

CORRUPTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Kliuchnikava**

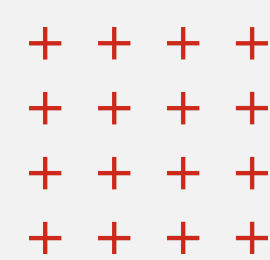


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HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE CORRUPTION?

How to participate?



1

Go to wooclap.com

2

Enter the event
code in the top
banner

Event code

NSCIKJ

DEFINITIONS OF CORRUPTION



**The use of public office
for private gain**

World Bank and IMF authors, Cheryl W. Gray and Daniel Kaufmann

**The single greatest
obstacle to economic
and social development**

World Bank

**A phenomenon that
distorts public policy,
misallocates resources,
and harms the poor**

Transparency International

*Behavior deviating from the
formal duties of a public role
for private-regarding gain*

Samuel P: Huntington

CHALLENGES TO OFFICIAL DEFINITIONS

corruption is too often treated as a
synonym for **bribery**

the offer of any “advantage” in
connection with the
discharge of public duties

**driven by
consensus politics**

Olatunde Julius Otusanya

***“ANY ACT OR OMISSION IN THE
DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTIES BY A
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL [...] FOR
THE PURPOSE OF ILLICITLY
OBTAINING BENEFITS FOR
HIMSELF OR FOR A THIRD
PERSON.”***

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RISK OF CONCEPTUAL MISUSE

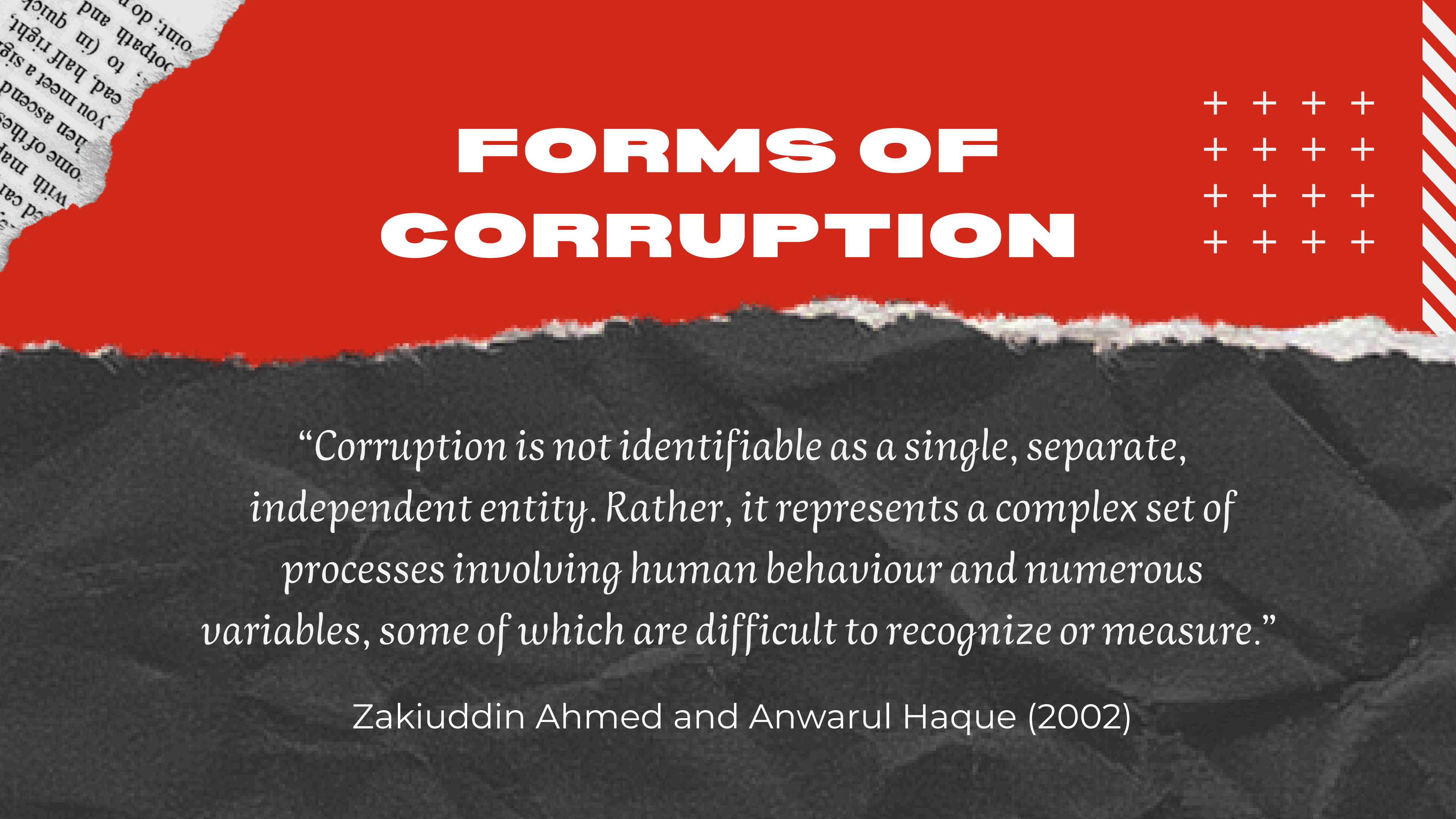
Economic literature reviewed by Benjamin Olken and Rohini Pande warns against conflating corruption with:

- poor governance
- low bureaucratic capacity
- inefficiency
- underdevelopment

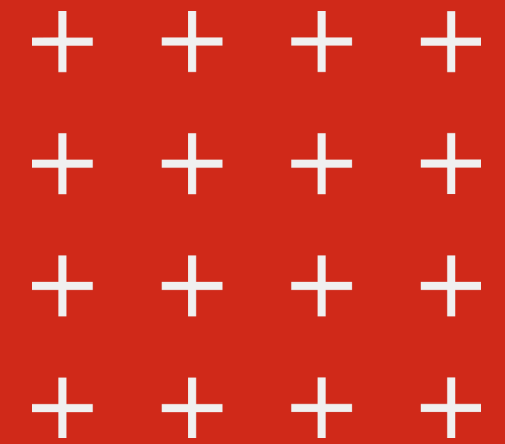
POLITICAL

INSTRUMENTALIZATION

Corruption is sometimes invoked rhetorically to delegitimize regimes or justify institutional change, rather than being employed as a precise analytical category



FORMS OF CORRUPTION



“Corruption is not identifiable as a single, separate, independent entity. Rather, it represents a complex set of processes involving human behaviour and numerous variables, some of which are difficult to recognize or measure.”

