

Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Combatting impacts of corruption found amongst Middle-Eastern countries
Student Officer:	Amy Fan
Position:	President

Introduction

Throughout history, corruption has always existed in all parts of the world as a controversial topic. There are several types of corruption, including political corruption, corporate corruption, corruption in education, corruption in judiciary. The word “corruption” itself originated from its Latin root “corrumpere”, meaning “to destroy”. From the emergence of judiciary corruption in Ancient Egypt’s law system during the First Dynasty (3100BC-2700BC) to the emergence of corporate corruption in the major bank Wells Fargo in 2016, it has been accepted that corruption will be near impossible to solve, so organizations and individuals have turned to mitigating the negative impacts caused by corruption instead.

Even though corruption is prevalent across the world, cases of corruption tend to be much more severe in less economically developed countries (LEDC), particularly in the Middle-Eastern areas. This is because people within LEDCs tend to have higher competition among each other to gain financial or social advantages in order to acquire high living standards. Middle-Eastern countries include: Turkey, Syria, Cyprus, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Definition of Key Terms

Corruption

Dishonest or illegal behavior that can provide unfair advantages to people involved in the action. (Merriam-Webster)

Judiciary

The branch of authority in a country which is concerned with the justice system. (Merriam-Webster)

Tax Fraud

Tax fraud occurs when an individual or business entity willfully and intentionally falsifies information on a tax return to limit the amount of tax liability. (Chen)

Background Information

Corruption in the Middle East

As mentioned previously, corruption is typically more prevalent in LEDCs.

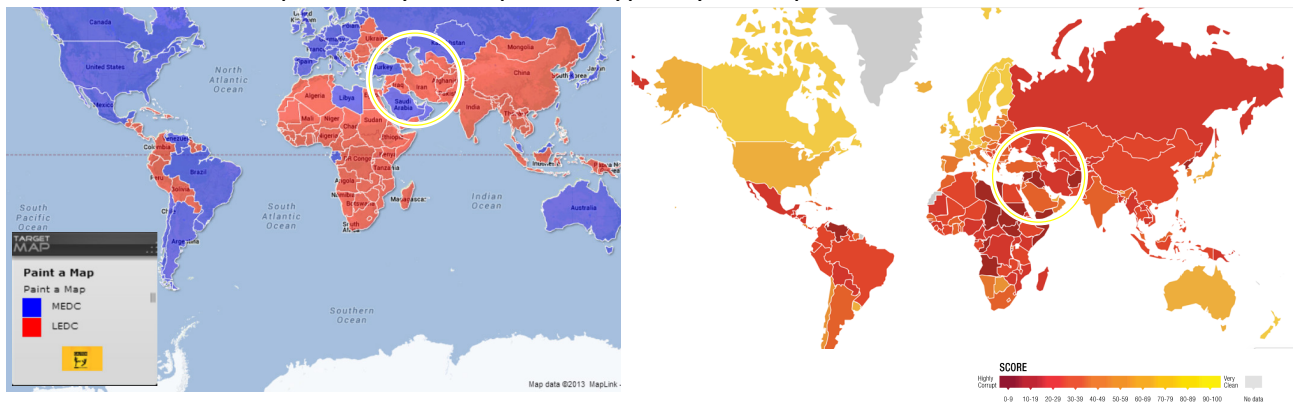


Figure 1: Distribution of LEDC & MEDC versus CPI

In the two images above, it can be seen that the majority of the countries in the middle east (circled in yellow) are considered as LEDCs. In addition, in the CPI score diagram, middle-east countries show high corruption scores, represented by relatively darker shades of red. This shows a direct correlation between middle east countries being LEDCs and having high corruption scores.

Types of corruption

Corruption can take on many forms, and as mentioned in the definition, corruption refers to any acts of dishonest or illegal behavior. Some of the most common types of corruption will be discussed below.

Corruption in judiciary system

In courts, judges have the power to make the ultimate sentences for the convicts. However, judges are susceptible to corruption, which can come from several sources such as the convicted person's relatives in hopes of lessening his/her sentence. Conversely, judges can also accept bribery to intensify the convict's sentences. For example, in the early 2000's Judge Mark Ciavarella was found guilty for sentencing minors who have committed small crimes to heavy jail sentences or juvenile detention for a much longer time than appropriate. He sent a 11-year-old boy to juvenile detention for nearly two years just because he drove his mother's car down the block. Later, it was found that the Judge was receiving payments from juvenile detention facilities for sending children over. He gained millions of dollars by putting children behind bars, showing how corruption in judiciary may cause many innocent lives to be wrongly destroyed.

Corruption in businesses

Corporate corruption has always been a difficult problem to solve. Businesses would opt for practices to enable them to generate more income. For example, the Toshiba accounting scandal in 2015 exposed Toshiba to having forced employees to commence inappropriate accounting by postponing loss reports and by moving certain costs into a later time period. By doing so, Toshiba overstated its earnings by nearly \$2 billion over seven years.

