Oppression Among Nations: Does it Influence a Country's Corruption?

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ABSTRACT

This research study empirically examines the relationship between oppression and corruption levels at the country level among one-hundred-fifty-three countries (153). The authors used Ibn Khaldun Theory of Education to develop the discussion and support the hypothesis. To test the study hypothesis, the study utilized secondary data from Freedom Human Index (2020), co-published by the Cato and the Fraser Institutes, and Corruption Perception Index (2020) developed by Transparency International. The authors in the study applied weighted least squares regression analysis, and the study results show a positive and significant relationship between oppression and corruption. This study contributes to the literature by empirically identifying and validating a new factor influencing many countries' corruption. The results could also help policymakers understand the roots of corruption and reconsider new policies that eradicate corruption from its starting sources. The authors also discuss future research, the study limitations, and the study implications.

Keywords: Oppression, Corruption, Ibn khaldun' theory of education, Transparency international

INTRODUCTION

Oppression and corruption have far-reaching consequences for both society and individuals. For instance, perpetuating oppression, and social structures affect individual behavior (Ratner, 1994). Consequently, Ratner (2011) argues that social oppression affects individuals emotionally, cognitively, morally, and in terms of aesthetics and reasoning.

As a result of oppression, individuals' behavior and minds are affected in a variety of ways, including through social learning, internalization, labeling, and defense mechanisms (Driskell & Salas, 2013; Smith, Mackie, & Claypool, 2014). Furthermore, oppression causes people to disregard their abilities and limits their power and potential (Adorno & Horkheimer, 1972). Therefore, experiencing oppression lowers one's self-esteem, reduces opportunities, and may even put people at risk of rape, abuse, and other forms of violence. Similarly, corruption affects the pattern of resource allocation

as well as the distribution of income in society. It favors the rich through a biased tax system and poor targeting of social programs as well as its impact on asset ownership, human capital formation, education inequalities, and uncertainty in factor accumulation. Gupta, Saneej; Davoodi, Hamid; Alonso-Terme, Rosa (2002) results show that higher corruption is indeed associated with higher income inequality. They are also able to establish an association between corruption and poverty and increased income inequality. Moreover, Gupta et. al. (2002) showed that the quality, as well as the quantity of health-care and educational services, are lower in countries with higher corruption (Gupta, Davoodi, & Erwin, 2000).

Additionally, corruption directly hinders economic growth by hampering investment. The estimated effects are robust to changes in specifications and estimation methods. Thus, it can be concluded that richer countries with better access to international financing should be growing faster and be less prone to the adverse effects of corruption than emerging economies (Cieślik, & Goczek, 2018).

Consequences of corruption are broad, ranging from diminished economic growth to a misuse of public expenses, and are a fundamental impediment in a country's advancement. With that in thought, it is obvious that the game against corruption is morally motivating and essential to cut these enormous losses carried by society as a whole. Unnecessary to say that one of the seventeen Sustainability Goals of the UN is combating corruption. Besides the negative impacts on the economy, the negative influence of corruption on intrinsic honesty has been presented in a recent global experiment (Gächter & Schulz, 2016). Maybe even further damaging is that corruption can endanger property rights, the fundamental rule of law, and the execution of contracts while corruption turns endemic (Azfar, Lee, & Swamy, 2001).

Corruption hampers economic growth, inhibits international investors, jobs, administration spending on social affairs, and nurtures poverty (Šumah, 2018). Corruption is a significant threat in numerous countries throughout the world. Consequently, the causes and outcomes of corruption are analyzed in different empirical studies.

The importance of a profound perception of corruption becomes even more apparent when looking at the costs: By the evaluation of the Worldbank, the yearly expense of bribes paid is approximately one trillion US-Dollar, and although not accurately measurable, assessments show the total costs of corruption add up to 2.6 trillion US-Dollar, an amount equal to up to four percent of the global GDP (Yermo, & Schoreder, 2014).

Theoretically, oppression has long been linked to corruption (Braddock, 2012). Ibn Khaldun's theory of education also supports that claim. However, the literature shows that researchers have not empirically tested the claim as mentioned earlier to confirm or refute the link between oppression and corruption. Hence, the study endeavors to empirically examine the relationship between oppression and corruption among countries worldwide and fills the gap in the literature.

