

---

## International Issues in Corruption Management



Leonard L. Lira  
Political Science Department, San Jose State  
University, San Jose, CA, USA

### Synonyms

[Corruption and Ethics](#); [Corruption Perception Index](#); [Transnational Governance](#); [Transparency International](#)

### Definitions

Corruption: An activity that misuses entrusted power for private gain by reducing the public value of a public good to compensate that private gain.

### Introduction

Researchers and experts view corruption, especially the international variety, as a crime of fraud and abuse of public office that generally occurs “over there” and not in their own backyards. However, recent media reports of widespread corruption at the international level, both in developing and developed nations, demonstrates that international corruption is at the same

time both a local and global phenomenon. In fact, corruption on the international level reaches all countries and all facets of public life. It is evident in the highest offices of the capitals around the world, from the Ex-President of Brazil, who was recently sentenced to serve 15 years in prison for corruption charges, to a current sitting US President and his administration under investigation for conspiracy with a foreign power, and where several of his cabinet officials are under investigation or have resigned their posts due to ongoing corruption investigations.

Corruption on the international level undermines not only democratic institutions but also the institutions built to protect those democratic efforts domestically and abroad. For example, the New York Times reported that corruption degraded the capacity of Ukraine military to protect its governmental institutions. At the same time, the Wall Street Journal reported that NATO stood up a task force to root out corruption that its own military operations created in Afghanistan. Other media reports described how the pervasiveness of international corruption extends even to international tennis, soccer, and the Olympics committee.

With the large variety of examples of global corruption, researchers and practitioners should focus on identifying and dealing with the major issues presented by having to manage international corruption. These issues include understanding the multiple ways the international community defines corruption and the issues this