**Political Disorder: An Analysis of Political Corruption**

**Moses Akinborho**

**Monmouth College**

*Presented at*

*26th Annual Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science*

*Normal, IL*

*April 27, 2018*

**Abstract**

Why does a government that claims to have the best interest of its people at heart fall into the hands of corruption? This paper argues that political corruption is an issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later, not because it’s a product of bad political practice, but because of its effects on the lives of those who find themselves governed under a corrupt leader. It is easy to look at corrupt states and quickly set blame to the economic status of that state. While this might be a valid reason for explaining why a certain state is corrupt, it is merely a single brush stroke that only tells part of the story while ignoring the full picture. Moreover, the economical failure of a country is a consequence of corruption rather than a reason for its existence. Mineral dependence, power distribution/lack of accountability, and rent-seeking are factors that either together, or sometimes single handedly, lead countries into the hands of corruption. The paper will examine Venezuela and Somalia, two countries globally recognized for their corrupt policies. Knowing what the causes are for corruption will not only help already corrupt countries to gain back control. It will also help countries that are on the brink of, or that will sometime in the future face, corruption.

“It erodes public confidence in political institutions and leads to contempt for the rule of law; it distorts the allocation of resources and undermines competition in the market place; it has a devastating effect on investment, growth and development. Furthermore, corruption exacts an inordinately high price on the poor by denying them access to vital basic services”

-Enery Quinones.

Political Disorder: An Analysis of Political Corruption

We have seen nations rise and fall, along with their ideologies of how a country should be run, over the course of human history. Too often we have seen regime ideologies fail, and even sometimes destroy a country’s economy. In countries where ideals like socialism, communism, or fascism, for example, were practiced, the countries citizens were forced to be by standers as they watched the strengths of their country’s political ideologies be crushed under the weight of its own weaknesses, and those same citizens forced suffer as a result of the inefficient execution of their nations politics. It was inadequate for either of these ideologies mentioned to survive under the ever-changing political climate of our world. Could this be because the ideologies of these different government systems were so fundamentally weak that they failed to survive when put to practice? Perhaps, but even when the foundation of a political ideology is strong it is still vulnerable to be exploited and therefore susceptible to failure. Take democracy, for example, a political ideology globally recognized for its success in the western nations of our world (namely the United States, Europe and the like). Democracy pushes for a political system where the functions of the government ultimately works in the name of the people, through the people and for the people, and its system worked incredibly well for the United States and all western nations alike. In fact, it worked so well that the nations of the west saw democracy as the standard that all political systems much model itself after. And with that the west decided to spread the ideals of democracy to other countries operating under a different political system. Iraq, for instance, was one such country, and was operating under a dictatorship ruled by Saddam Hussein.

The narrative behind the united states being involved in the Iraq War came to be to alleviate the country from its harsh dictatorship and instill democracy so that the people can live a better life, a life more identical to that of Americans, a life where they can be free and where their government would work for them instead of the other way around. The United States was successful in getting rid of the dictatorship in Iraq but unfortunately democracy failed to prevail in the region, in fact, there was lash back and citizens rebelled against it causing the war that nearly destroyed the entire country. “…there's a lot more to democracy than [Majority rule] - equality before the law, due process, personal freedoms, property rights, etc. For many Iraqis, those items remain as unattainable today as they were under Saddam Hussein.” (Thompson, War Without End). This quote highlights that there are many factors to consider when you try to examine why a system of government did not work in one country when it worked so well in other one.

Though, not all situations are as extreme as what happened in Iraq, but in Iraq lies an example of a situation where simply because a political system worked in Country A does not necessarily mean it will be healthy enough to work for country B. This is not because democracy is foundationally weak - we know it is not because we have seen great nations built and flourish under political ideology and laws of a democracy – but because there are other factors that come in to play as explained earlier. One such factor is Corruption caused by what this paper will refer to as the Human Element. This element takes into consideration the behavior of the people who are given the power govern. It takes into consideration the behavioral actions of people in government, how they treat the power that they have and how they treat those that they govern. When not properly monitored this human element can lead to Corruption as we have seen many times in governments like Syria, Venezuela, Nigeria, South Sudan Etc. where citizens are officially/unofficially forbidden to question political actions taken by their governments. Corruption, in many cases of failed government, is notorious for being the reason behind the lack of economic progress of a nation.