Zakiuddin Ahmed and Anwarul Haque (2002)

**WHO DO YOU THINK IS
MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR
CORRUPTION?
THE STATE OR THE
PEOPLE?**



Political or “grand” corruption

Takes place at the highest levels of political authority where policy formulation and legislation are tailored to enable politicians and legislators to derive economic gain

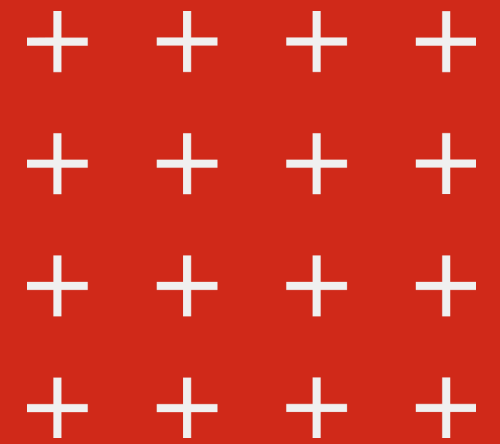
Involves the use of a public office for a pecuniary gain. It involves the practice of buying favours from bureaucrats who are responsible for formulating and administering the government's economic policies

Electoral corruption

bureaucratic corruption

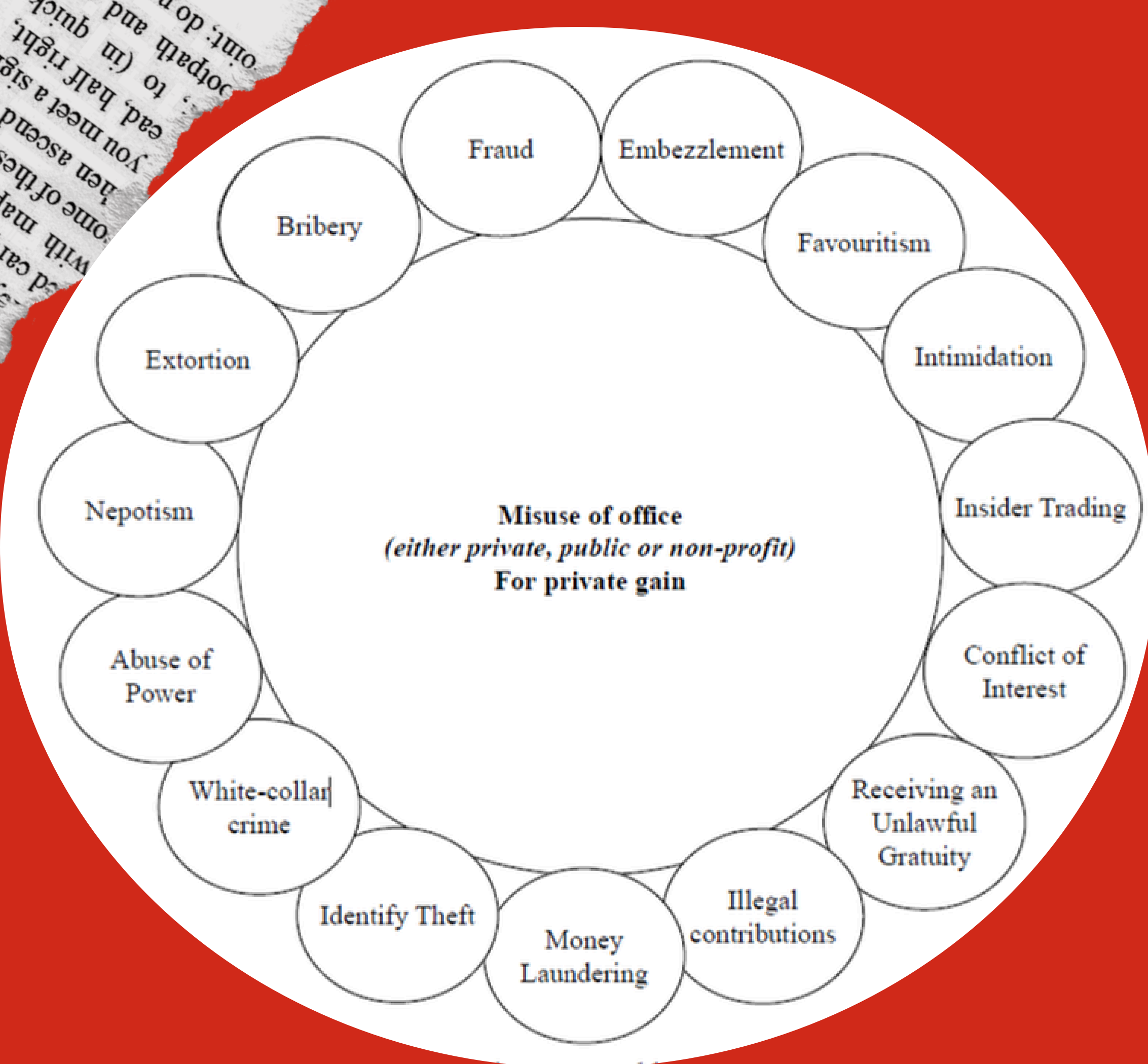
It embraces a range of practices which include illegal attempts to influence the outcome of elections by improperly influencing electoral officials to manipulate the counting of votes.

**CAN YOU NAME SOME
FORMS OF
CORRUPTION?**



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→ These forms of corruption are used interchangeably to mean corruption

→ basic forms of corruption which in a real sense occur with in the broader forms of corrupt practices

→ all interconnected and interact with each other



**HOW CAN CORRUPTION
BE MEASURED?
IS THERE AN
OBJECTIVE WAY?**

→ **NO SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE MEASURE**

All existing indicators capture only partial dimensions

**World
Bank's
Control of
Corruption
Index**

**alternative
measurement
strategies**

- surveys of bribe payers (firms or households);
- direct observation or audits;
- discrepancies between public expenditures and actual costs;
- labor market approaches comparing wages and consumption of public vs. private sector workers.

