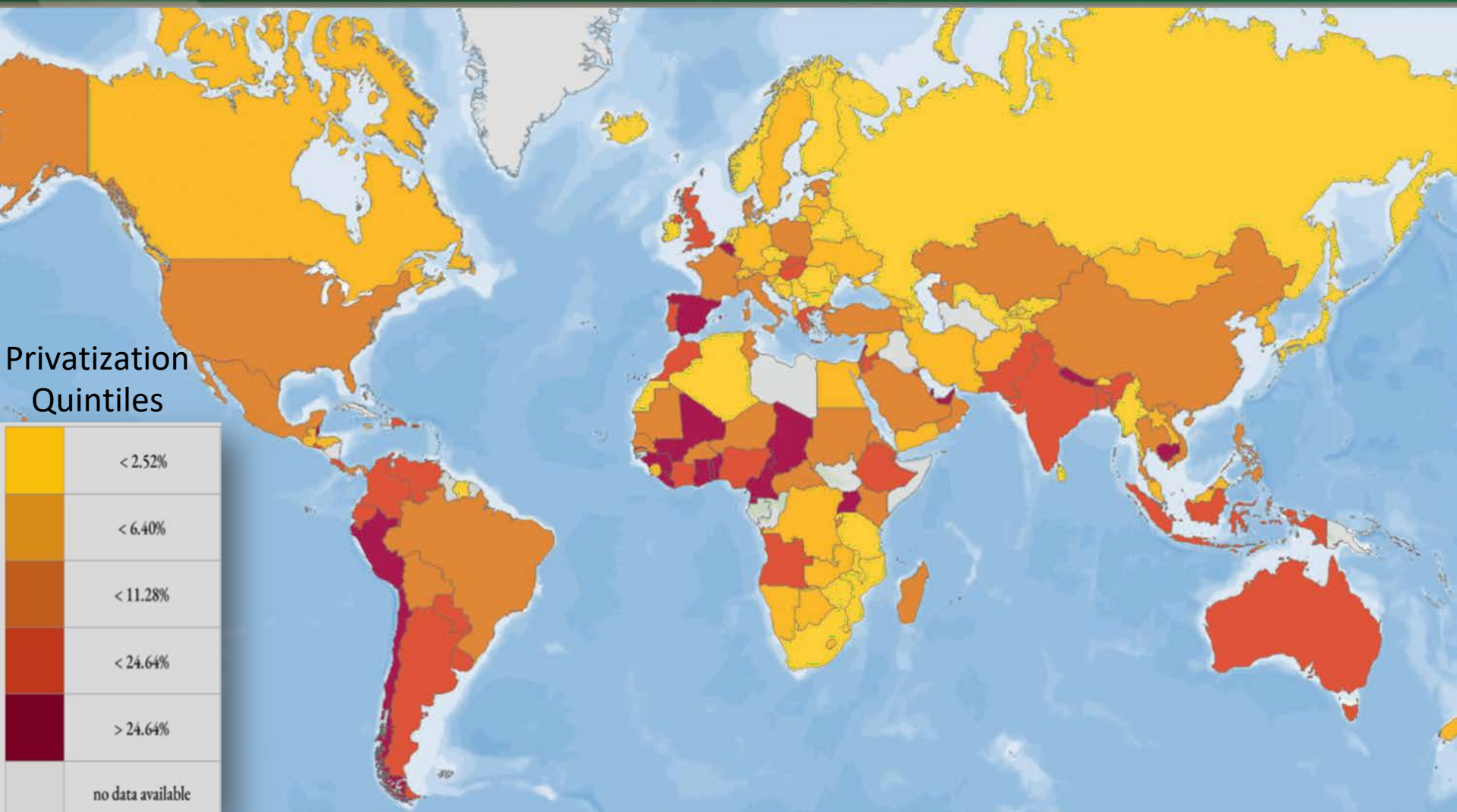
- 2) mean % private **funding**.

Percentages grouped by quartile. Calculations for ISCED Level 1 (primary students).

Data Sources: World Bank & UNESCO, calculations from most recently-available data reporting years.

Data years range from 2011 – 2018.

Global Heat Map of the Spread of Education Privatization at ISCED 1 (using Funding & Management), by Quintile (global median 8.3%)



Thank you!

Next Webinar ... February 24th 2021
*Comparing approaches: lessons from
different education systems*

In Webinar 2, we will examine evidence on different approaches to education, using the lens of education equity to evaluate them. Dr. Antoni Verger will join as a presenter.