Corruption in politics

Most people would know that there are always elements of corruption in the politics sector. For example, Syrians accept the need to bribe Syrian officials as an ordinary act. This includes Syrians would have to pay excessive amounts of money to get authority approved documents like licenses, and it caused distrust in the Syrian government, which increased tensions between the government and the people, and

hence government corruption served as one of the reasons that led to the Syrian civil war.

Key Issues

Severe impacts of corruption

Corruption may cause a lot of negative effects for not only people within the country, but also for the economy of the country.

Effects on people

Corruption may have detrimental impacts on people in various ways, including people suffering from lack of quality in services, lack of social justice, and increased chances of unemployment. Lack of quality in services refer to when people are unable to gain rightful access to basic rights like health care; they would have to pay for their health services. Referring back to a previous section of the report, it has been established that corruption is widespread in LEDCs. Hence, in some countries like Kazakhstan, although healthcare is paid for by the government, sometimes bribery is needed for people to obtain healthcare, which means that people who are already receiving lower income would have to incur additional costs to gain access to basic rights, therefore further worsening their living standards.

Effects on the economy

Having corruption within countries may damage its economy severely. For example, if a country has a corrupt government system, foreign firms will be less inclined to invest due to having to face additional payments to the government frequently. This means that there would be less growth in the country's economy, and it would limit the country's productivity and GDP. Another example is a government official collecting income from a portion of the government's tax revenue, meaning there is less money on the country's budget to spend for the benefit of the general public, hence restraining the potential increase in people's living standards as well as decreasing the country's GDP.

Difficulty in determining corruption

Even though it has been mentioned earlier that corruption is measured by TI's index CPI, there are still elements of uncertainty in conducting those measurements. For example, CPI does not take into account of tax frauds or money laundering. This means that certain aspects of corruption are not taken into account, and the value of corruption for some countries may be significantly underestimated. Furthermore, CPI doesn't measure all types of corruption, such as some aspects of corruption in businesses. This also means that corruption values might once again be underestimated in some countries. Therefore, CPI values can only be taken as a reference and should not be the sole indicator of the level of corruption.

Major Parties Involved and their Views

Transparency International (TI)

TI is an international non-government organization (NGO) with headquarters based in Berlin, Germany. This NGO strives to create "a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption." (Transparency International) So far, this organization has made several notable achievements, especially the creation of international anti-corruption conventions and the prosecution of corrupt leaders and seizures of their illicitly gained riches.

Syria

Syria is one of the countries in the Middle-east with the most serious cases of corruption. On the CPI, Syria ranked as the second most corrupted country, with a score of 13/100 in 2018. Interestingly, one of the reasons that led to the Syrian Civil War is government corruption, which led to Syrians lack of trust in the government. Hence, Syria is one of the countries that are in desperate need to combat the negative impacts caused by the government's corruption.

United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)

Different to Syria, the U.A.E. ranks as the least corrupted country in the middle east, scoring a CPI score of 70/100 in 2018. U.A.E. has taken strict measures to reduce corruption, including implementing anti-corruption regulations and establishing severe sentences for those

caught in the act. By doing so, the U.A.E. plays an important leading role in the process of combatting negative impacts caused by corruption.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of Event
1976	G7 was founded to discuss issues including anti-corruption
1993	Transparency International (TI) was established
1995	CPI was created by TI for the purpose of measuring levels of corruption in countries.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Europe hosted the first Criminal Law Convention on Corruption of the Council of Europe- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was established to combat corruption- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) hosted the first convention on combatting bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.
2005	United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) entered into force
2016	Inaugural Anti-Corruption Summit was hosted in London
2017	Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Center (IACCC) in London to pursue the corrupt across borders

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Some countries in the middle-east have tried to combat impacts of corruption, with U.A.E. being in the lead. U.A.E. have implemented the UN Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitrary Awards, which aids to supersede all incompatible rulings. This has proven to be effective, because it has turned U.A.E. into a healthy environment for businesses, which encourages businesses to flourish in the area hence improving the economy. Furthermore, U.A.E. has also established strict laws on personnel associated with bribery. For

example, a police officer could be fined as well as sentenced to jail should they be caught with bribery. This made the U.A.E. society less likely to be prone to injustice caused by corruption.

Transparency International has also taken measures to combat corruption, such as creating the CPI. However, CPI only provides a score and does not provide solutions. Furthermore, even if solutions are suggested to the corrupted countries, they are very likely to ignore the solutions because corrupted officials are only concerned with personal welfare instead of the country's welfare as a whole. Therefore, providing an index to show how corrupted countries are can give people insight into levels of corruption but cannot serve as an effective solution.

Possible Solutions

For solutions regarding impacts on people, delegates can consider designing a platform that can allow the general public to report any forms of corruption they may face in everyday life. The purpose for designing a platform is for the people involved in corruption to be aware that they are constantly in risk of being reported, and this solution could potentially work effective in combination with the existing strict laws on corruption.

For solutions regarding impacts on the economy, delegates should strongly focus on the aspect of promoting transparency in government transactions so that people can be aware of any signs of government corruption. The purpose for focusing on government corruption for impacts on the economy is because the government plays a vital role in the country's economy, so tackling solutions regarding government corruption would be very effective.

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