



# Government size, democracy, and corruption: An empirical investigation

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## ABSTRACT

Previous studies on the effect of government size on corruption have produced mixed results. In an attempt to explain these ambiguous results, this study investigates the effect of government size on corruption by taking into account the role of the democracy in each country. Using annual data of 82 countries between 1995 and 2005, the estimation results indicate that an increase in government size can lead to a decrease in corruption if the democracy level is sufficiently high and, in contrast, can lead to an increase in corruption if it is too low. As robustness checks, the estimations using a different index of corruption and a different proxy for government size are also conducted. The results reveal that our main findings are robust. Furthermore, to address endogeneity problems, we conduct the instrumental variable estimation and the system generalized method of moments estimation, the results of which also support our primary findings. These results provide some important implications for policymakers seeking to perform government intervention without aggravating corruption.

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## 1. Introduction

Corruption 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 fields of both political science and economics. In recent years, there have been a large number of empirical studies on corruption, especially on its determinants. These studies include Goel and Nelson (1998), La Porta et al. (1999), Treisman (2000), Glaeser and Saks (2005), Serra (2005), Del Monte and Papagni (2007), Wilger and Goel (2009), and Saha et al. (2009), among others.<sup>1</sup> Although some consensus is obtained regarding the determinants of corruption (see Serra, 2005), the role of some factors which seem to be related to corruption remains unclear. This paper focuses on one such factor, government size, and its 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 necessary and important in a country, it is well-known that an oversized 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. Government size can also be viewed as the number of bureaucrats and/or their expenses, such as wages and salaries. Nordasom (1971) defines government bureaucrats as agents seeking to maximize the size of their budgets and points out that they have no incentive to be efficient. Acemoglu and Verdier (2000) indicate that government failures, such as corruption, are the by-products of government intervention. In order to reduce corruption, higher wages are necessary 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 corruption and government size, which are empirically controversial. First, an increase in government size provides more opportunity for political rent-seeking, leading the politicians and bureaucrats to become more corrupt (e.g., Rose-Ackerman, 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, Alesina and Angeletos (2005) propose a theoretical model in which bigger governments increase the possibility 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

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<sup>1</sup> Another stream of study focuses on the effects of corruption on economic performance, particularly economic growth, foreign direct investment, or the outcome of specific public expenditures (e.g., Mauro, 1995, 1998; Mullins and Sengul, 2006; Rogoff and Sengul, 2008).

# Size And Democracy

**RJ Alexander**



## **Size And Democracy:**

*Size and Democracy* Roald Dahl, Robert A. Dahl, Edward R. Tufte, 1973      **Small Isn't Beautiful** Trevor Latimer, 2023-02-15 Eat local has become a popular marketing slogan in recent years based on the idea that food grown or raised nearby is better for you and friendlier to the environment than similar products shipped in from many miles away That slogan reflects a broader worldview suggesting that everything local including government and knowledge is better than what originates somewhere else Small Isn't Beautiful acknowledges that some things that are local are good but denies that what's local is always or even often better than what's far away Localism is based on an undeserved aura of respectability virtue and good sense and can produce results that are misguided or even dangerous Particularly when it comes to public policies decisions made at the local level are rarely superior and are sometimes unjust Small Isn't Beautiful exposes the supposed virtue of localism as a hodgepodge of weak arguments and misleading hunches Trevor Latimer's engagingly written and provocative book will appeal to all readers who want to understand localism beyond slogans and marketing

