

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/making-or-breaking-the-cycle-of-corruption/>

This video discusses a study that investigates the relationship between transitional justice and corruption in post-conflict countries. Transitional justice, a concept that gained prominence in the late 20th century, focuses on addressing large-scale past abuses to achieve accountability, justice, and reconciliation. The study posits that corruption is often prevalent in post-conflict nations due to weak governance and low state capacity.

The author reviews the existing literature, which presents conflicting views on whether transitional justice can effectively reduce corruption. Optimistic theories suggest that transitional justice mechanisms can promote accountability, restore public trust, and create a deterrent culture against corruption. Conversely, pessimistic theories argue that these mechanisms are often ineffective at combating deeply rooted corruption and may even exacerbate it.

The study employs quantitative methods to analyze the association between transitional justice implementation and corruption across a broad dataset of post-conflict countries. Despite examining multiple transitional justice mechanisms, the findings indicate no statistically significant relationship between transitional justice and corruption levels. The research supports the pessimist theory, showing that transitional justice does not meaningfully impact corruption outcomes.

The author concludes that while transitional justice does not reduce corruption, it also does not worsen it. The implications suggest the need for transitional justice frameworks that explicitly address economic crimes like corruption, alongside a call for more nuanced studies and case analyses to better understand the dynamics at play. Future research should explore how transitional justice affects citizens' perceptions of corruption rather than merely focusing on corruption metrics.