



The Politics of Corruption in Dictatorships

By Vineeta Yadav, Bumba Mukherjee

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The Politics of Corruption in Dictatorships studies how institutional and social factors influence corruption in dictatorships. Dictatorships are often synonymous with high levels of corruption, yet Vineeta Yadav and Bumba Mukherjee argue otherwise. The authors ask why corruption has declined in some but not other authoritarian regimes. What are the main political factors that drive some autocrats to curb corruption? The book explores the role that business mobilization can play in reducing corruption under some conditions in dictatorships. It investigates how political competition for an elected legislature affects the incentives of dictators to engage in corruption. The study relies on case studies from Jordan, Malaysia, and Uganda. The book is accessible to a wide audience without requiring sophisticated statistical training.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Authoritarian regimes have few obvious reasons to check corruption: political opposition can be suppressed, formal accountability is weak, and corruption can be profitable for those at the top. But through data analysis and case studies Yadav and Mukherjee argue that as many as half of all such regimes have apparently reduced corruption to meaningful degrees. The lessons of this fascinating analysis are important for both corruption control and how we understand authoritarian systems: reform need not await democratization, and anti-corruption opportunities can be found in unexpected places."

Michael Johnston, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Emeritus, Colgate University, New York

"Vineeta Yadav and Bumba Mukherjee ask an important question: why are some autocracies more corrupt than others? After all, for every Singapore, there is a Zimbabwe or two. The authors argue that autocratic regimes reduce corruption when small business associations ally with opposition parties in the legislature to press the issue. To support their argument, they provide evidence from large-n cross-national analyses and cleverly designed case studies. Clearly argued and richly researched, *The Politics of Corruption in Dictatorships* deserves a wide audience."

Timothy Frye, Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy, Columbia University, New York

"In *The Politics of Corruption in Dictatorships*, Vineeta Yadav and Bumba Mukherjee challenge the notion that authoritarian regimes are synonymous with high and unvaried levels of corruption. Yet, the authors explain, conditions promoting alliances between small and medium enterprises and elected opposition parties foster good governance in some authoritarian regimes and not others. Their work highlights bringing economic actors more centrally into the study of authoritarian institutions, making this book a valuable contribution for students of corruption and authoritarianism alike."

Ellen Lust, Founding Director, Programs on Governance and Local Development, University of Gothenburg and Yale University, Connecticut

About the Author

Vineeta Yadav is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests include studying how institutions influence economic development, business-politics, judicial politics and, politics of India, Brazil, and China. She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Princeton University, New Jersey. She is the author of *Political Parties, Business Groups, and Corruption in Developing Countries* (2011) which won the 2013 Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Prize by the APSA Political Organizations and Parties Section, the 2012 Rosenthal Prize by the APSA Legislative Studies Section, and received an Honorable Mention for the 2012 best book award from the APSA Comparative Democratization Section. She is also coauthor of *Democracy, Electoral Systems, and Judicial Empowerment in Developing Countries* (2014).

Bumba Mukherjee is a Professor of Political Science at Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include studying how political institutions affect monetary policy and financial markets, the political economy of financial crises, the impact of democratic politics on trade protection, the design and effect of international institutions, and statistical methodology. He was a Visiting Research Scholar at Princeton University, New Jersey and a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame, Indiana. He is the author of *Globalization, Democracy and Trade Policy in the Developing World* (forthcoming) and,

coauthor of Democracy, Electoral Institutions, and Judicial Empowerment in Developing Countries (2014).

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