**Transparency
International's
Corruption
Perceptions
Index (CPI)**

RANK COUNTRIES IN ORDER OF INCREASING LEVEL OF CORRUPTION

BRAZIL

BOTSWANA

EGYPT

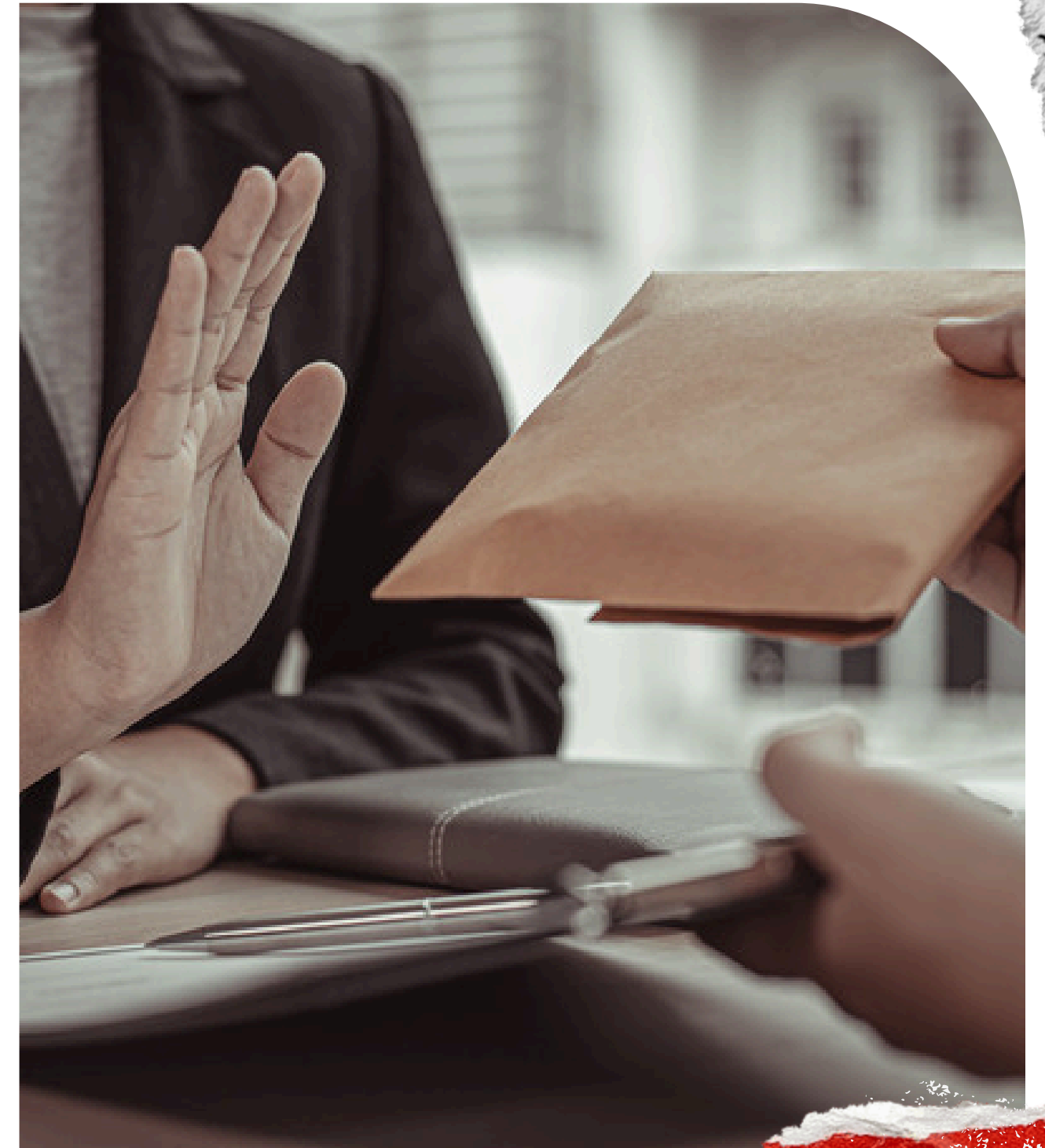
HUNGARY

JAPAN

USA

SOMALIA

CANADA



RANK COUNTRIES IN ORDER OF INCREASING LEVEL OF CORRUPTION

CANADA - 75

JAPAN - 71

THE USA - 65

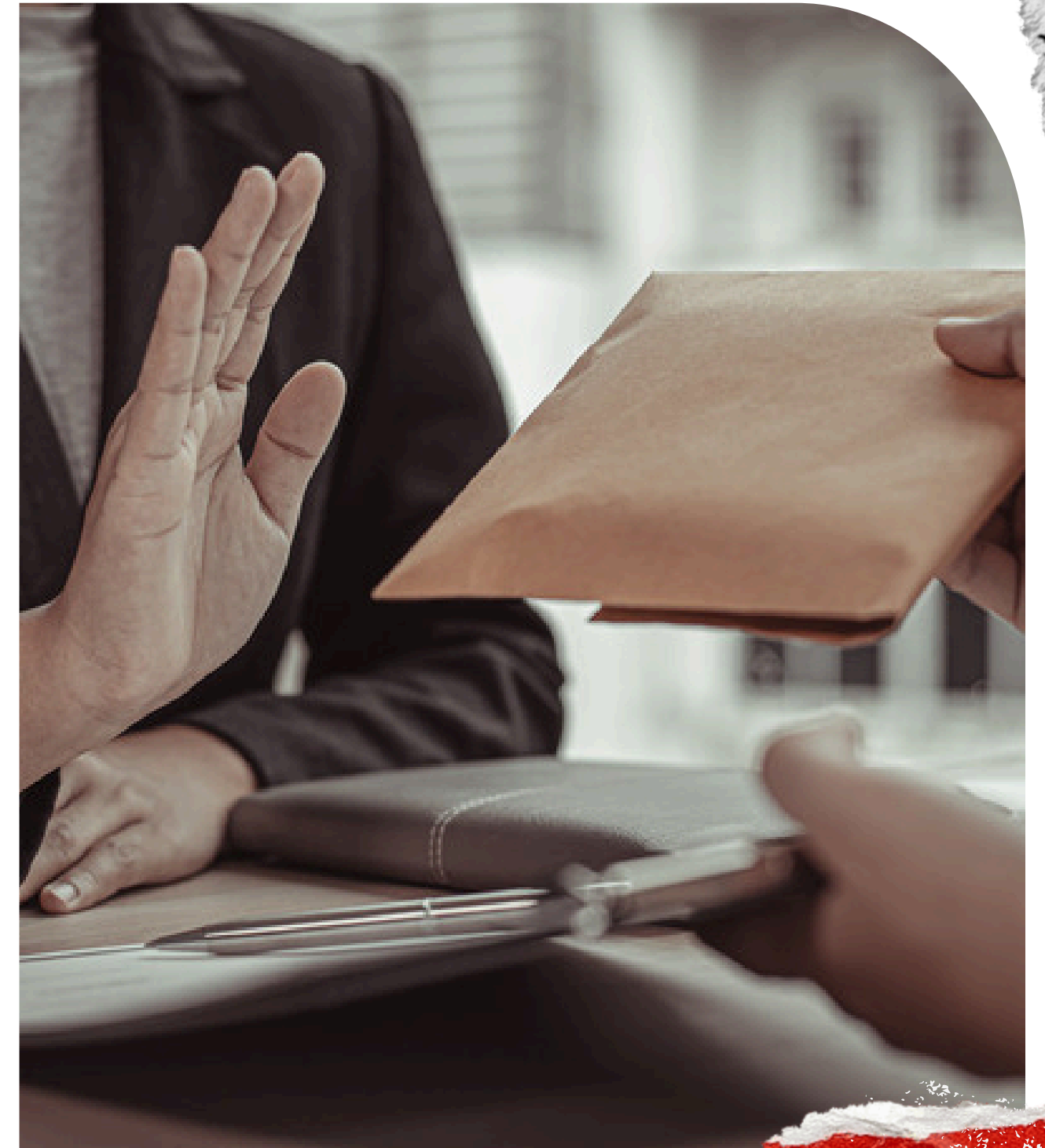