Presumably, this research study's findings can help professors explain why oppression causes corruption in some nations and countries. In addition, researchers could have a precise idea regarding which corruption factor provides

the most to the levels of corruption in communities and countries worldwide. Practically, the study results could benefit educators who tailor unique training curricula that focus on unethical behavior, including corruption, to consider embracing freedom education, and therefore, incorruptness. Ultimately, the successful fight against corruption does boost not only wealth but also justice and morality.

BACKGROUND & HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT

The Concept of Oppression

According to Cudd (2006), oppression is "the fundamental injustice of social institutions." Cudd (2006) also views oppression as "institutional structures executed on groups by other groups utilizing direct and indirect material and emotional forces that infringe justice." In addition, Cudd (2006) maintains that material forces, such as violence and economic deprivation, result in social oppression. Such traits affect a person's moral character in ways that are twisted and degraded. Therefore, being subject to such behaviors and systems has the potential to damage the character of the oppressed people (Tessman, 2005; Card, 1986).

It is essential to state that both oppression and corruption can be created and facilitated by societies. According to Rousseau (Rousseau, Cress, & Gay, 1987), oppression could only exist oppressed people are willing to give up their freedom for some reward apparent to only so-called civilized individuals.

The Concept of Corruption

According to Transparency International (2020), corruption is the exploitation of authority by government and non-government officers, administrators, and key workers for private earnings. The act of corruption constitutes unlawful enrichment, bribery, abusing government resources, hiring friends and relations, theft, etc. Researchers such as (Seldadyo & De Haan, 2005) have recognized economic, cultural, and non-economic determinants that create corruption in nations. Kornai, Rothstein, Rose-Ackerman, Kornai, Rothstein, & Rose-Ackerman (2004). Also consistently defines corruption as "misused of public power for private or political gain." Rose-Ackeman (2008) provided examples of corrupt activities, such as fraud, paying and receiving bribes, embezzlement, self-dealing, and conflicts of interest. In addition, Uslaner (2008) argues that societies create "cultures of corruption" because "they are trapped in a vicious cycle of high inequality, low out-group trust, and high corruption." Furthermore, Uslaner (2008) argues that people in corrupt cultures do not participate in corrupt situations because they appreciate their immoral leaders but because they are compelled and have no options.

Oppression Versus Corruption

The correlation between oppression and corruption has been debated by many scholars and social scientists throughout history. It was also addressed

by many other disciplines and led to significant insights, such as the work of Prasad, Martins Da Silva, & Nickow, 2018), who referred to the ethnographic literature on corruption to assert that servants and ordinary people engage in corrupt practices in acknowledgment to constrain from ethnic and kinfolk groups or as a way to address preceding oppression. The notion that oppression impacts moral character was also discussed by Khaldun (2015), who claimed that oppression leads to corruption.

In addition, Ibn Khaldun's theory of education explains the relationship between oppression and corruption. The tent of Ibn Khaldun's theory is that oppressed people will be corrupt because oppression influences individual behavior toward learning how to cheat, deceive, and adopt all kinds of unethical behavior (Khaldun, 2015). This view was supported by Uslaner (2008), who suggested that the roots of corruption lie in economic, legal inequality, poor policy choices, and a low level of generalized trust.

Furthermore, Amundsen (Amundsen, 1999). indicated that there is an inverse relationship between democracy and political corruption. Moreover, oppression, the opposite of freedom, has long been linked to corruption (]Braddock, 2012). McLaughlin (2013) has discussed power distance as a form of corruption. As indicated by Greets Hofstede (Hofstede and Hofstede, 2004), the power of distance refers to the degree to which less influential members of institutions and organizations expect and accept that the power is unequally distributed. Unequal distributed power indicates oppression and lack of freedom; McLaughlin (2013) concluded that the power of distance within a country increases corruption would also increase. Following the discussion as mentioned earlier, the authors post the following hypothesis (H1):

H1: Countries with a high level of oppression are more corrupt than countries with low levels of oppression as oppression erodes society's values of honesty, integrity, and religious beliefs.

METHODOLOGY

To test the research hypothesis data will be collected and analyzed statistically to provide empirical findings. The conceptualization of the correlation between oppression and corruption is illustrated in Fig. 1. More details about data collection and analysis will be discussed below.

