

評估貪污—多元政治經濟因素 與貪污之相關性再驗證

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摘要

本研究以 Budak & Goel 兩人 2004 年共同發表的貪污量化模型為基礎，進一步分析依變數貪污與八個獨立變數(自變數)的相關性，這八個獨立變數分別是經濟成長、政府大小、政府品質、執法性、政治自由、經濟自由、國家轉型速度、以及是否為前蘇聯國遺緒(虛擬變數)。

本文在研究方法與研究發現均具有重要貢獻。首先在研究方法上，本文發現前文之數據與統計方法均有顯著錯誤與不足之處。在以前蘇聯與東歐等共產轉型國家為調查對象的總數 125 觀察值之中，前文僅列出 38 到 50 個觀察值進行迴歸分析。而且前文的跨年資料從 1998 到 2002 年出現嚴重的線性重合問題，所以調整後的 R 平方值其實是被高估的。換言之，自變數與依變數之間的相關性解釋力並沒有前文所稱的如此高。為避免重蹈前文之誤謬，本文全面重新建構一個完整的原始數據資料庫，並且改採平均值模型，以強化統計測試之信度與效度。經過數據與研究方法上的更新，本文發現只有一個獨立變數—經濟成長—是與貪污呈現統計上的顯著性。其它七個自變數沒有解釋力的原因包括欠缺統計上的顯著性、明顯的線性重合以及內生性問題。

本文結論：針對 25 個前蘇聯東歐共產國家冷戰結束後之統計分析，可證實一國之經濟發展確與政治清廉度成正相關。越繁榮的國家其貪污程度越低，反之亦然。至於其它政治經濟因素對於貪污的影響則欠缺統計上之證據力。

Measuring Corruption— An Empirical Re-testing on Correlations between Multiple Political-economic Factors and Corruption

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Abstract

This paper replicates Budak & Goel (2004)'s model on the correlations between 8 variables and corruption. These independent variables include economic growth, government size, government quality, law enforcement, political freedom, economic freedom, political transition, and former soviet legacy (a dummy variable).

A number of critiques are provided to address Budak & Goel's methodological limitations and shortcomings. This paper finds that a large amount of missing data seriously discredits the reliability of their sample. Only 38 to 50 observations were reported in their statistical testing out of the total 125 observations. The time series from 1998 to 2002 in their panel study revealed a problem of autocorrelation, which resulted in high values of adjusted R-square. A revised mean model accompanied by rescaling the World Bank corruption index is provided to enhance the reliability and validity of the statistical testing. This paper finds that only one independent variable, prosperity, is robustly correlated with corruption. Other variables are invalid to explain corruption due to statistical insignificance, high multicollinearity, and endogeneity.

This paper concludes that based on 25 former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries' data in the post-Cold War era, economic growth is indeed in positive correlated with political integrity in those countries. The more prosperous these countries are, the lower their corruption levels are at and vice versa. As to other testing variables, no statistically significant evidence supports their impact on corruption.