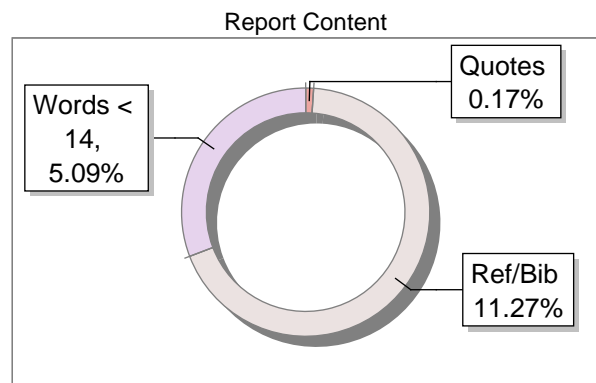
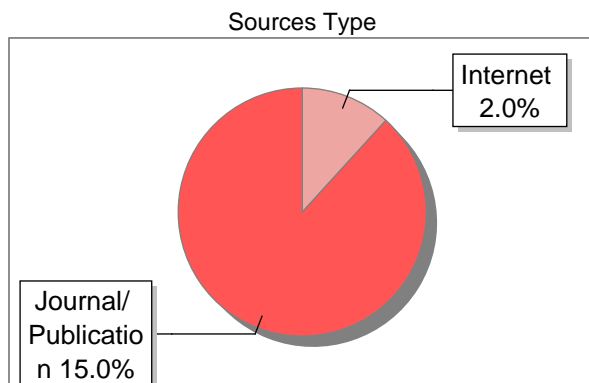
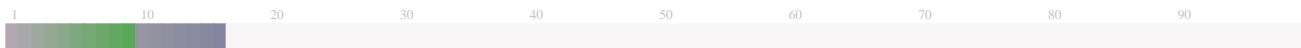


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Corruption and Development in Nigeria (Routledge Corruption and Anti-Corruption Studies)

1st Edition, by Olayinka Àkànlé and David O. Nkpe (1st eds.), London, 2021, 210 pp., USD 25.48 Kindle, ISBN 9781003178637

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To cite this article: Adi Heryadi, Muhammad Azhar, Khoiruddin Bashori & Mohammad Syifa Amin Widigdo (20 Mar 2024): Corruption and Development in Nigeria (Routledge Corruption and Anti-Corruption Studies), International Journal of Public Administration, DOI: [10.1080/01900692.2024.2331755](https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2024.2331755)

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Published online: 20 Mar 2024.



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BOOK REVIEW

Corruption and Development in Nigeria (Routledge Corruption and Anti-Corruption Studies), 1st Edition, by Oláyínká Àkànlé and David O. Nkpe (1st eds.), London, 2021, 210 pp., USD 25.48 Kindle, ISBN 9781003178637

This book, edited by Akanle and Nkpe from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, aims to provide a comprehensive picture of corruption in various sectors of life in Nigeria and its impact on development in Nigeria. This book consists of three major parts, namely a theoretical study and background of the problem of corruption, then various case studies about corruption sectors in Nigeria, and ending with the efforts to eradicate corruption that have been carried out. This book also provides a complete review of the what, why, and how of corruption in Nigeria; apart from affecting development in Nigeria, it also influences Africa's general development.

The first part of this book discusses the importance of studying corruption in Nigeria and the impact it has because corruption has become a development challenge in Nigeria, Africa, and other developing countries. Corruption, which is defined as an attempt to abuse public power or an entrusted position for personal economic gain, has harmed the economic growth and development of a country, including Nigeria. History has proven that the colonial structures introduced by European colonialists have become the basis for corrupt practices among the political and bureaucratic elite in Nigeria; practices that began as intermediaries in collecting taxes by local tribal chiefs for the colonialists would later become the foundation for corrupt practices to enrich themselves. The international transparency report, which ranked Nigeria 146th out of 180 countries in the world that were the object of a global corruption perception index survey, showed poor public perception of services in the form of certificate falsification, pension fraud, procurement of fictitious employees, bribery in the recruitment process, and age falsification. This book explains that the prevalence of corruption in the public sector was reflected between 2016 and 2019 and has damaged transactional government and economic governance. By understanding the history of the development of corrupt practices in Nigeria, we can indeed map the potential for corruption today, but what is happening in Nigeria is much more complex, where corruption has become a culture in government, and the public does not care about this condition.

The various case studies described in this book provide readers with an understanding that colonialism,

decolonization, and changes in social values contributed to corrupt practices and the breakdown of law in Nigeria. Apart from that, the role of traditional media and social media also contributes to the growth of corrupt practices in Nigeria. The media often carries out "media trial" efforts to create ambiguous situations regarding news about corrupt practices that occur. Learn from the case of the Niger Delta region, Nigeria, which is an area rich in natural resources, especially oil. However, because of corruption that occurs at almost all levels of government, company empowerment programs that are supposed to be for the welfare of the community only become fields for the corrupt practices of the authorities and cause this region to become underdeveloped poor areas. Lack of good governance, leadership that is not visionary, and weak legal processes due to criminal justice, which is also involved in corrupt practices, are increasingly exacerbating corruption in Nigeria, especially in the oil-rich Niger Delta region.

Efforts to eradicate corruption that the Nigerian government has carried out through the establishment of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have not been able to eradicate corruption, anti-corruption campaigns and changes in strategy have also not brought significant changes to corruption in Nigeria. This is a serious question that must be answered because, in many countries, this effort is significant for eradicating corruption; even though efforts to eradicate corruption in Nigeria are essential because of Nigeria's central role in Africa, what happens in Nigeria will have a significant impact in Africa, including corrupt practices.

The book presents a comprehensive picture of corruption in Nigeria and its impact on development. It provides a good description of the background of corruption and uses easy-to-digest language; case study data on various cases of corruption in Nigerian society and the efforts to eradicate corruption that have been carried out have also been presented systematically. The book also explains why eradicating corruption in Nigeria is also important for Africa, especially for developing countries. What lacking in the book and future researchers examine further are the role of religion and culture in Nigeria in efforts to eradicate corruption. As is the case in Indonesia too, the cultural aspects of society regarding corrupt practices need to be researched and then straightened out because certain cultural practices may say that gratification is not part of corrupt practices but part of a culture of expressing gratitude for the professional assistance that has been given as the case in Indonesia and Thailand for

example. According to Mas'ood (1994), cultural factors can encourage the emergence of corruption, for example, the culture of giving gifts and souvenirs to government officials. Another culture is that Indonesians and Thais place more importance on family ties and other parochial loyalties. In Indonesian society, a person's obligation is first to pay attention to his closest relatives, then to his fellow ethnic group, so that relatives who come to a public official to ask for special treatment are difficult to refuse because rejection means denial of traditional obligations.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this book is that massive corrupt practices and behavior have hampered development in Nigeria; various remedial efforts that have been made have not been able to stop corrupt practices in Nigeria; this is important for academics, development observers, policymakers and the general public to care and make the task of eradicating corruption a common agenda. For all stakeholders in eradicating corruption, it is necessary to mitigate religious and cultural aspects to add references for further efforts to eradicate corruption.

Reference

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<https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2024.2331755>