Data Collection

The study used the next overall research model to assemble secondary data from various resources. They tested the research study hypothesis below:

$$\mathrm{LOC} = \beta 0 + \beta 1 * \mathrm{OP} + \text{\euro} \tag{1}$$

Where LOC, OP, and € refer to corruption, oppression, and error, respectively. Following testing the above research hypothesis, the study-specific model that reflects the weighted least squares regression analysis is shown below since the relationship between oppression and corruption is positive and significant:
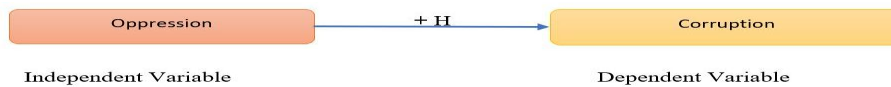
Figure 1: The conceptual framework for the relationship between oppression and corruption.

$$LOC = \beta0 + \beta1 * OP + \text{\euro}. \tag{2}$$

The Dependent Variable

Corruption is the dependent variable measured at the country level. The study utilized the corruption perceptions index as a proxy to gauge corruption in 132 countries. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was built up by Transparency International (TI). Experts and Researchers rate 180 territories, regions, and countries based on judgments of corruption obtained by survey inquiries in the last two years in twelve various organizations. The CPI merges data from thirteen separate references that surveyed a country's business people and specialists with their opinions of the corruption level in the government sector.

The CPI set together many dimensions of corruption to compose an index that is free online (https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2019/results/table). Respondents who are specialists and industry administrators responded to the CPI questionnaire that captures every kind of corruption in the government sector, including bribery, favoritism, nepotism, etc. The CPI uses a range of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (low corrupt). For example, Denmark stands leading with a score of 87, whereas Somalia, with nine, stands 180. The CPI made data on corruption available online (https://ssrn.com/abstract~\protect t$\relax=$~37656756).

The Independent Variable

Oppression is the independent variable measured at the country level among 153 countries worldwide by the Human Freedom Index (HFI) exhibits the nature of human freedom in the world based on a broad measure that incorporates freedom, economic, civil, and personal. Human freedom is a cultural concept that acknowledges the worth of individuals and is described as negative freedom or the nonexistence of coercive restraint. The HFI is a complete freedom index produced for a globally significant set of countries and nations. The HFI comprises 162 countries and territories in 2020, the most current year for which adequate data are possible. The HFI scale ranges from zero (0) to ten (10), where ten (10) represents more freedom in a country, while zero represents less freedom in a country. The HFI report is co-published by the Fraser Institute and Cato Institute. The HFI made their data free at https://www.cato.org/human-freedom-index/2020.

Control Variable

The literature inspection reveals that a country's political volatility could impact the country's level of corruption. Governmental instability raises corruption long-term (Driskell, & Salas, 2013). Political instability is

estimated by the political instability index obtained free from the Economist Study at their website (http://viewswire.eiu. com/site_info.asp?info_ name=social unrest_tab le&page= noa ds&rf = 0). The Economist Study arrays countries at a measure ranging from zero (0) to ten (10), where zero (0) means a country is profoundly not corrupt and ten (10) means a country is extremely corrupt.

Hypotheses Test

This study examined the impact of oppression on corruption in 153 countries using the weighted least squares regression analysis and controlling for political instability.

To test the influence of oppression on levels of corruption among countries to get more precise results, the study controlled for the countries' political instability. As mentioned above, political instability in countries could have an impact on the country's levels of corruption. The study used the weighted least squares regression because testing the simple regression analysis assumptions shows that the data for corruption is not normally distributed as the Shapiro-Wilk test is significant ($\beta< 0.05$).

Unlike the linear and nonlinear least squares regression technique, weighted least squares regression is not linked with a special kind of function used to illustrate the connection between the process variables. Rather, weighted least squares exhibit the performance of the model's random errors; they can be applied to linear or nonlinear functions in the parameters. It operates by combining more nonnegative constants, or weights, compared to each data point, into the fitting model. The extent of the weight means the accuracy of the data included in the linked observation. Optimizing the appropriately weighted criterion to decide the parameter patterns allows the weights to determine the contribution of every observation to the last parameter estimates (Ryan, 1997).

