

CORRUPTION, GENERAL

Introductory quote

"Considerations of conflict resolution, decision making, economics, and space [require] large societies to be centralized. But centralization of power inevitably opens the door -- for those who hold the power, are privy to information, make the decisions, and redistribute the goods -- to exploit the resulting opportunities to reward themselves and their relatives. To anyone familiar with any modern grouping of people, that's obvious. As earlier societies developed, those acquiring centralized power gradually established themselves as an elite

Those are the reasons why large societies cannot function with band organization and instead are complex kleptocracies."

Jared Diamond, Guns, germs, and steel: The fates of human societies, Chapter 14, "From egalitarianism to plutocracy: The evolution of government and religion", Norton, New York, 1999 and **2003**, p. 288.

[Note. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 1998.

Does the above quote from this prize-winning book seem exaggerated or extreme? It shouldn't, in light of all the preceding and following quotes presented in this subsection on corruption worldwide over the years; as detailed in the ongoing research work of Transparency International, the UNDP, the World Bank, and the OECD identified in the Top Related Sources and Websites subsection of this archive; and in the November 2004 global public opinion survey findings cited at the end of this subsection.]

Chronological quotes

"The first part of this book is largely about Nigeria ... [because it is] where the authors have lived longest, outside Britain ... and there are ample reasons for thinking that the actual situations described can be paralleled elsewhere. The authors have indeed come across them in other parts of Africa.

[But the bulk of the book] is a discussion of bribery and corruption in Britain... to explore ... the factors which led Britain, a country as corrupt as any, to achieve in a particular century a standard of public integrity which is perhaps without precedent. Perhaps even more important, can any threads be traced in the pattern which are meaningful for Britain's former African and Asian dependencies?"

Ronald Wraith and Edgar Simpkins, Corruption in developing countries, George Allen & Unwin, London, **1963**, Foreword.

"I shall try to develop a positive theory of corruption that can aid those concerned with the practical application of political ideals ... on two different levels. The first half of the book models the sources of high level corruption in a democratic political process; the second half considers the incentives for low-level bureaucratic corruption in the administration of laws.

... The main aim ... has been to demonstrate that [vote-maximization models, pluralistic models, and institutionalist theories] and their interrelationships must be specified clearly ... to grasp the corrupt incentives inherent in a given political structure. ... I have shown ... that the opportunities for corruption remain high if bureaucrats and legislators can collude on a common strategy, despite an institutionalized system of checks and balances."

Susan Rose-Ackerman, Corruption: A study in political economy, Academic, New York, **1978**, pp. 10, 212.

"Zaire is potentially the wealthiest country in Africa, but it stands today as an impoverished development tragedy.

... The goal of this book is to contribute to a sharper understanding of the twin processes of underdevelopment and bureaucratic corruption in the Third World. The specific purpose is to clarify the nature of the corruption-underdevelopment relationship in the case of Zaire. ... It will be necessary to develop an analytic framework ... of the various approaches to the subject -- including a critique of previous frameworks for analyzing corruption -- and to apply it to ... contemporary Zairian history."

David J. Gould, Bureaucratic corruption and underdevelopment in the Third World: The case of Zaire, Pergamon, New York, **1980**, pp. xi, xv.

"[The very diverse examples in this book counsel much caution in attempting to broadly analyse] political economies and their relative tendencies to require, permit and control corruption. [Reasons include] first, the vague and morally accusatory character of corruption ... Secondly, corruption appears to have an alarming tendency to appear in all societies at all times ... especially where administration by formal modern bureaucracies is a significant feature ... Finally, historical developments ... provide constantly changing opportunities for and pressures toward corruption even within the same political economies."

Michael Clarke, "Introduction", pp. xviii-xix, in Michael Clarke, Ed., Corruption: Causes, Consequences, and Control, Frances Pinter, London, **1983**.

"Corruption is not the sole province of developing countries. ... Corruption is a complex and universal phenomenon. Its effects are cumulative and circular, and they extend beyond the boundaries of the nation-state.

We approach the subject by first reviewing the data on corruption in selected developing countries and identifying factors commonly associated with [that corruption]. Next, we describe the various forms it assumes under different conditions. We conclude with an examination of the impact of corruption on administrative performance and development across developing countries."

David J. Gould and Jose A. Amaro-Reyes, The effects of corruption on administrative performance: Illustrations from developing countries, World Bank Staff Working Papers, Number 580, Management and Development Series Number 7, the World Bank, Washington, DC, **1983**, pp. 1, 3.

"This book is addressed to government officials, especially in developing countries, who are searching for answers to [questions about controlling corruption]. ...

The literature on international development is surprisingly silent about such problems. One seldom encounters a practically oriented examination of anticorruption policies. Yet corruption is an issue of first-order importance.

