



Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong

By Melanie Manion

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This book contrasts experiences of mainland China and Hong Kong to explore the pressing question of how governments can transform a culture of widespread corruption to one of clean government. Melanie Manion examines Hong Kong as the best example of the possibility of reform. Within a few years it achieved a spectacularly successful conversion to clean government. Mainland China illustrates the difficulty of reform. Despite more than two decades of anticorruption reform, corruption in China continues to spread essentially unabated.

The book argues that where corruption is already commonplace, the context in which officials and ordinary citizens make choices to transact corruptly (or not) is crucially different from that in which corrupt practices are uncommon. A central feature of this difference is the role of beliefs about the prevalence of corruption and the reliability of government as an enforcer of rules ostensibly constraining official venality. Anticorruption reform in a setting of widespread corruption is a problem not only of reducing corrupt payoffs, but also of changing broadly shared expectations of venality. The book explores differences in institutional design choices about anticorruption agencies, appropriate incentive structures, and underlying constitutional designs that contribute to the disparate outcomes in Hong Kong and mainland China.

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Editorial Review

Review

Corruption by Design provides an excellent analysis of how officials in Hong Kong and mainland China have reacted to widespread corruption. Manion argues persuasively that strategies of reform must include enforcement, education, and institutional design. Her work brings together a huge amount of original material on mainland China and it is the most thorough examination of corruption in that country to date. This is significant given the secretive nature of corruption itself and the relative lack of transparency on the mainland. (John P. Burns, University of Hong Kong)

It is conventional wisdom that there has been an explosion of corruption in mainland China in the reform era, with adverse consequences for the legitimacy of the regime. Yet there have been few book-length studies of the topic in the last five years. With its lucid argument and dual focus on Hong Kong and mainland China, *Corruption by Design* promises to be an important contribution. (Dali Yang, University of Chicago)

About the Author

Melanie Manion is Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie King:

This *Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong* is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great coordinate word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *Corruption by Design: Building Clean Government in Mainland China and Hong Kong* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

Manuel Rodriguez:

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