This paper has two purposes: to define and discuss the problem of corruption and to examine the factors that cause corruption. I will be explaining what the meaning of corruption is and how it works to negatively affect both the efficiency of government procedures and the efficiency of responsibilities that any government would normally be responsible for (a good health care system, education, citizen protection etc.). After that, I will present and explore two situations that ultimately leads to a healthy environment for corruption to flourish. First, I will talk about Mineral Dependence, also known as the Resource curse, a situation where countries rely on a resource for income and that resource is then exploited by the leadership. In cases where the resource curse is present in a country, the government tends to hold on to all profits rather than put the money back into their country’s economy. After that I will look at Power Distribution, which covers how power is distributed, who it is distributed to, how is it distributed? Most importantly, are there checks in place to ensure that power is vulnerable to question? The paper will mainly be focused on analyzing Political/Governmental Corruption and its impact on the country that government is responsible for.

The issue of corruption is important and deserves some attention because of its effect not just on the countries that are affected, but also because of its effect on the global economy. If we truly are looking to build up a world where everyone is treated equally without the next person having hidden political advantages, or if we really are looking to improve the global economy so that everyone in every single country is able to live comfortably, then we must address the issue of corruption. This analysis will be further expounded upon by application to a country notorious for its governments high level of activity when it comes to corruption: Nigeria. This will help to show the true effects that corruption has on the efficiency of a country.

Finally, I must make it clear that in my analysis of specifying the causes of corruption I am simply stating a hypothesis instead of already proven fact, but I have attempted to carefully frame my hypothesis in a way that if studied by anybody else, it can be easily followed and possibly expanded upon.

**What is Corruption?**

To begin, Corruption is a word that has different meanings. It also plays a role as a word used to broadly define other actions – actions such as bribery, nepotism, embezzlement, extortion just to name few. One common definition of the word Corruption explains it as the “Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power”. The problem with this definition is that only gives a broad explanation of what Corruption means and the impact that it has on the well-being of a country, its citizens, and its economy. There is so much that happens in a country when that countries government is corrupt that it is unfair to refer to it simply as “an abuse of power”. When a policeman or policewoman uses his/her position to wrongfully convict someone for a crime or a teacher purposely fails a student, we can then say that is an abuse of power. Another definition, from Webster’s Third New International Dictionary 1961, looks at corruption as an “inducement by means of improper considerations [such as bribery] to commit a violation of duty.” In his essay, *The Effects of Corruption in a Developing Nation,* as David H. Bayley tries to distinguish between corruption as understood by western nations and corruption as understood by non-western nations. He explains that the above definition of the word, from the Webster’s dictionary, are made from the point of view of the nations of the west. He explains that “in both Africa and India [and other non- western nations alike] the idea of corruption is different than what western countries understand it to be. The man who uses his official position to obtain job for his relatives is not considered immoral [or ‘corrupt’]: in traditional terms, he is only doing what every loyal member of an extended family is expected to do” (Bayley, P. 721). In these traditional worlds unaffected by western values, bribery and nepotism are not factors they consider to be a part of corruption; they simply view these actions as part of doing the things that needs to be done in order to properly fulfil one’s duty to their family.

 Between these 2 definitions, the western explanation for corruption is the definition that will be used for the entirety of this paper. Though it is a satisfactory definition, I will like to add to it: Corruption is an inducement by means of improper considerations to commit a violation of duty that negatively affects not just the public life but also economy of the affected country. If I were to use the traditional definition of the word then I will end up finding myself in a loop where a new definition for corruption is needed to fit each new traditional region that I examine. This would not only be inefficient and counterproductive, but will also create confusion and communication issues for anyone looking to dig deeper into my research. Also, the western definition is more general, and is already a known definition of the word across the globe, and more understood by majority of the world’s population. It makes it easier for everyone to refer to the one definition understood by all as opposed to having a new definition for each case that might be looked at.