...the situation is particularly worrisome in the developing countries -- some of which, of course, have fewer instances of corruption than some developed nations. As a group, [they] are particularly vulnerable to the harms of governmental corruption. ... [because] the government plays such a large and central role in the society ...

I will not spend much time on such issues of more or less and here or there, however, because [I wish to focus] on the neglected questions of policy."

Robert Klitgaard, Controlling corruption, University of California, Berkeley CA and London, **1988**, pp. 2, 6, 10.

"This volume seeks to address [public servants, students preparing for careers in public service, and] scholars ... who seek ... to clarify our understanding of ethical issues and options. We also hope that a wider public might take interest in a work which addresses the urgent tasks of combating corruption and encouraging ethical behavior in the public service.

The [contents] focus primarily upon those ethical problems and topics which are associated with the concept of corruption and its cousins -- lying, evasion of accountability, and the abuse of authority. We recognize that there are other dimensions to the field of ethics, but the problems covered here are, we believe, central to the subject and ... merit this emphasis."

William L. Richter, Frances Burke, and Jameson W. Doig, eds., Combating corruption. Encouraging ethics: A sourcebook for public service ethics, American Society for Public Administration, Washington, DC, **1990**, Preface.

" How bribes, payoffs and crooked officials are blocking economic growth ...
Corruption: the universal language is graft, bribery and payoffs. Can the advocates of market reform and economic growth be heard above the din?"

Michael Elliot, "Corruption", [cover story], Newsweek International, **November 14, 1994**, pp. 10-15.

"Ob in Baubehörden oder Anwaltskanzleien, Firmenbüros oder Finanzämtern -- eine Hand wäscht die andere in deutschen Amts- und Geschäftszimmern. Doch die Politiker geißeln die um sich greifende Korruption nur in Sonntagsreden, tatsächlich wird die Strafverfolgung bei Bestechungstatbeständen systematisch erschwert."

"Die alltägliche korruption: Deutschland: wie geschmiert", Der Spiegel (Germany), 50/1994, **12.12.1994**, [cover story], pp. 114-129,

"A sweeping crackdown against corporate bribery is toppling business leaders and politicians from Paris to Seoul. Why now? What's behind the drive to root out corruption? Is real reform possible?"

"Dirty money", Business Week International, [cover story], **December 18, 1995**, pp. 25-34.

"Around the world, newly empowered citizens are rising to battle the ancient disease of official corruption."

... Wherever there has been too much concentrated power and too little accountability

(read: most of human history) there is a long pedigree of plunder and payoffs. What's different today -- and it will become more noticeable -- is a worldwide effort to do something about it. Around the globe there's an overwhelming urge to purge.

In the end graft is a crime of calculation: does the risk outweigh the reward? Public opinion can be a mighty force on the risk side. Bertrand de Speville, commissioner of Hong Kong's widely admired Independent Commission Against Corruption [says] 'You have to make corruption a high-risk activity, a high risk you'll be caught and a high risk you'll be jailed.' Much of the world is not there yet, but things are getting riskier all the time."

Michael Hirsh, "Graft busters", "Corruption 96", Newsweek International, **December 25, 1995/January 1, 1996**, pp. 56-59, [56, 59].

"... How to conduct an ethics overhaul: Here's the step-by-step approach the pros usually advise.

Step One Hire an independent investigator to issue a report on the misconduct. Credible former government officials are preferred.

Step Two Write a new ethics policy. Deliver [it] to all company employees with memo from CEO instructing them not to ignore it.

Step Three Expand training. Hire consultants ... start scheduling regular informational sessions on subjects such as sexual harassment, bribery, etc.

Step Four Install a whistle-blowers' hotline. Publicize the phone number ... and establish and detail fully a systematic complaint procedure.

Step Five Hire a full-time ethics officer ... to investigate whistle-blower complaints, supervise training programs, and update the ethics policy."

"Ethics for hire: Laundering images of soiled companies is turning into big business", Business Week International, **July 15, 1996**, pp. 26-28.

"As economic interdependence grows, ... more and more issues have taken on an international dimension. ... Corruption is by no means a new issue, but it has only recently emerged as a global issue.

Corruption ... distorts and slows market-opening and pro-democracy reforms. Whenever it is pervasive, corruption can deter investment, impede economic development, and undermine political legitimacy. Even when the consequences appear to have been contained for long periods of time, ... relatively widespread corruption can eventually spin out of control.

As the global implications of corruption have grown, so has the impetus for international action to combat it."

Kimberly Ann Elliott, ed., Corruption and the global economy, Institute for International Economics, Washington, DC, **1997**, pp. vii, viii.

"This handbook presents a framework to assist USAID missions to develop strategic responses to public corruption. The framework sets out root causes of corruption, identifies a range of institutional and societal reforms to address them, and introduces a methodology for selecting among these measures.

... the final section of the handbook describes the work of other organizations involved with anti--corruption activities [and is followed by a bibliography with more than 150 entries.]"