Theories of Urban Politics David Judge, Gerry Stoker, Harold Wolman, 1995-07-11 This textbook provides a comprehensive overview of the main theories which structure debate about urban politics It looks at aspects of power taking in both traditional and more recent theories It considers the nature of public bureaucracy and the importance of those officials with a leadership role in city government It examines the way that citizens are involved in the processes of urban politics and it puts urban politics in context in terms of the social and economic environment and the complex architecture of government in which it has to operate Adapt du r sum de l diteur      The Logic of Political Survival Bruce Bueno De Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson, James D. Morrow, 2005-01-14 The authors of this ambitious book address a fundamental political question why are leaders who produce peace and prosperity turned out of office while those who preside over corruption war and misery endure Considering this political puzzle they also answer the related economic question of why some countries experience successful economic development and others do not The authors construct a provocative theory on the selection of leaders and present specific formal models from which their central claims can be deduced They show how political leaders allocate resources and how institutions for selecting leaders create incentives for leaders to pursue good and bad public policy They also extend the model to explain the consequences of war on political survival Throughout the book they provide illustrations from history ranging from ancient Sparta to Vichy France and test the model against statistics gathered from cross national data The authors explain the political intuition underlying their theory in nontechnical language reserving formal proofs for chapter appendixes They conclude by presenting policy prescriptions based on what has been demonstrated theoretically and empirically      **Human Scale Revisited** Kirkpatrick Sale, 2017 Big government big business big everything Kirkpatrick Sale took giantism to task in his 1980 classic Human Scale and today takes a new look at how the crises that imperil modern America are the inevitable result of bigness grown out of control and what can be done about it

The result is a keenly updated carefully argued case for bringing human endeavors back to scales we can comprehend and manage whether in our built environments our politics our business endeavors our energy plans or our mobility Sale walks readers back through history to a time when buildings were scaled to the human figure as was the Parthenon democracies were scaled to the societies they served and enterprise was scaled to communities Against that backdrop he dissects the bigger is better paradigm that has defined modern times and brought civilization to a crisis point Says Sale retreating from our calamity will take rebalancing our relationship to the environment adopting more human scale technologies right sizing our buildings communities and cities and bringing our critical services from energy food and garbage collection to transportation health and education back to human scale as well Like *Small is Beautiful* by E F Schumacher Human Scale has long been a classic of modern decentralist thought and communitarian values a key tool in the kit of those trying to localize create meaningful governance in bioregions or rethink our reverence of and dependence on growth financially and otherwise Rewritten to interpret the past few decades Human Scale offers compelling new insights on how to turn away from the giantism that has caused escalating ecological distress and inequality dysfunctional governments and unending warfare and shines a light on many possible pathways that could allow us to scale down survive and thrive

**Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance** Ali Farazmand, 2023-04-05 This global encyclopedic work serves as a comprehensive collection of global scholarship regarding the vast fields of public administration public policy governance and management Written and edited by leading international scholars and practitioners this exhaustive resource covers all areas of the above fields and their numerous subfields of study In keeping with the multidisciplinary spirit of these fields and subfields the entries make use of various theoretical empirical analytical practical and methodological bases of knowledge Expanded and updated the second edition includes over a thousand of new entries representing the most current research in public administration public policy governance nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations and management covering such important sub areas as 1 organization theory behavior change and development 2 administrative theory and practice 3 Bureaucracy 4 public budgeting and financial management 5 public economy and public management 6 public personnel administration and labor management relations 7 crisis and emergency management 8 institutional theory and public administration 9 law and regulations 10 ethics and accountability 11 public governance and private governance 12 Nonprofit management and nongovernmental organizations 13 Social health and environmental policy areas 14 pandemic and crisis management 15 administrative and governance reforms 16 comparative public administration and governance 17 globalization and international issues 18 performance management 19 geographical areas of the world with country focused entries like Japan China Latin America Europe Asia Africa the Middle East Russia and Eastern Europe North America and 20 a lot more Relevant to professionals experts scholars general readers researchers policy makers and manger and students worldwide this work will serve as the most viable global reference source for those looking for an introduction and advance