 “It erodes public confidence in political institutions and leads to contempt for the rule of law; it distorts the allocation of resources and undermines competition in the market place; it has a devastating effect on investment, growth and development. Furthermore, corruption exacts an inordinately high price on the poor by denying them access to vital basic services” (Quinones, “What is corruption?”). Corruption exists in many forms, it exists on every level on the socio-economic ladder of the world and it is seen in action every single day. It involves both private-sector corruption, and public-sector corruption. Private-sector corruption involves things like “bribery, undue influence, trafficking, fraud, money laundering and collusion” (Engaging the private…). The goal in private-sector corruption involves engaging in any one of the activities previously mentioned in order to benefit one’s own pocket. This normally involves private actors like an individual person, a cartel, or a business. According to the transparency international Corruption Index website, private-sector corruption contributes to health and safety problems in countries, as well as environmental damage, economic instability, and human rights violations.

On the other hand, Public-sector corruption, are corrupt practices that involves “any kind of abuse of entrusted power” (What is public…) by the government and any of its decentralized units, which includes the military, police, schools, healthcare system, public roads and transit authorities. Actions of corruption in the public-sector involves bribery, embezzlement, patronage, nepotism, conflict of interest, and procurement. This type of corruption itself has two sub-types of corruption that it can be classified into; Grand corruption and petty corruption. Grand corruption involves acts that are committed at the higher levels of government that negatively affects policies or the central functions of the country, allowing the leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good. For example, in 1996, two former South Korean presidents, Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-Hwan, were both found guilty in a corruption case that linked them to the Chaebols (which were large family owned businesses with strong political ties), that had paid off top political leaders in exchange for unfair business advantages (Blechinger, “Report on Recent…). Petty corruption is the abuse of entrusted power by low and mid-level officials in their everyday interactions with ordinary citizens. An example of this presents itself in Bangladesh where a study revealed that 44 percent of people surveyed reported being a victim of petty corruption in public health centers, while another 39 percent had reportedly been victims to petty corruption with the public education system.

Though both types of corruption contribute to the virus that corruption brings into society, the discussion in this paper will primarily be geared toward analyzing public-sector corruption. Because corruption in the public sector affects more than just a sub-division of society. It affects society as a whole as it slowly breaks down an infected countries economy and makes the day to day life of citizens under that system to be near unbearable.

**Causes of Corruption**

In order to properly identify the proper causes, and then possible solutions, of corruption, it is important to understand what the word means. As explained earlier, Corruption is an inducement by means of improper considerations to commit a violation of duty that negatively affects not just the public life but also the economy of the affected country. This definition highlights that corruption is something that is caused by the actions carried out by those in power.

Some might disagree and argue instead that corruption stems from the weak laws of the affected country. To address those arguments, I ask the question; who exactly is responsible for those laws? Who is responsible for making sure that those weak laws never change? The answer is simply the same government that is corrupt. Corruption doesn’t stem from weak laws, rather it occurs when a country’s politics is so fundamentally weak to begin with that it makes it so vulnerable that it creates situations that make it easy to be exploited. Take a political system like democracy for example, a political system currently being used by the western countries of the world. In order for democracy to function properly, it has installed certain “roadblocks” to keep the government from getting too powerful. Starting by placing the voting power of who should be in political office in the hands of the people, democracy builds a system where the government ultimately has to answer to the citizens and the citizens can safely criticize the actions of the government, and it doesn’t stop there. Within this democratic government itself, there is another roadblock in the form of the checks and balances system. The system of checks and balances makes sure that the powers of the government are shared between 3 main branches of government that operate independently from each other: The Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary. And to ensure one branch doesn’t gain more power than the other branches, or gain so much power that it takes the sole leadership role in the country, the system gives each branch a specific power that enables it to check on the actions of another branch. This not only forces the government to answer to the people but also enables it to have to answer to itself, suffocating any chance of corruption prevailing. This is not to say that there are no cases of corruption in a democracy, but what separates democracy from the rest is that when an official is found to be engaged in any type of corrupt activity, that official is dealt with accordingly with the appropriate punishment. Also, Democracy creates a relationship through taxation with its citizens. By paying taxes citizens have a reason to be invested in knowing what their government is doing and the government, by receiving taxes, are obligated to open itself somewhat to the public eye.