A handbook on fighting corruption, US Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, **February, 1999**.

"... the subject of the role of money in our politics has come ever more to the fore of the

public consciousness. ...

Moreover, there has been an increasing public understanding that the funding system has a pervasive impact on public policy. ... This understanding needs to be intensified. This book, with its new epilogue, is dedicated to increasing that understanding and helping citizens realize what they can do about the corrupting role of money in our politics. It also seeks to provide a sense of how Washington has changed over the past twenty-five years and why there has been a decline in the quality of our politicians -- and what citizens can do about that as well."

Elizabeth Drew, *The corruption of American politics: What went wrong and why*, Overlook, Woodstock and New York, **2000**, Preface.

[Note: Ms. Drew was the Washington correspondent of *The New Yorker* magazine for 19 years.]

"This week the European Union is hosting a UN conference on the problems of the so-called least-developed countries.

I would like to stress good government and the fight against corruption. No amount of money from the rich West will help unless our anti-poverty strategies are combined with a drive for democracy, human rights, and the supremacy of the rule of law. Corruption is an insult to the poor, and we should all put the fight against corruption at the core of our policies.

A long, hard fight against poverty will stretch into the years ahead. As always, it is not words at the comfortable conference table that will make the difference, but action and long-term political commitment."

Romano Prodi, "Corruption is an insult to the poor", *International Herald Tribune*, **May 16, 2001**.

[Note: Mr. Prodi was president of the European Commission. However, in contrast to his handsome pronouncement, please see also the information on seriously defective anti-corruption efforts in 2003 within the EU itself, in the subsection on *Other Multilateral Accountability Struggles* which follows.]

" Although the worldwide transparency movement remains in its infancy, it has gained sufficient momentum to ensure that the corruption problem will continue to receive concerted and persistent attention over the next several years. The great diversity of actors and contexts guarantees a diversity of country-level approaches -- a diversity which is sure to generate further insights about how to go about improving national integrity systems."

Peter Richardson, "The global assault on corruption", *The Journal of Public Inquiry*, **Fall/Winter 2001**, pp., 3-7 [7].

[Note: The *Journal* is produced regularly by the Inspectors General of the United States. The cited issue is entitled "The war on corruption, " and includes a dozen further articles on fighting international and national corruption.]

"But everybody does it! The staggering cost of corruption in Europe.

Across the Continent, corruption is a way of life. It erodes confidence in government and threatens the EU's future."

Stefan Theil and Christopher Dickey, "Europe's dirty secret", [Cover story], *Newsweek International*, **April 29, 2002**, pp. 14-20.

"Corruption is rampant in the Central and East European countries expecting to join the wealthy European Union, and is likely to persist after the union expands eastward in 2004 unless

the EU significantly strengthens its own anti-corruption measures, according to a new report.

The report, based on a yearlong study by the Open Society Institute, a leading nonprofit organization active in the region, said that three-fourths of citizens in the candidate states believed that most or all of their public officials were corrupt. But more than a decade after the fall of communism, governments have yet to enact adequate measures to tackle corruption, and are not enforcing the few that are on the books.

'Unfortunately, that kind of public awareness doesn't create pressure for the governments to introduce good anti-corruption policies,' Quentin Reed, the report's author said in an interview. 'All it does is make corruption a campaign issue and then governments do nothing about it.'

Corruption in the legislative process is probably the biggest problem facing the post-Communist countries, the report said, along with kickbacks and payoffs in public procurement contracts."

Peter S. Green, "EU candidates face corruption issues: Report urges Union to toughen its own laws before expansion", International Herald Tribune, **November 8, 2002**.

"Distrust of political leaders is high across the world, with significant majorities of people viewing the authorities of their countries as dishonest, wielding too much power and overly susceptible to influence, according to a new global opinion survey.

The 'Voice of the People' poll, which surveyed 50,000 people in 60 countries worldwide, was conducted by Gallup International [for] ... the World Economic Forum [meeting in Davos in January 2005.] ...

Globally, political leaders were viewed as dishonest by 63 percent of those surveyed and as unethical by 52 percent. ...

Business leaders fared better ... in world perceptions ... with 43 percent globally viewing them as dishonest and 39 percent as behaving unethically.

Prospects for political stability and economic prosperity will be at the center of discussions in Davos ... [under the theme] "Taking responsibility for Tough Choices."

[A Forum spokesman said] ... 'Change is not likely overnight', adding however that if the leaders gathering in Davos review the poll results and 'see that what they're doing is not in accord with their people, hopefully it will slowly have an effect.'

Gallup said the results are statistically representative of the views of more than 1.2 billion people worldwide."

Meg Bortin, "Poll finds little faith in politicians worldwide", International Herald Tribune, **Nov. 19, 2004**.

Useful Sources

(Note: informally assembled by IO Watch, roughly ranked from "most useful" on down, and subject to change as new sources are added)

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