

Corruption in Europe and Beyond

3 – Functions of Corruption and its Reporting

Introduction

- Is corruption always bad? Ethics and functionality
 - Black, white and gray corruption
 - The Nazi prison guard; people smuggling
- Several perspectives:
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Political
 - Legitimacy
 - International

Economic – 1

- ‘Greasing the cogs’
- Possibly reducing costs
- Developing initiative, creativity and risk-taking
- Protectionism

Economic – 2

- Access to goods in short supply
- Helping authorities to identify imbalances in supply and demand
- Attracting foreign investment if rules (e.g. on environment) can be easily circumvented
- Reporting – increase sales of newspapers!

Social

- Humanising bureaucracy
- Reducing inequalities of access to resources (between officials and those citizens who can afford to bribe them)
- Help to create a wealthy class (Barrington Moore on the bourgeoisie/democracy)
- Can help to build a (somewhat distorted) version of social capital

Political – 1

- Reduce inequalities between political parties in some situations
- Free up upward mobility channels for younger officials and politicians
- Reduce power and influence of state bureaucracies
- Claims to be able to reduce it can be a weapon for politicians, especially at election time

Political – 2

- Act as a pressure valve for dissatisfaction, reduce likelihood of mass unrest
- Keep ‘staffs’ more satisfied, and hence loyal
- Encourage civil society (important in democratisation) – including rise of investigative journalism, whistleblowing; public condemnation generally can make people more critical and politically aware
- Encourage legislation on impropriety
- Assist in peace-keeping

Legitimacy

- Weber's 3 modes
- LTH's 10:
 - Old Traditional
 - Charismatic
 - Goal-rational (teleological)
 - Eudaemonic (performance based)
 - New Traditional
 - Official nationalist
 - Legal rational
 - Official international recognition
 - External encouragement
 - Existence of external role model

International

- Encourage collaboration between countries and agencies
- Further transfer of resources from rich to poor countries
- Counter exclusionary policies of developed states