“A government living on oil revenues [or any revenue gained from corrupt activities] does not need to develop a strong tax base or cultivate popular support through consistent programs.” (Hammond, 352). In a country where there are no roadblocks in place that forces the government to have to answer to the people and where the government is able to act without checking itself, like a dictatorship or authoritarian governments are set up, it becomes very easy for the officials under this government to do as they please knowing that they will never have to face any form of repercussions. This means that the leaders can do whatever they want without having to answer to or explain their actions to the anyone. We see an example of this in Odebrecht's relationship with Venezuela's leadership. Odebrecht is a Brazilian construction company that managed the development of major projects in the region. The construction giant was the go-to company in the Americas and beyond for everything involving the building of highways, bridges, and tunnels. That was until the company admitted to running an enormous bribery scheme through a secret department. These bribery schemes involved numerous corrupt deals with the government in the region, including Venezuela’s leadership. For example, in late 2016, the company had to pay a settlement with the united states, Brazil, and Switzerland of up to $4.5 billion, thanks to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, for its involvement in a bribe scheme that involved $800 million in payoffs in exchange for lucrative contracts. “the company paid bribes on 100 projects in more than a dozen countries, from Mexico to Angola, in one case buying a local bank branch to hide the transactions, and even opening a division specifically dedicated to payoffs” (Casey, New York Times). After almost 3 years of investigations, 77 of Odebrecht executives have signed plea deals, and the company's former chief executive, Marcelo Odebrecht, has been sent to prison. Hugo Chavez, the former president of Venezuela before his death, was recorded as one of Odebrecht's principal patrons, spending close to $11 billion toward Odebrecht for infrastructure projects. Even after the death of Hugo Chavez, the relationship between Odebrecht and the Venezuelan government did not stop as the Vice president to Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro, made sure to continue to manage these corrupt deals. Not long after Mr. Chavez died, Euzenando Prazeres de Azevedo, who managed the Venezuelan operations of Odebrecht, says he was approached by Americo Mata, who he explained as the head of Venezuela’s rural development agency. According to Mr. Azevedo, Mr. Mata presented himself as a “representative of Mr. Nicolas Maduro”. “‘We met at various times at a Venezuelan delicatessen, and one day he asked for a contribution’” (Casey, New York Times) which in other words was Venezuela’s new president notifying Odebrecht about his interest in continuing the same type of business Hugo Chavez was involved in.

Cases such as those do have a habit of happening more in countries where the government is able to act independently of the people as explained earlier. What makes this even more of a problem is that the wellbeing of citizens under such a country relies heavily on the efficiency of their government. When the government’s focus is predominantly set on enriching the pockets of the leadership rather than enriching the well-being of the country’s economy we much ask the questions: how does a country reach this point? What leads a country to fall into the hands of corruption? What are the causes?

**Mineral dependence**

Mineral dependence, also known as the Resource curse, occurs when a country relies on one sole export to carry the load of it economic progression. Naturally, there should be nothing wrong with a government trying to make money through the resources that comes from the land it governs as long as the profits made from that resource/export makes its way back into the development of the country’s economy. A problem arises when a country’s government fails to make sure that the revenues gained from those exports are going back into the country to improve the country’s economic performance. In these countries, rather than use the resource as a tool to further national development, that resource becomes a conduit used to harm the economic development of that country. And it has been a proven fact that resource rich countries do tend to be more corrupt. The figure below shows Sachs and Warner (1995) measure of natural resource abundance against the Political Risk Service’s corruption index in 1990, an inverse measure of corruption. It shows us that corruption does in fact tend to be higher in resource rich countries. In this index, the lower the number the country is ranked, the more corrupt it is. Take Nigeria - NGA for example (towards the bottom right of the graph), a country formerly known as the giant of Africa, whose economy is currently heavily reliant on its oil production. With over 90 percent of its export earnings coming from oil, the country is currently the 8th largest oil producer in the world. We see in the graph that Nigeria sits comfortably on the right half of the graph as one of the world’s top natural resource producer, but if we pay attention to the Y-axis on the graph that shows the index values, we see it is also amongst the countries sitting at the bottom, showing its level of corruption.



