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Shaazka Beyerle, Curtailing Corruption: People Power for Accountability and Justice, Lynne Rienner Publisher, Boulder London, ISBN 978-1-62637-056-2 pp 325.

Reviewed by

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Corruption in state institution has dominated literature as one of the rampant menace facing many institutions in the world today, in essence threatening societal development across the world. Academics and practitioners have been grappling with ways of dealing with the menace. Beyerle is one such academic who sought to deal with this issue in his text, Curtailing Corruption: People power for accountability and justice, with clearly laid out objective to

> 'indentify, document and analyse contemporary non-violent campaigns and movements to fight graft and abuse, demand accountability, and win rights and justice…to ascertain common attributes and patterns and distil general lessons learned…to examine the international dimension and policy implications of home grown, civic anticorruption campaigns and movements…to offer recommendations for anti-corruption advocates, donors, development institutions and policymakers, based on actual case studies and the views of campaign leaders.' p.2.

Chapter one occupies itself as an overview of how corruption has had a negative impact on development and how anti-corruption and peace building measures go hand in hand and how non-violent actions are used in dealing with corruption. Citing that, 'civil resistance and people's power can even succeed in unfavorable conditions.' p.18.

Chapter two dwells on approaches to curbing corruption, appropriately explaining the term corruption that becomes 'a system of power abuse that involves multiple relationships- some obvious and many others hidden…'p.25. Illuminating on strategies and challenges to dealing with corruption from differing cases studies across the world.

Chapter three dwelt on the Korean case study highlighting the centrality of civil society organization in fighting corruption specifically focusing on Citizens Alliance for General election (CAGE)'s efforts to combat corruption through targeting state power-holders involved in massive corruption through various means which had substantial successes noting that 'when confronting political corruption, CAGE 2000 demonstrated that political neutrality is of particular importance in order to maintain civic initiatives' legitimacy and counter opponents' claims of partisanship and interference.' p.59.

Chapter four also dealt with the role of the civil society organizations in addressing corruption in Brazil. Espousing on the methods that were used in dealing with corruption especially through the use of digital resistance with the assistance of worldwide digital movement. At last noting 'Whether civil resistance takes place in the digital or real world realms the elements of success are the same…'p.85.

Chapter five is an analysis of Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Commission and how the civil society has been actively assisting dealing with corruption under the umbrella body, Love Indonesia, Love Anti-Corruption Commission (CICAK).

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Chapter six focused on non-violent resistance against the Mafia in Italy targeting tactics used to deal with Mafia by anti-mafia movement. In the final noting that '…as efforts of a small group of activists evolve into an ongoing campaign or social movement involving hundreds if not thousands of people, leadership, and organizational challenges can emerge'.p.133.

The case study on India is the focus of chapter seven, analyzing the role of the civil society in fighting corruption, specifically focusing on of the 5th Pillar case study's roles, activities. Finally presenting lessons learnt noting, 'Anti-corruption movements such the 5th Pillar point to the importance of developing additional strategies that support honest power holders and tactics empowering them to refuse to engage in corrupt practices.'p.166.

Chapter eight dwelt on the case of Afghanistan illuminating on civil society mobilization in fighting and monitoring corruption. Focusing on Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA), a civil society organization, the chapter analysed its formation, operations to include its successes and challenges.

Uganda is used as a case study in Chapter nine in which law enforcement institution is targeted for reducing corruption. It focuses on how civil society organization can be used to deal with corruption. Concluding that, 'in spite of positive feedback from citizen and law enforcement, and actual demand for additional police integrity training, NAFODU has not been able to maintain momentum after the Partnership for Transparency grant.'p. 201.

Chapter ten highlights case studies from five countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, and Turkey. After a comparison of the cases dealing with corruption the author concluded, 'While on surface, this approach may seem abstract or even utopian in each instance these people power initiatives have made visible strides towards these ends.'p.238.

Lessons and learning are the objectives of chapter eleven exploring all the causal, patterns and attempts in dealing with corruption, the shortcomings, strategies, minor/major actions, reactions, and interactions. At the bottom of it all noting, ' Citizens are the protagonists who charts the course, make the decisions, take risks, propped the struggle, and own victories.'p.259.

Chapter twelve focuses on international dimension to conception, analysis, and actions in dealing with corruption. Arguing that whilst the locals are key actors in dealing with corruption in their own countries they, 'can be sources of transnational inspirational strategies, and knowledge, thereby adding an international dimension to local and national struggles'.p.261. Of course noting that the role of civil society resistance approaches, ' demonstrate the vast possibilities available when regular people- young and old, women and men- refuse to the victims and combine ingenuity, strategy and planning with hope, determination and valor.'p.285.

The text is quite informative for academics as well as practitioners involved in fighting corruption. For civil society organizations involved in corruption, the copy is a good companion for planning and executing projects involved in fighting the menace of corruption.