

Causes of Corruption 2:

System-related – Political, Legal and Social Factors

Corruption in Today's World – 7

Introduction

- Our second batch of factors can be considered in five groupings:
 - the legacy of the past and path-dependency
 - ramifications of multiple and simultaneous transitions
 - the near absence of a bourgeoisie in some countries
 - the near absence of civil society in some countries
 - the social construction of corruption

Starting point

- apparent difference in corruption rates in 'developed states' and both transition and developing states

The legacy of the past (communism & various forms of authoritarianism), & path-dependency - 1

- Hierarchical nature of communism and other authoritarian systems
- Institutional blurring
- States slow to offload functions not typically performed by developed states nowadays, at same time as newly sovereign states had new functions to perform
- Continuity of patronage practices

The legacy of the past (communism & various forms of authoritarianism), & path-dependency - 2

- Poor economic performance
- Legitimation on basis of goal-rationality (teleologism)
- Desire of many post-communist and post-authoritarian politicians to distance themselves as much as possible from past practices

Ramifications of multiple and simultaneous transitions - 1

- Absence of a culture of compromise in post-totalitarian and post-authoritarian systems
- Uncertainty and fragility of early transition
- Fluidity of political parties
- Legislative lag
- Privatisation
- The weak or failed state

The near absence of a bourgeoisie in some countries

- Weber
- Potential sources for privatising economies
- Attitudes towards foreign ownership
- What are the major differences in this area between post-communist and post-authoritarian states?

The near absence of civil society

- The role of NGOs
- The role of the business sector
- The role of the mass media
 - (recall Tiffen's 5 canine models)
- The role of individuals

The Social Construction of Corruption

- Upperworld and underworld crime
- Do different groups in society interpret corruption differently?
- Is corruption a Western construction?

Political, Legal and Social Causes in the Developed World - 1

- Lower rates?
- The decline of the rule-of-law (inc. retrospective legislation)
- Party financing

Party financing

- Possible sources of party financing:
 - Membership dues
 - Donations from individuals (inc. President Obama's innovative approach)
 - Donations from organisations (e.g. corporations, trade unions)
 - Bequests
 - Income from property and investments
 - Income from sales (e.g. of party publications, tee-shirts)
 - Fund-raising (e.g. dinners and other social functions)
 - Tax relief or credits
 - State funding
 - Foreign funding

Political, Legal and Social Causes in the Developed World - 2

- 'Governance'
- 'Smarter' corruption
- Neo-liberalism