 That is not to say that there are no resource rich countries where the resource is not properly used. In fact, countries such as Canada, with various minerals including oil as one of its main exports, manages to make sure that its economy remains healthy despite its resource abundance. In a study done by Sambit Bhattacharyya and Roland Hodler, they found that resource abundant countries with a strong democracy are less likely to fall victim to corruption while resource abundant countries with a weak (or non-existent) democracy tend to have corruption play a role in how their politics operate. Their research explains that a country being resource abundant is not enough to expect its leadership to be corrupt, rather the responsibility, or lack thereof, to keep out corruption relies on whether its leadership is a strong democracy or a weak one. Strong democracies make it harder to exploit resources for private gain while a weak democracy would not even put up a fight against exploitation. As explained earlier in the paper, a democracy creates a system where it is near impossible for a leadership to act by itself. It would either need to answer to the people or to itself through the checks and balances system. That system makes sure that everyone working in the government is held accountable for their actions. In a government where such a system has not been properly implemented, or the system is simply nonexistent, it becomes very easy for the leadership to be involved with corruption.

Mineral dependence is also an issue when a country becomes dependent on one single export. Take an export like oil for example. An IMF paper, by Jan-Peter, explains that “the living conditions in most oil producers are close to or below the average for sub-Saharan African countries”. Nicholas Shaxson (2007) explains that “Oils booms…promote bursts of temporary headline economic growth, followed by hangovers so deep that growth in the very long term is often lower than it would have been without the resource”. This dependence on one sole resource forces a country to be economically vested in that resource. This creates a situation where the worth of trading with the country is determined by how well that resource is doing on the market. If that markets suffers, so will the country’s economy because so much has been put into the one resource that other trading options were never given a chance to flourish in that country. So, the country’s economy will suffer until either the prices of the resource become favorable for it again, the government stops milking the country and work on the long process it would take to get its economy back on track, or the government will simply leave things as is and continue to feed its own pockets with whatever profits is being made by the country.

**Power distribution**

Power Distribution is the second main cause of corruption. Seeing as this paper is looking at corruption at the Public/Political level, it is right to take a look at how power is distributed amongst the political elite. As members of the political elite, from Presidents or dictators to vice presidents to executives etc., there is a huge responsibility to make sure that you maintain the economy of your country. The goal ordinarily is to make sure that the country does not sink or that the country is left in a better state than when you first took office. In countries like the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and all other democracies, the people have a say about who should be placed in position as a political elite to govern their country. This is done through elections where candidate show voters what they have to offer and voters decide if they are sold on the integrity of either candidate. The same system applies to many positions of government. This process is crucial to the wellbeing of a country because whoever wins the presidential election gets to decide which route they feel is best to take country. But the thing about democracy is that at any point, if the people are unhappy about their choice of a president and they see that they truly have made a mistake, that leader can be impeached and a new president will be appointed. In the case of non-democratic countries, it is not so easy.

 Take Nigeria for example, a country that was once viewed as the giant of Africa, and now referred to by some as a “crippled giant”. As Kenyan scholar Mazrui notes: “The giant of Africa was in danger of becoming the midget of the world” (2006, p.154). Over the course of more than 50 years, Nigeria has been reduced to a shell of what it used to be. It was never given a chance to discover its true potential. One author explains the country as “a colossal collection of impoverished masses, a crumbling Tower of Babel built on the rickety foundations of oil rents collected and squandered by its leaders” (Adebajo 2008, p. 2). With about 70% of its population living on less than $1 a day, life expectancy at an embarrassing 53 years, and with the country ranked 152 out of 188 states on the United Nations Human Development Index in 2017, and a rank of 148 out of 180 on the Transparency International Corruption Index in 2017, it is no surprise as to why it has earned the name “crippled giant”. Despite its huge oil wealth, being the 8th largest oil producer in the world, Nigeria has managed to remain a largely poor country. “Nigeria’s moribund infrastructure and many of its corrupt leaders have failed woefully to diversify its economy to shrink its huge dependence on oil, which still accounts for over 95% of [its] foreign exchange earnings” (Agbiboa, p. 325). In reference to Africa’s poor political history, the Commission for Africa noted that “Africa has suffered from governments that have looted the resources of the state; that could not or would not deliver services to their people; that in many cases were predatory, corruptly extracting their countries’ resources, that maintained control through violence and bribery; and that squandered and stolen aid”. (Commission for Africa, p. 106). Nigeria plays a role as one of the main examples of what happens when the wrong people are consistently placed in positions of power. The Commission for Africa describes perfectly what Nigeria has been through in the hands of the wrong leaders. This is not something that only Africa has to deal with. There are cases just like Africa all over the world in Venezuela, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, North Korea etc. and in these countries the citizens suffer everyday due to the lack of proper governance on the part of their government.

