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Government size, democracy, and corruption: An empirical investigation

Go Kotera *, Keisuke Okada ***, Sovannroeun Samreth *

- * The Research Contin for Administral Policy Scatters, Inscitutes of Research Research, Ryses University, Vestilate-Incorporate, Saleyo-Inc. Ryses 100-1011, Japan
- * Raculty of Human direct emontal Studies, Hilrachina Studie Districtly, J.-1-1 Craft a dispositi, Assessment-Ita, Whitehima T30-3 ffilis, Japan
- * Ascrativ of Aboval Avec, festiones Districtive States Olivain J.S. Sastava die, Seinama ahl, Salesma, 318-8570, Japan

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ABSTRACT

Previous studies on the effect of government size on conspision have produced enized results. In an attempt to explain these analoguous results, this study investigates the effect of government size on corruption by taking into account the role of the democracy in each country. Using animal data of 82 countries between 1905 and 2006, the estimation results to discrete that an increase in government size can lead to a decistate in operands in the democracy level is sufficiently high and, in contrast, can lead to as increase in comption if the democracy level is sufficiently high and, in contrast, can lead to as increase in comption of a too low. As introduced choice, the estimations using a different index of comption and a different proxy for government size are also conducted. The results reveal that our main findings are mount. Furthermore, to address endogeneity problems, we conduct the instrumental variables estimation and the system generalized method of moments or timation, the results of which also support our primary findings. These results provide some important implications for golicymations seeking to perform government interventions without appropriation government interventions with

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L. Introduction

Connection is a phenomenon widely observed in both developed and developing countries. Since it has various effects on society, corruption is a central topic in the fleids of both political science and economics. In recent years, there have been a tage number of empirical studies on corruption, especially on its determinants. These studies includes Goel and Nebson (1986), La Forta et al. (1990), Treisman (2000), Glaeser and Saka (2005), Serva (2005), Claeser and Papager (2007), Hillger and Goel (2009), and Saka et al. (2009), arrange others. Although some consensus is obtained regarding the determinants of occuption (see Serva, 2006), the role of some Lactors which seem to be related to corruption remains unclear. This paper focuses on one much factor, government size, and in influence on corruption.

While minimum public services provided by the government, such as security, provision of infrastructure, and the consolidation of the legal system, are excessely and important in a country, it is well-known that an oversiond government causes various inefficiencies. If government size is viewed as the degree of government intervention in remedying market failures, excessive intervention may inhibit market competition, i.e., government failures.

For instance, Lal (1985) points out the misallocation of resources by a government, and social scientists such as Mills (1985) argue that government failure is more problematic than a market failure. Covernment size can also be viewed as the number of bureaucrats and/or their expesses, such as wages and salaries. Niskanen (1971) defines government bureaucrats as agents seeking to maximize the size of their budgets and points out that they have no insentive to be efficient. Acceptages and Vendire (2000) indicate that government billures, such as corruption, are the by-products of government billures, such as corruption, higher wages are recovary to prevent bureaucrats from becoming corrupt. In this way, the relationship between the size of the government and its inefficiency, including corruption, has been an important topic in economics.

More precisely, there are two different points of view regarding the relationship between competion and government size, which are empirically controversial. First, an increase in government size provides more opportunity for political rest-seeking, leading the politicians and bureaucusts to become more corrupt (e.g., Kose-Ackreman, 1978, 1999). This viewpoint is suggested by the "crime and punishment" model in Becker (1968), in other words, bigger governments increase the expected payoff of illegal activities and, as a result, give an incentive for more illegal activities, such as corruption. Similar to this viewpoint, Alexina and Angeletos (2005) propose a theoretical model in which bigger governments increase the ponsibility for corruption. They argue that when income inequality and unfairness are generated by corruption. the poor support a redistributive policy intending to correct inequality and injustice, and the rich also support it, because they can extract more rent from the increase in government size. As a result, the redistributive effect becomes small, and large corruption remains. Goel and

^{*} Corresponding author.

E-mail address: Individue objeta 1121-Pigmark own (IC Objeta).

^{*} Another stream of study focuses on the effices of corruption on economic performance, particularly accounting generally, foreign direct transmitted, or the cap come of specific public expenditures (e.g., Maura, 1965, 1966, Minster and Sepulpoids, 2006).

Size And Democracy

Craig L. Carr



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