BOTSWANA - 57

HUNGARY - 41

BRAZIL - 34

EGYPT - 30

SOMALIA-9



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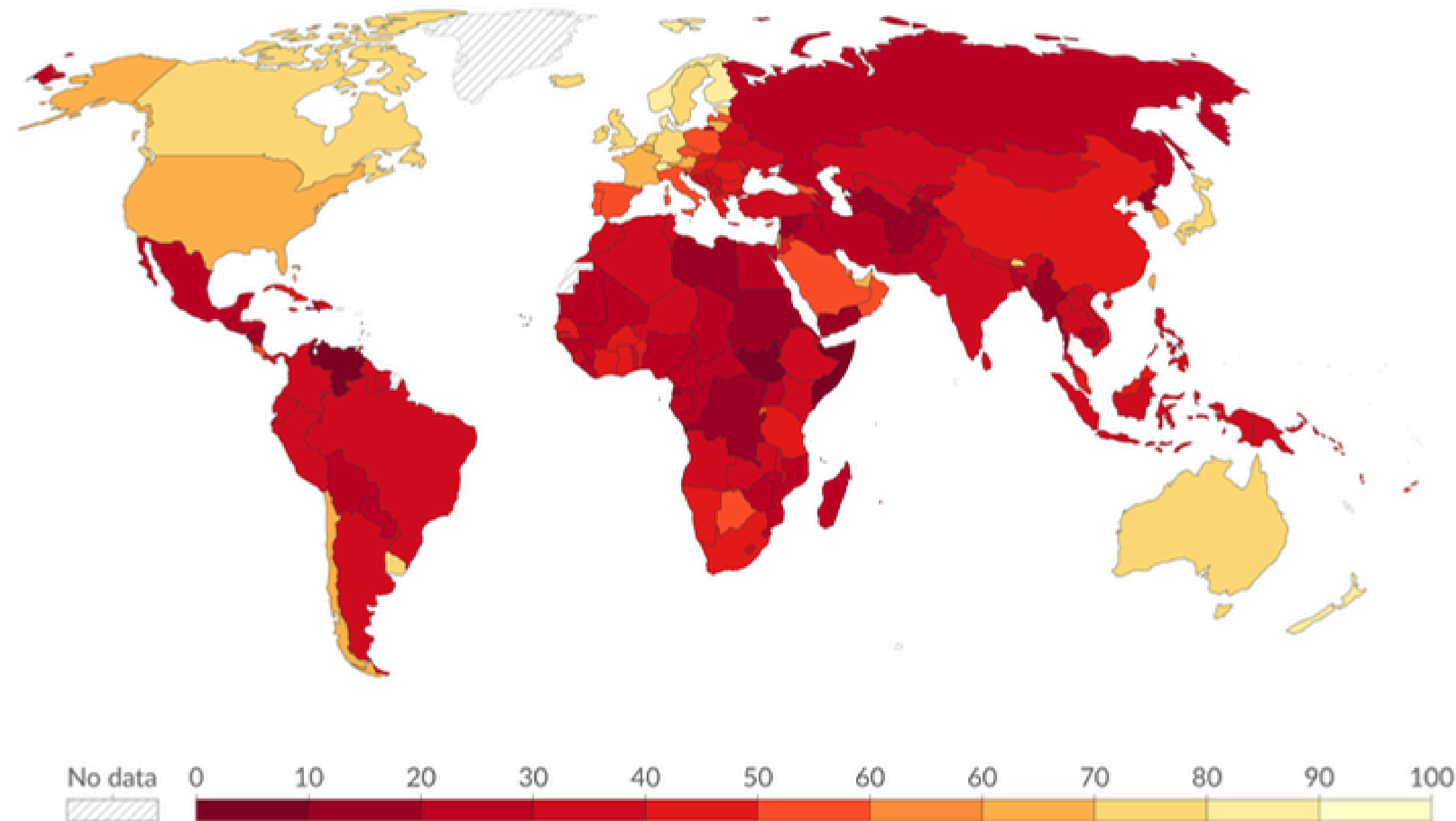
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OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD SCORE BELOW 50/100, CORRUPTION IS THE GLOBAL "NORM," NOT THE EXCEPTION