Having the right people, with the right intentions – intention meaning wanting the best for the citizens of the country – in position of power is just as important as having a strong system of governance in which a country can effectively run on. Lack of accountability by those trusted with governance is a problem that easily makes it easy for corruption to exist within a government. In the words of the late Nobel Prize winner from Kenya, Maathai “one of the major tragedies of post-colonial Africa is that the African people have trusted their leaders, but only a few of those leaders have honored that trust”.

**Ugly Very Side of corruption**

 Every single political system that currently exists is liable to fall to corrupt practices. Even in a perfect political system, it is still possible for corruption to occur because while a political system might be perfect, it is possible for the leaders trusted and assigned to maintain order under the system to be imperfect and make the corrupt mistakes that trashes tarnishes their countries economy. “corruption respects no borders, knows no economic distinctions and infects all forms of government.” (Quinones, “What is corruption?”).

 The worsts aspect to corruption is its ability to easily make its way into the political atmosphere and flourish. In countries where it is already so prevalent in the everyday lives of citizens, it is already being accepted as a norm, and is regarded in the everyday lives of those people as something that happens. They are used to it. And by accepting corruption as a norm, it becomes that much easier for citizens to participate and become a part of the problem instead of denying the corruption and working as a country to rid themselves of the problem. Although sometimes it is not always that easy to work against an already corrupt government and citizens are left with no choice but to be a part of the country’s leaders corrupt activities as a tool for survival. This idea of corruption as a strategy for survival is explored by Daniel Jordan Smith. We are presented with an example of a situation where citizens played a role in being a part of their nations corruption in Udoka Okafor’s Article, *The Nigerian Government is a Greater Threat to its people Than Boko Haram.*  In this article, Udoka Okafor talks about her personal experience dealing with the Nigerian police who had stopped a car that she was in in for no reason at all. “As our car travels along, the policemen signal us to a stop. We all look at each other because we know what to expect. Do we just ignore their signals and speed along or do we stop? Like most Nigerians, we stop, in order to avoid any unnecessary trouble. But we do not stop for very long. The thing is, we don't need to show them our license or our car papers, because that is simply a waste of our time. Ultimately, we know what they want. I watch as the driver of the car slips the policeman a 500 Naira note. They nod in approval, and our journey continues, as abruptly as it was interrupted.” (Udoka Okafor, “The Nigerian Government…”). Here we see an example where the driver of the car had to be a part of corruption to be left alone by the police. One might think that things like this do not happen every day in the country but I can say from my own personal experience that it happens every day in the country. I grew up in the country and from the moment I could understand the things that happened around me I saw bribery situations happen numerous times as I sat in the back of my mother’s car, when we would drive a long distance that took us through an unavoidable police check point, and watched as she handed the police man who came up to the window enough money for both the officer and his friends around so that we would be left alone and allowed to continue our journey. Sometimes they would still be there on our way back and still ask for more money. Even when they recognized us for paying the first time we drove past, they would still ask for more money. Many citizens in Nigeria are placed in these types of situation where they are either forced to participate and cooperate with the corrupt police out of fear of what might happen if they do not. While bribery plays a huge role in countries that suffer from corruption, it is far from the only thing to consider when examining the very ugly side of a corrupt state. Another ugly aspect to corruption is its effect on the everyday lives of the citizens that live in a country with corrupt leaders. The worst thing about living in a country whose politics is corrupt is the fact that as a citizen, there is nothing that can be done to question the actions of those in charge. If a government were to make a decision, and its citizens does not agree with, it would be smarter for the citizens to hold on to their opinions rather than voice them in an attempt to force the government to make a change as that might result in that government retaliating against its own citizens, and sometimes such retaliation can be fatal for the receiving party. In some cases, the politics of a corrupt government works to avoid this, and builds itself to work out so efficiently that actions are actively taken to ensure that government remains in power and the opposition is silenced for as long as possible. Things such as rigged elections, a maintenance of full control of the press, active propaganda, elimination of the competition are some examples of the activities corrupt government engage in to ensure that they remain in power. Take South Sudan for example. This country ranked second to last on the Transparency International’s 2017 corruption Perceptions Index standing at 179 out of 180, with a score of 12/100. What used to be part of the country Sudan, South Sudan found itself governed by selfish men in the south whose only interest was fulfilling their personal agendas. With the use of payments, and at some points bribery, different armed leaders and their fighters in the different regions of South Sudan came together to build a southern army to ensure a decisive vote that would gain the south its independence in 2011. As the new administration established its system of governance, and managing finances, “the leaders went from managing a budget of about $100,000 to managing a budget of more than $1.5 billion when the oil-sharing provisions of the peace deal where enacted.” (Prendergast, The Daily Beast). A huge profit that never was contributed to aid in the development of the country’s economy.

