

# CORRUPTION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

## The Revisionist Theses Revisited

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It may seem strange at first glance that, in general, people should insist that their rulers have the loftiest and most delicate moral qualities and think much of the public interest and little of their own, but that when they themselves are in question, and especially when they are trying to get ahead and reach the highest positions, they are at no pains whatever to observe the precepts which they insist should be the unfailing guides of their superiors. As a matter of fact, all that we can justly ask of our superiors, is that they should not fall below the average moral level of the society they govern, that they should harmonise their interests to a *certain extent* with the public interest and that they should not fall below the average moral level of the society they govern, that they should not do anything that is too base, too cheap, too repulsive—anything, in short, that would disqualify the man who does it in the environment in which he lives.

Gaetano Mosca 1895

The social advantages alleged to flow from political corruption are minimal. On the other hand, the resultant evils are great and real, although, no doubt, they have often been exaggerated by sensational writers. Whether corruption be approached from the latter side, as is commonly done, or from the side of its apologists, the social necessity of working for its limitation is manifest.

Robert C. Brooks 1910

**T**he existence of corruption in countries of various stages of development is a well-known phenomenon.<sup>1</sup> Most social scientists seem to sense intuitively that some real and significant connections exist between corruption and the processes involved in modernization and

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