Corruption Perceptions Index, 2024

Our World
in Data

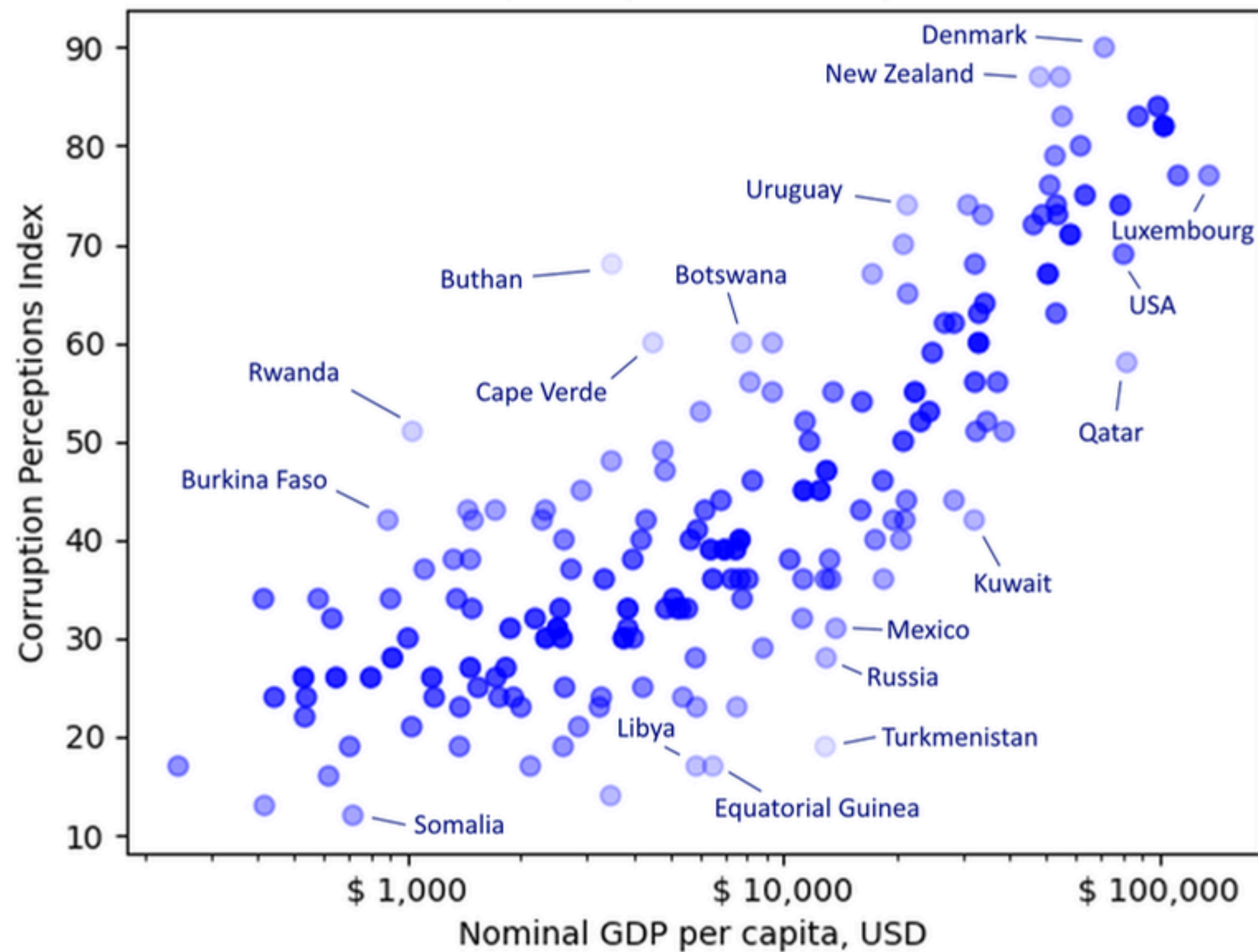
Average score across 13 expert and business surveys on the extent of corruption in the public sector. The index ranges from 0 to 100 (least corrupt).



Data source: Transparency International (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/corruption | CC BY

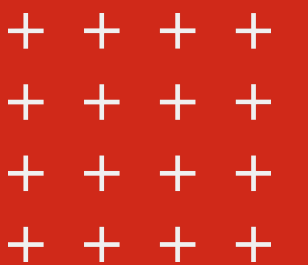
GDP per capita vs. Perceived Corruption



- Zone A (Low GDP / High Corruption): Most of the world. Here, corruption is often survival-based.
- Zone B (High GDP / Low Corruption): Most Western nations and "Asian Tigers" (Singapore, Japan). Wealth allows higher civil servant salaries, reducing the need for bribes.
- Zone C (The Outliers): Botswana, Georgia. They are the countries that "punched above their weight"—having lower GDP but achieving the transparency of a rich nation through reform.

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REASONS FOR HAVING HIGH/LOW CORRUPTION LEVELS



REASONS FOR HAVING HIGH CORRUPTION LEVELS

- Greed
- Corruption as a "Survival Strategy"
- Self-reinforcing loop
- Resource curse
- Different pillars of control (strong institutions vs copying the laws)



GLOBAL TRENDS

Since 2012, **32** countries significantly improved their scores, while **47** countries significantly worsened.

Top Improvers:

Seychelles (+20): Success through active prosecution of high-profile cases.

Moldova (+10): Success driven by the goal of European integration.

Top Decliners:

United Kingdom (-10): Drop due to pandemic scandals

Russia (-7): Drop due to media suppression and lack of budget transparency.

South Africa (Score: 41): A worrying trend, dropping 3 points since 2019.