**Nigeria**

As discussed earlier in the paper, Nigeria’s economy is heavily reliant on its oil production and to make matters worse, the public almost never sees the revenues gained from its governments oil deals. With over 194 million citizens, a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over $400 billion, and oil production over 2.53 barrels a day, the country has Africa’s largest population, economy and oil production and it still suffers from the same corruption issues that plague many countries today.

 The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index is a company known for its yearly contributions that shows the level of corruption in a countries public sector and ranks them on a scale of 0 – 100 (0 being the most corrupt). Nigeria scores 27 out of 100 on this scale. “Corruption Index in Nigeria averaged 20.98 points from 1996 until 2017, reaching an all-time high of 28 points in 2016 and a record low of 6.90 points in 1996.” (Trading Economics). Nigeria presents us with the perfect example of a country that suffers greatly from the resource curse and poor power distribution. As the world 8th largest oil producer its economy still lacks the necessities required to take care of its population. In this country both causes of corruption stated in this paper work hand in hand with each other. This is because for years its leadership has failed to relay the profits form the countries oil wealth back into its society. This creates a situation where the corrupt government is taking the oil revenue being made by country and doing everything else with the revenue but improve the country’s economy. The effect of this a country with more poverty-stricken regions than middle-upper class regions. The country suffers greatly due to its governments lack of presence. One of the main aspects of Nigerian society that suffers a lot from lack of proper governance is the countries Educational system. An article posted by BBC-UK’s website talks about the issue of education in Nigeria. “Nigeria’s government recently acknowledged that the country has the highest number of children out of school in the world” (Why Nigeria’s Educational system). There are currently 10.5 million children out of school in Nigeria, and that is about 30% of Nigeria’s child population (The Situation, UNICEF). The Governments lack of activity also affects other parts of the country’s society. The Health-care system is indigent, the roads are poorly made, police presence is only dictated by how much citizens are ready to pay for police protection (bribes), and inequality is an everyday struggle, and it is all thanks to the government nonchalant philosophy towards governance.

**Conclusion**

 Corruption is truly an issue that needs to be addressed sooner than later. It is an inducement by means of improper consideration to commit a violation of duty that negatively affects public life and also the economy and well-being of the affected country. We need to work not as individual countries but rather as a global-whole to try to resolve this issue of corruption. One way to address the issue could be Democratization. As discussed earlier, countries that have a strong democracy set up were more likely to not fall victim to the resource curse. That fact works the same with corruption as the resource curse, in many cases, is a main factor for a country being corrupt. I hope this research sets the stage for future analysis of corruption and projects aimed towards stopping the epidemic.

