

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/cult-of-the-mba/>

This video discusses the Masters in Public Administration (MPA), comparing it to the well-known Masters in Business Administration (MBA). While both degrees are post-experience qualifications aimed at individuals with professional management experience, the MPA focuses specifically on managing in the public sector and government.

Historically, the MPA has not garnered as much recognition or popularity as the MBA, which has become the standard qualification for business managers. Recent years, however, have seen an increased demand for MPA programs, particularly following the economic pressures and critiques of excessive public spending in the 1970s. This video led to the emergence of "New Public Management," which incorporated business management practices into the public sector.

This video also addresses how the MPA's relevance varies globally, influenced by differing political and administrative cultures. For instance, Anglophone countries often embrace market-oriented public management reforms more readily than continental European countries, where civil service roles are traditionally held in higher esteem and more resistant to such changes.

The author illustrates the challenges of implementing these reforms, such as dealing with corruption and bureaucratic resistance, while also mentioning international organizations like the OECD and the World Bank, which help shape public management practices worldwide.

Furthermore, there is a discussion on the credibility of the MPA compared to the MBA. Although MPAs could offer valuable skills for public sector managers, their perceived status varies by region; they are more respected in Europe and China than in the UK, where public sector managers often opt for MBA programs that may not fully address their specific challenges.

Overall, the importance of well-managed public services is emphasized, suggesting that the MPA's role in improving governmental management should be re-evaluated to enhance its appeal and relevance in different contexts.