knowledge to the field      **Utopia in Zion** Raymond Russell,2012-02-01 Although less famous than Israel's cooperative agricultural settlements the kibbutzim and moshavim Israeli urban worker cooperatives have an equally long and rich history Well over a thousand such organizations have been established in what is now Israel since early in this century This book provides a historical social and economic analysis of contemporary urban worker cooperatives focusing on processes affecting their formation and dissolution their use of nonmember labor and the evolution of their democratic decision making practices over time Raymond Russell examines these cooperatives for the light they can shed on worker ownerships and worker cooperatives in general and on Israeli society in particular Applying a range of sociological and economic theories to examine the dynamics of these organizations over time he finds that both their formation and their later development have been strongly influenced by the uniquely utopian social and economic conditions that prevailed in Jewish Palestine in the first half of the twentieth century      Axial Shift Benjamin Gussen,2019-05-17 This book uses historical analysis constitutional economics and complexity theory to furnish an account of city subsidiarity as a legal ethical political and economic principle The book contemplates subsidiarity as a constitutional principle where cities would benefit from much wider local autonomy Constitutional economics suggests an optimal limit to jurisdictional footprints territories This entails preference for political orders where sovereignty is shared between different cities rather states where capital cities dominate The introduction of city subsidiarity as a constitutional principle holds the key to economic prosperity in a globalizing world Moreover insights from complexity theory suggest subsidiarity is the only effective response to the problem of scale It is a fitness trait that prevents highly complex systems from collapsing The nation state is a highly complex system within which cities function as attractors The collapse of such systems would ensue if there were strong coupling between attractors Such coupling obtains under legal monism Only subsidiarity can make the eventuality of collapse improbable The emergent and self organizing properties of subsidiarity entail a shift in policy emphasis towards cities with a wide margin of autonomy      **Curbing Bailouts** Guillermo Rosas,2009-09-08 Do democratic governments and authoritarian regimes respond to banking crises in the same way      Democratic Empowerment in the European Union David Levi-Faur,Frans van Waarden,2018 This book looks at democratic empowerment via institutional designs that extend the political rights of European citizens It focuses on three themes first the positive and negative effects of the European Union institutional design on the political rights of its citizens second challenges for democratic regimes across the world in the 21st century in the context of regionalism and globalization third the constraints of neoliberalism and capitalist markets on the ability of citizens to effectively achieve their political rights within the Union      **The Constitutionalization of International Law** Jan Klabbers,Anne Peters,Geir Ulfstein,2009-10 The book examines one of the most debated issues in current international law to what extent the international legal system has constitutional features comparable to what we find in national law This question has become increasingly relevant in a time of globalization where new international institutions and courts are established to address

international issues Constitutionalization beyond the nation state has for many years been discussed in relation to the European Union This book asks whether we now see constitutionalization taking place also at the global level The book investigates what should be characterized as constitutional features of the current international order in what way the challenges differ from those at the national level and what could be a proper interaction between different international arrangements as well as between the international and national constitutional level Finally it sketches the outlines of what a constitutionalized world order could and should imply The book is a critical appraisal of constitutionalist ideas and of their critique It argues that the reconstruction of the current evolution of international law as a process of constitutionalization against a background of and partly in competition with the verticalization of substantive law and the delegalization and fragmentation of international law has some explanatory power permits new insights and allows for new arguments The book thus identifies constitutional trends and challenges in establishing international organisational structures and designs procedures for standard setting implementation and judicial functions

*Splitsville USA* Christopher F. Zurn, 2023-05-31

*Splitsville USA* argues that it is time for us to break up to save representative democracy proposing a mutually negotiated peaceful dissolution of the current United States into several new nations Zurn begins by examining the United States democratic predicament a road most likely headed for electoral authoritarianism with distinct possibilities of ungovernability and violent civil strife Unlike others who share this diagnosis Zurn presents a realistic picture of how we can get to reform and what it would involve It is argued that *Splitsville* represents the most plausible way for American citizens to continue living under a republican form of government Despite recent talk of secession and civil war this book offers the most extensive treatment yet of the issues we need to think through to enable a peacefully negotiated political divorce *Splitsville USA* is a provocative conversation opener about the problems that have gotten us into our current political pickle and how to get out of it by seizing the reins of our own constitutional destiny The book will appeal to readers of political science American politics history political philosophy and law along with all general readers interested in the future of democracy in the United States