Massive "state capture" scandals and theft from energy provider Eskom—estimated at US\$56 million monthly—have deeply hurt public trust.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Average: 33/100 (Lowest globally).
90% of countries score below 50.

Top Leaders: Seychelles (72), Cabo Verde (62),
and Rwanda (57).

The Decliners: Eswatini (-16) and South Africa
(-3) are sliding due to institutional breakdown
and "state capture" scandals.

Bribery: 22% of Africans using public services
reported paying a bribe for basic rights like
healthcare in 2024.



THE CASE OF BOTSWANA

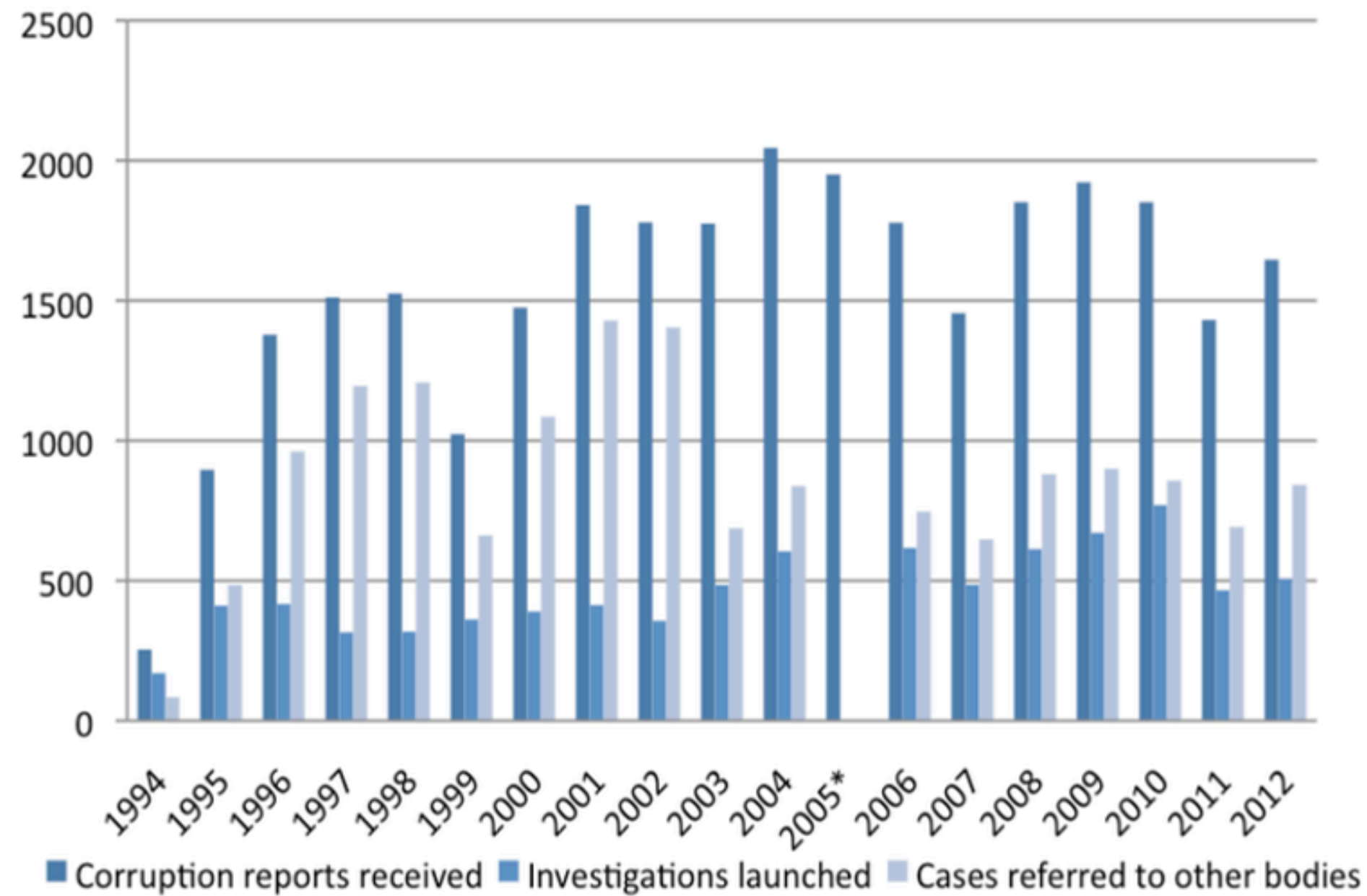


- The 1994 Turning Point: Botswana created the DCEC (Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime).
- Success Factors:
 - Independence: The DCEC reports directly to high authorities and has the power to arrest and freeze assets.
 - Botswana avoided the "Resource Curse" by using diamond wealth for infrastructure rather than elite enrichment.
 - Education: Anti-corruption is part of the school curriculum and public servant training.

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THE CASE OF BOTSWANA

Figure 2: Disposition of Corruption Reports to the DCEC



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THE CASE OF BOTSWANA

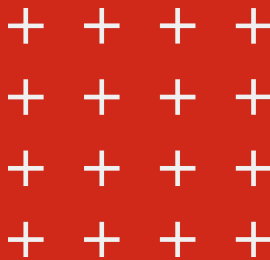
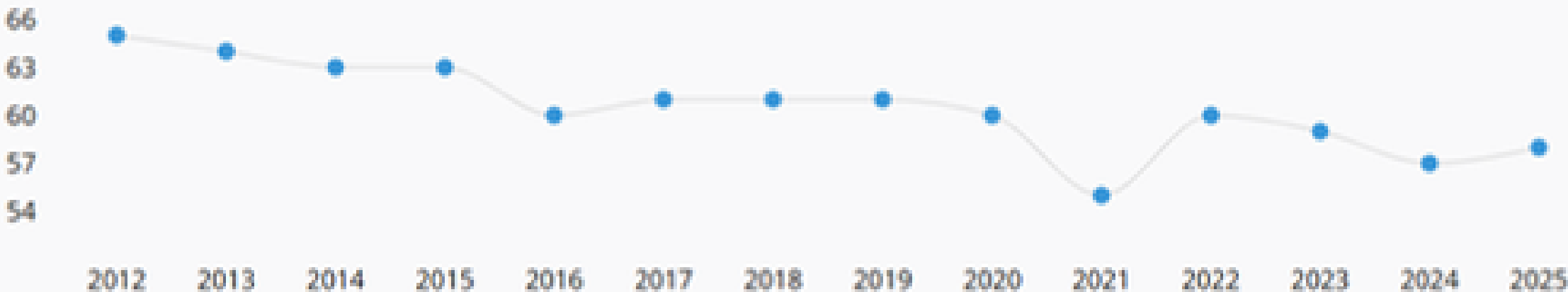
BOTSWANA