Bibliography

 Adebajo, A. (2008). Hegemony on a shoestring: Nigeria's post-Cold War foreign policy. In A. Adebajo & A. R. Mustapha (Eds.), Gulliver's troubles: Nigeria's foreign policy after the cold war (pp. 1-37). Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Bayley, David H. “The Effects of Corruption in a Developing Nation.” *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Dec., 1966), pp. 719-732, University of Utah on behalf of the Western Political Science Association. [http://www.jstor.org/stable/445147. Accessed 14 Mar. 2018](http://www.jstor.org/stable/445147.%20Accessed%2014%20Mar.%202018).

Bhattacharyya, Sambit & Hodler, Roland, 2008. "Natural resources, democracy and corruption," European Economic Review, Elsevier, vol. 54(4), pages 608-621, April.

 Blechinger, Verena. “Report on Recent Bribery Scandals, 1996-2000 .” Oct. 2000, pp. 1–10., unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN013119.pdf.

 Casey, Nicholas. Zarate, Andrea. “Corruption Scandals with Brazilian Roots Cascade Across Latin America”. *The New York Times*. <https://nyti.ms/2l9KZ1g>. Published Feb. 13, 2017. Accessed April 1, 2018.

 Commission for Africa. (2005). Our common interest: Report of the Commission for Africa. London: HMG.

 “Corruption Perceptions Index 2016” *Transparency International*. Published 25 Jan 2017. https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption\_perceptions\_index\_2016?gclid=Cj0KCQjw\_ODWBRCTARIsAE2\_EvV3bbmpMjhn03TBIBytIlz78XYCIAT9tAC2kM9PfjYu4oseGH-Zm0AaAvsoEALw\_wcB#table.

 Corruption [Def. 1]. (n.d.). In *English Oxford Living Dictionaries*. Retrieved March 14, 2018, from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/corruption>.

 “Engaging the Private Sector in the Fight against Corruption”, Transparency International. [www.transparency.org/whatwedo/activity/engaging\_the\_private\_sector\_in\_the\_fight\_against\_corruption](http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/activity/engaging_the_private_sector_in_the_fight_against_corruption). Accessed 20 March 2018.

HAMMOND, JOHN L. “The Resource Curse and Oil Revenues in Angola and Venezuela.” Science & Society, vol. 75, no. 3, 2011, pp. 348–378. JSTOR, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/41290174](http://www.jstor.org/stable/41290174).

Jan-Peter, Olters. “Old curses, new approaches? Fiscal benchmarks for oil-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa”. IMF working paper 07/107. April 2, 2018.

Maathai, W. (2009). The challenge for Africa. London: Routledge.

Mazrui, A. (2006). A tale of two Africas: Nigeria and South Africa as contrasting visions. London: Adonis and Abbey Publishers.

“Nigeria Corruption Index”. *Trading Economics.* <https://tradingeconomics.com/nigeria/corruption-index>.

“Nigeria – Executive Summary” Nigeria Country Commercial Guide. Export.gov. <https://www.export.gov/apex/article2?id=Nigeria-Executive-Summary>.

 “What Is Public Sector Corruption?”, Transparency International. blog.transparency.org/2011/12/02/what-is-public-sector-corruption/. Published 2 Dec. 2011. Accessed 20 March 2018.

Prendergast, John. “Corrupt Leaders Thrust South Sudan Into Famine and Abject Ruin.” *The Daily Beast,* 22 Mar. 2017, <http://thebea.st/2mr7FLZ?source=email&via=desktop>. Accessed 28 March 2018.

Quinones, Enery. "What is corruption?" OECD Observer, 2000, p. 23. Academic OneFile, http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A64333488/AONE?u=monm87341&sid=AONE&xid=b20414f2. Accessed 14 Mar. 2018.

 Shaxson, Nicholas. “Oil, Corruption and the Resource Curse.” International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-), vol. 83, no. 6, 2007, pp. 1123–1140. JSTOR, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4541914](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4541914).

 “The Situation”. UNICEF Nigeria. <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/education.html>.

 “Why Nigeria’s Educational System is in Crisis – and How to Fix It”. *BBC World Service.*  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3RbFXDdBw3g0HQG0fpyD0xF/why-nigerias-educational-system-is-in-crisis-and-how-to-fix-it>.