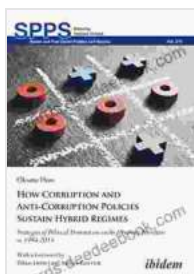


How Corruption and Anti-Corruption Policies Sustain Hybrid Regimes

Abstract

This article examines the relationship between corruption and anti-corruption policies in hybrid regimes. It argues that corruption and anti-corruption policies are mutually constitutive and that they play a key role in sustaining these regimes. The article draws on a case study of Kazakhstan to illustrate how corruption and anti-corruption policies have been used to consolidate power, control dissent, and maintain political stability.

Hybrid regimes are political systems that combine elements of both democracy and authoritarianism. They are often characterized by weak institutions, limited political competition, and widespread corruption. Corruption is a major problem in hybrid regimes, as it undermines the rule of law, erodes public trust, and diverts resources away from essential public services.



How Corruption and Anti-Corruption Policies Sustain Hybrid Regimes: Strategies of Political Domination under Ukraine's Presidents in 1994-2024 (Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society Book 218) by Robin Sharma

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In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the role of anti-corruption policies in hybrid regimes. Some scholars have argued that anti-corruption policies can help to strengthen institutions, promote transparency, and reduce corruption. Others have argued that anti-corruption policies can be used to target political opponents, suppress dissent, and consolidate power.

This article examines the relationship between corruption and anti-corruption policies in hybrid regimes. It argues that corruption and anti-corruption policies are mutually constitutive and that they play a key role in sustaining these regimes. The article draws on a case study of Kazakhstan to illustrate how corruption and anti-corruption policies have been used to consolidate power, control dissent, and maintain political stability.

Corruption and Anti-Corruption Policies in Hybrid Regimes

Corruption is a widespread problem in hybrid regimes. It is often used by elites to consolidate power, control dissent, and maintain political stability. In Kazakhstan, for example, corruption is endemic at all levels of government. Public officials routinely engage in bribery, extortion, and other forms of corrupt activity. Corruption has had a devastating impact on the country's economy, as it has led to a decline in investment, a loss of public trust, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor.

In response to the problem of corruption, the Kazakh government has implemented a number of anti-corruption policies. These policies include the establishment of a new anti-corruption agency, the adoption of new

laws on corruption, and the creation of a new anti-corruption ombudsman. However, these policies have been largely ineffective in combating corruption. In fact, some scholars have argued that anti-corruption policies have actually made corruption worse by creating new opportunities for rent-seeking and by providing a cover for corrupt officials.

The failure of anti-corruption policies in Kazakhstan is due to a number of factors. First, the government has not been serious about fighting corruption. President Nursultan Nazarbayev has been in power since 1991 and he has tolerated corruption among his friends and family. Second, the government has not implemented anti-corruption policies in a transparent and accountable manner. Third, the government has not provided adequate resources to anti-corruption agencies.

The Impact of Corruption on Hybrid Regimes

Corruption has a devastating impact on hybrid regimes. It undermines the rule of law, erodes public trust, and diverts resources away from essential public services. In Kazakhstan, for example, corruption has led to a decline in economic growth, a loss of public trust, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor.

Corruption also makes it more difficult for hybrid regimes to transition to democracy. When corruption is widespread, it is difficult for opposition groups to organize and compete in elections. Corruption also makes it difficult for citizens to hold their leaders accountable. As a result, corruption can contribute to the persistence of authoritarianism in hybrid regimes.

The Role of Anti-Corruption Policies in Hybrid Regimes

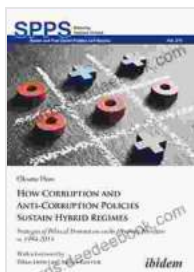
Anti-corruption policies can play a role in sustaining hybrid regimes. By creating the appearance of fighting corruption, governments can deflect criticism from international organizations and domestic opposition groups. Anti-corruption policies can also be used to target political opponents and suppress dissent. For example, in Kazakhstan, the government has used anti-corruption laws to prosecute journalists, opposition figures, and human rights activists.

Anti-corruption policies can also be used to consolidate power by creating new opportunities for rent-seeking and by providing a cover for corrupt officials. For example, in Kazakhstan, the government has created a new anti-corruption agency that is directly controlled by the president. This agency has been used to investigate and prosecute political opponents and to extort money from businesses.

Corruption and anti-corruption policies are mutually constitutive and they play a key role in sustaining hybrid regimes. Corruption undermines the rule of law, erodes public trust, and diverts resources away from essential public services. Anti-corruption policies can be used to target political opponents, suppress dissent, and consolidate power. In Kazakhstan, the government has used corruption and anti-corruption policies to maintain political stability and to consolidate power.

The failure of anti-corruption policies in Kazakhstan is due to a number of factors, including the lack of political will to fight corruption, the lack of transparency and accountability in the implementation of anti-corruption policies, and the lack of resources provided to anti-corruption agencies.

Corruption and anti-corruption policies are a major challenge for hybrid regimes. By understanding the relationship between corruption and anti-corruption policies, we can better understand how to promote democracy and human rights in these regimes.



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