Score
58/100

Rank
41/182

Score change
↑ +1 Since 2024

Score changes 2012 - 2025



EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION

ON THE POPULATION

- reduced access to basic services
- erosion of public trust
- impact on health and education
- increased poverty and inequality

CORRUPTION IS THE ENEMY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN
RIGHTS

ILLUSTRATIONS



- Building collapse in Bangladesh in 2013, killing more than on thousands of workers
- Peru's case : poor people living in slums without access to basic services and a small proportion is immensely rich = unfair distribution





ECONOMIC EFFECTS



- **Lowers foreing direct investments as well as domestic investments**
- **Retards economic growth to a certain extent**
- **Might reduce the effectivness of aid flows throught the diversion of funds**
- **May disort the composition of government expenditure**

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CORRUPTION LEVELS VARY :

- Distorted Public Spending : Corrupt governments prefer to spend money on large, complex projects rather than education or health (it's easier to hide kickbacks in big contracts)
 - Large subsidy programs (fuel or agriculture) : Create “rent-seeking” opportunities where people bribe official to get access to these funds
 - Lower Quality Infrastructure : Corruption leads to “shoddy” work : in corrupt systems, roads and building fail sooner because contractors used cheaper materials to cover the cost of the bribe
 - Trade Restrictions : Countries with high tariffs and trade quotas tend to have more corruption because businesses pay bribes to bypass these barriers
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CORRUPTION CONTRIBUTES TO GENDER INEQUALITY AND ENDANGER THE YOUTH



- Women are often victims of sextortion, the abuse of authority where sexual services are used as a currency for corruption.
- Women depend more on public services like healthcare, education and social welfare
- Young people are heavily impacted because of the weakening of education systems and job markets

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EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION

ON JUSTICE AND POLITICS

- Judiciary and law enforcement can be compromised by bribery and political interference
- Courts fail to act independently as justice officials prioritize the interests of those in power
- Weakens political institutions and undermines democratic governance

BENEFITS OF CORRUPTION ?



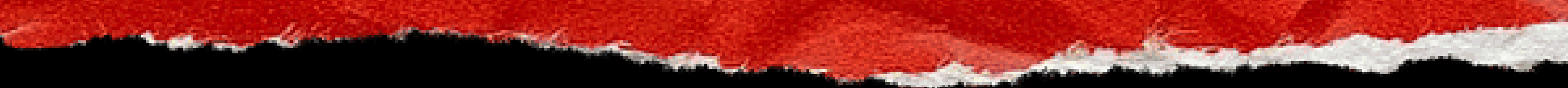
The “Grease the wheels” hypothesis : corruption can help the economy bc it seems to facilitate economic activity in situations where bureaucracy is inevitable and institutions are very weak. Idea that if corruption is done to avoid things like taxes, then more money can be put back into the economy through local business on investments, which boost growth at the expense of public funding

In cases where bribery appears to speed up processes = doesn't mean growth arises from corruption itself

PUBLIC OPINION

PUBLIC OPINION RELATED TO CORRUPTION MATTERS BECAUSE
IT LEADS TO :

- Political pressures for reforms : citizens can be motivate to ask for stronger accountability, transparency reforms and anti-corruption laws
- Trust in institutions : persistent perceptions of corruption can reduce trust in government, judiciary and civil service
- Civil engagement : if people feel that corruption is unavoilable and widespreading, they may become more disengaged from politics and may withdraw from participating

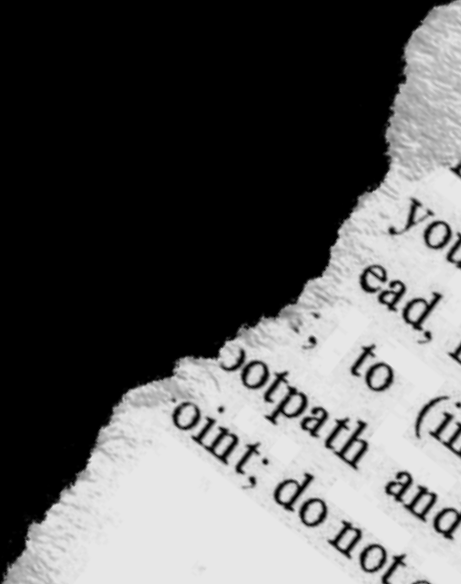


COMPARISON BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



In advanced democratic countries with strong institutions, there is less societal acceptance of corruption and harsher punishments when it's discovered. So it means that people conducting these crimes will try even harder to be discreet about it

But it can still occurs....



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CORRUPTIONS WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT



- *Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy had been convicted in 2021 in a campaign finance related corruption and influence peddling case. He was also found guilty last year of criminal association related to alleged illegal campaign financing links to Libya, resulting in a five-year prison sentence*
- *Marine Le Pen and others members of her party were convicted for misusing European Parliament funds to pay party workers not doing actual parliamentary work*

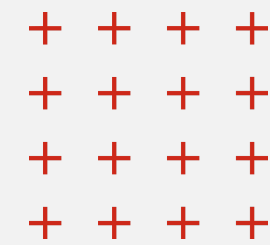
SOLUTIONS FOR CORRUPTION

**Many developing
countries have
adopted:**

- anti-corruption
laws,**
- enforcement
agencies,**
- investigative
frameworks**

- International
organisations
frame corruption
control as
essential for:**
- institutional
capacity,**
 - public trust,**
 - state legitimacy**

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND CONVENTIONS



2003 - United Nations Convention Against Corruption



2003 - African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption



2000 - United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime



1997 - OECD Anti-Bribery Convention

BUT

Lack of a unified international legal approach which weakens effectiveness

Legal regulation alone is insufficient

Existing legal frameworks **need to be strengthened**

anti-corruption strategies must be **tailored** to national contexts

GOVERNANCE AND “GOOD GOVERNMENT” REFORMS

democratic legitimacy through
elections with effective political
opposition,
transparency and information
access,

separation of powers,
internal and external audit systems,
competent public administration,
impartial criminal justice systems

Anti-corruption reform is linked to:

- political liberalisation,
- economic liberalisation,
- participatory development,
- protection of human rights

A **freer press, competitive party politics, and independent institutions** are **expected** to reduce corruption by increasing exposure risk

E-GOVERNMENT & DIGITAL GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

Emerging technologies are **not a panacea** — their impact depends on institutional, political, and social contexts.