**Texts adopted** Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, Council of Europe, 2004-08-23

*Governing Partially Independent Nation-Territories* Jan Sundberg, Stefan Sjöblom, 2024-05-31 This book assesses the quality of self government in four northern European regions with strong autonomy rights Examining the experiences of Scotland the Faroe Islands Greenland and the land Islands it considers how these regions have developed their own political and administrative systems within the larger states they form part of The book looks to understand the key democratic and administrative qualities of a functioning self government and how geographic size and economic and human resources can impact the ways in which partially independent territories govern It also assesses the emotional dimensions of regional nationalism and how this impacts the concept and public perception of partially independent nation territories By focusing on the quality of self government within these nation territories the book considers whether strong autonomy contributes to

peaceful co existence within established national borders or provides new munition for secessionist movements It will appeal to students and scholars of sub national governance European politics territorial politics and conflict management

Democracy's Detectives James T. Hamilton,2016-10-10 Investigative journalism holds democracies and individuals accountable to the public But important stories are going untold as news outlets shy away from the expense of watchdog reporting Computational journalism using digital records and data mining algorithms promises to lower the cost and increase demand among readers James Hamilton shows      **Polity** Craig L. Carr,2007-03-29 Students of politics frequently confuse politics with current events and the activities of political actors Lost in this view is a deeper understanding of politics that emphasizes the need for governmental management of many facets of social life It proceeds first by illustrating the need for civil organization in complex social settings and then by examining the way political culture informs the nature and degree of the political organization appropriate for a polity Focusing specifically on U S political culture the work explores American political inheritance in order to expose the enduring ideals and fundamental commitments of American political life This permits a review of American liberalism with its characteristic emphasis upon individual freedom and basic human equality The nature of constitutionalism and democracy are also explored in order to examine their fit with traditional American liberal ideals But politics is also about change and the work concludes with a discussion of the challenges the U S must face as the demands of political management generate pressures that might seem to erode or compromise the ideals of American political culture      *Leadership: Leaders, Followers, Environments (Second Edition)* Laura Gail Lunsford,Art Padilla,2022-07-20 Leadership is more than a being a leader This textbook presents a holistic and readable overview of leadership The dynamics of leadership involve leaders followers and their environments the organizational contexts within which leading and following take place This triangle approach illustrates a more comprehensive view of leadership by focusing on all three dynamics Students benefit from taking the evidence based inventories to learn more about their leadership preferences Six in depth case studies add to the textbook and invite students to explore the application of leadership theory to practice Each chapter ends with key terms comprehension questions and class activities Chapters in this book draw on contemporary research and mini cases to engage students in learning about themes of leadership focused on topics such as ethics effective communication teams mentoring and toxic leadership This book features integration of the case studies in the chapters along with updated literature and mini cases Chapter summaries test banks sample syllabi and slide decks designed by the authors are a new addition for instructors      Children's Social Concepts Hyman Meltzer,1925

Community, Identity and the State Moshe Gammer,2004-08-27 The studies in this volume originated from an international conference on Community Identity and the State held at Tel Aviv University in 2001 The first two chapters examine whether modernisation Westernisation and democratisation are identical and whether democracy is connected to a certain specific type of social structure The third examines similarities in the political economic and social development of

Second World and Third World countries while the fourth discusses the relationship between criminal and normal structures in Russian society Subsequent chapters focus on nationalism using case studies from Argentina Syria and Morocco on the Ulama and national movements in the Middle East on Islamic nationalism in Iran and on the discourse between pan Africanism and Islam The final two chapters examine the effects on tribal politics of the exploitation of oil in Abu Dhabi and the problems of the Kurds in northern Iraq     Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science American Academy of Political and Social Science,1916



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