However, the weighted least squares regression technique, like the other least-squares techniques, is also sensible to the influences of outliers. If possible outliers are not examined and dealt with properly, they will probably negatively influence the parameter estimate and other features of a weighted least-squares analysis. If a weighted least squares regression increases the impact of an outlier, the analysis outcomes might be far inferior to an unweighted least-squares analysis (Carroll and Ruppert, 1988).

Findings

Throughout the weighted least squares regression analysis results, the study attempts to clarify the variations across countries in the inclination to be corrupt. Table 1 displays the correlations between all the three variables included in the weighted least squares regression analysis. Table 2 Model 1 and Table 2 Mode l2 show the tendency of a nation to be corrupt versus oppression and political instability. The cross-sectional data for corruption of all countries and regions under investigation were estimated as perceptions in 153 countries.

The results from the weighted least squares regression analysis suggest that oppression is one of the influential factors that influence the level

Table 1. The correlation between all the variables in the study.

Variables	Opp.	Cor.	PI
Opp.	1		
Cor.	0.677**	1	
PI	0.697**	0.767**	1
Mean	-41.8375	44.670	-0.1279
SD	28.8751	18.745	0.9403

Note: (N = 153): **Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (1-tailed); Opp. = Oppression; Cor. = Corruption; PI= Political Instability; SD= Standard Deviation.

Table 2. Model 1: Political instability versus oppression.

Variables	β (Beta value)	F Change	Sig. (Significance)
Constant	46.922	---	P-value < 0.000***
PI	15.576	---	P-value < 0.00***
R^2	0.584	---	---
F change R^2	0.584	211.900	P-value < 0.000***

Note: (N = 153): **Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (1-tailed); Opp. = Oppression; Cor. = Corruption; PI= Political Instability.

Table 3. Model 2: the regression results for the influence of oppression on corruption controlling for political instability (corruption vs oppression).

Variables	β (Beta value)	F Change	Sig. (Significance)
Constant	53.722	---	P-value <0.000***
Opp.	0.174	---	P-value <0.000***
PI	11.827	---	P-value <0.000***
R^2	0.595	---	P-value < 0.05***
F change for R^2	3.898	15.100	P-value < 0.000***

Note: (153): ***Correlation is significant at 0.001level (1-tailed); *Correlation is significant at 0.05level (1-tailed); Opp. = Oppression; Cor. = Corruption; PI= Political Instability.

of corruption in numerous nations because it is significant in the weighted least squares regression equation included in this study (β_1=0.174, p-value<0.000) Oppression appears to have a unique and positive relationship with the country's level of corruption. Finally, political instability appears to be a significant control variable in the regression equations (β_1=11.827, p-value< 0.000).

CONCLUSION

The weighted least squares regression analysis supported this study hypothesis (H1). Oppression has a significant impact on the country's level of corruption. The results confirm a significant relationship between the level of oppression and corruption among countries and empirically added knowledge to the literature. H1 is consistent with Ibn Khaldun's theory of

education (Khaldun, 2015); Uslaner (2008), who suggested that the roots of corruption lie in economic, legal inequality, poor policy choices, and a low level of generalized trust. Furthermore, Amundsen (1999) affirmed that indicated that there is an inverse relationship between democracy and political corruption.

Moreover, oppression has long been linked to corruption Braddock (Braddock, 2012), linked high levels of oppression with higher levels of corruption in countries. In addition, Abdelrahim (2021) claimed that the oppression of females through gender inequality in many countries is linked to corruption. Theoretically, research study conclusions and findings can help professors explain why oppression causes corruption in some nations and countries. In addition, researchers could have a precise idea regarding which corruption factor provides the most to the levels of corruption in communities and countries worldwide. Practically, the study results could benefit educators who tailor unique training curricula that focus on unethical behavior, including corruption, to consider embracing freedom education, and therefore, incorruptness.

Future investigation should examine the influence of oppression on the levels of corruption at the firm and individual levels to understand the antecedents of oppression. It should also investigate why political instability among countries influences a country's levels of corruption since our study shows there is a strong correlation between the two variables. Moreover, the study findings might further map the direction for policymakers to give more particular attention to oppression concerning the socioeconomic population. Finally, the study findings may help leaders embrace strategies to overcome social, cultural, and political oppression.

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

The current research study centers on the influence of the overall oppression within a country on the country's levels of corruption. Future research should investigate which Kind of oppression has the most impact on individuals' corruption and unethical behavior is it social oppression? Political oppression? Or workplace oppression?

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