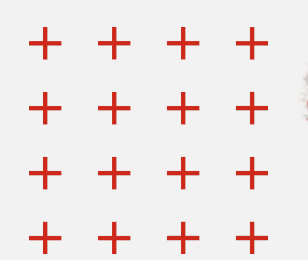
- Support transparency and accountability.
- Improve oversight and citizen engagement.
- Reduce some corruption opportunities.



- Create new corruption risks.
- Fail without institutional reform.
- Be misused by corrupt actors.

Are emerging technologies helping win the fight against corruption in developing countries?
Isabelle Adam & Mihály Fazekas





ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM ? THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO

**Despite widespread efforts corruption often remains
high**

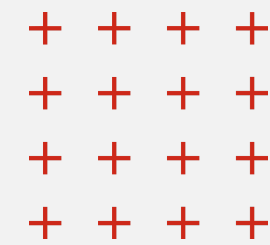
Implementation gaps include:

- weak enforcement,**
- political interference,**
- institutional fragility**

**A major structural difficulty is that it is only
possible to eradicate corrupt practices if they
are visible**

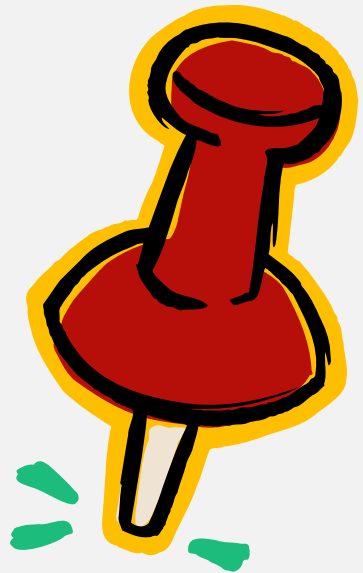
**Hidden corruption remains resistant to
enforcement**

SOCIAL AND NORMATIVE SOLUTIONS



Public awareness and information access

- **greater public awareness** of governmental activities and corruption risks
- expansion of Freedom of Information (**FOI**) regimes
- Freedom of information legislation
- ensuring citizens' rights to **access** government records

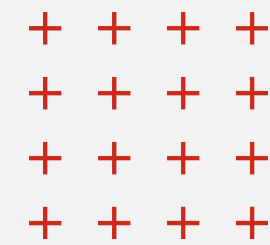


Re-socialization and education

- **raising awareness** of corruption's long-term harms,
- fostering ethical norms,
- embedding integrity values
- **education and social awareness campaigns** as complementary to legal enforcement



TO WRAP UP



WHAT WORKED & promising measures

- Good governance reforms.
- Political + economic liberalisation.
- Independent oversight institutions.
- E-government and digital transparency.
- Procurement monitoring systems.
- Criminalisation of bribery.
- Whistleblower / qui tam enforcement.
- Education and social awareness.

MEASURES THAT MIGHT WORK

- Context-tailored reforms.
- Collective-action approaches.
- Citizen empowerment + media scrutiny.
- Technology-driven transparency systems.

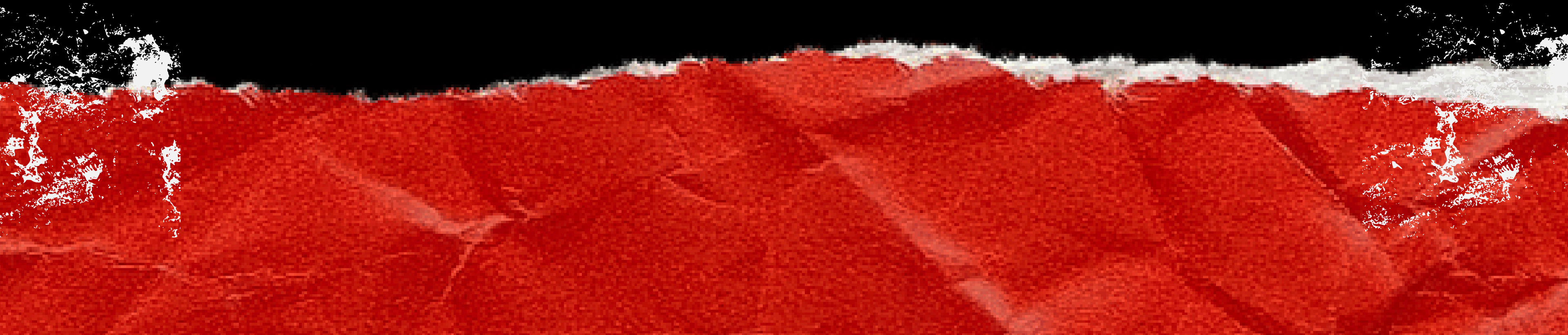
MEASURES THAT DIDN'T WORK

- Legal reforms without enforcement.
- Fragmented international conventions.
- Anti-corruption agencies in systemic corruption contexts.
- Principal-agent enforcement where no “clean principals” exist.
- Universal one-size-fits-all strategies.

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LET'S DEBATE!



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QUOTES

**“WHERE THERE IS POWER, GREED, AND
MONEY, THERE IS CORRUPTION.”
— KEN POIROT**

**“WHEN CORRUPTION IS ALREADY
WIDESPREAD, THE REAL TASK IS TO
PROTECT WHAT IS STILL CLEAN.”
— TOBA BETA**

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