

Preface

There are some varieties of political interaction that contemporary scholarship has made vivid and comprehensible for students, even as there are other forms of political behavior that have been so neatly measured for storage as to discourage the attention of nonspecialists. Political corruption, however, is a phenomenon that has been neither neatly measured nor illuminated by much highly visible scholarship. It belongs to a third category of political phenomena that has been subject to academic attention only occasionally. Most members of established academic disciplines have left the investigation of political corruption to journalists and other purely descriptive or impressionistic writers. Because systematic studies of it have been relatively rare, political corruption has been one of those subjects consigned to limbo by the "map makers" of the contemporary social science establishment. One consequence is that university graduates are often no more knowledgeable about it than are less highly educated readers of the daily press.

Perhaps this collection will serve to put the subject and some related methods of analysis more securely back onto the social sciences map. In any event, I hope that it will make evident that there exists a respectable, and even rich, body of scholarship that is built upon various theoretical underpinnings, and which has evolved many findings and hypotheses that can serve as the basis for further research. Certainly I discovered a larger and more substantial variety of studies than I had dared to expect when I first started combing the literature in connection with a course on political corruption that I conducted at Washington University in 1968. Many of the findings have remained unintegrated, but this seems to be largely due to limited contact among individual scholars working within a variety of disciplines. Hopefully, this volume will serve to strengthen such interdisciplinary contact. Many of the selections' authors share the editor's identification as a political scientist, but others are anthropologists, economists, historians, lawyers, sociologists, and publicists.

Most readers drawn to the study of political corruption will probably want to investigate topics that are immediately related to their main interests. I kept this in mind when devising the major organizational framework of the book, and I hope that the utilization of both structural-analytical and political-geographic categories will allow the most efficient use of the materials. This organization, readily seen on the contents page, should aid the scholar or teacher in locating those materials of personal interest. To facilitate additional research, footnotes of all readings have been retained.

The second major organizational dimension of this volume is broadly cross-cultural and comparative. As definitions and ways of coping with corrupt practices vary from culture to culture, part of the incentive for achieving deeper insights into how norms are related to behavior in different social and political settings may be gained from cross-cultural studies. For this reason, the readings I have selected

deal with Western as well as non-Western systems for the modern period. To maintain some contextual continuity I have concentrated on four broad cultural-political areas: Two of these, Western Europe and the United States, represent the Western tradition, and the other two, South Asia and Africa, encompass societies whose indigenous traditions are non-Western. In my introductory essays I have sought to indicate how comparative analyses might be developed, but these should be regarded merely as one scholar's very modest first steps.

While most of the selections in this volume have previously appeared elsewhere, a number have been especially translated for inclusion. As each author brings his own value system to his analysis, I trust that the bias of any one author will be balanced out by those of the others. Since nationality seems to affect the values brought to bear on analyses, it seems pertinent to point out that whereas about half the authors are Americans, others are British, Dutch, German, French, Swedish, Indian, Philippine, Ghanaian, and Singaporean.

In the face of limits to my own qualifications, I found invaluable the judgment, counsel, and assistance of students, friends, and colleagues. Particularly appreciated was the indispensable assistance extended to me by Marcia Cline and Dr. Michael Libal, and later by Martin Baach. Numerous colleagues who offered valuable advice and critical suggestions include Professors Walter Dean Burnham, David Chalmers, John A. Gardiner, Harold D. Lasswell, Rene Lemarchand, Victor T. LeVine, John Kautsky, and Robert Salisbury. I would also like to acknowledge the translation work of Peggy Hofmann and Karl Kurtz. Finally, I would like to note the great encouragement provided by my editor, Herbert J. Addison, who nursed this volume along with commendable dedication.

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A. J. H.