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INFLUENCES OF CORRUPTION ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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RESEARCH QUESTION

How does political corruption and scandals affect political participation?

THEORY AND HYPOTHESES

Political scandals and corruption affects everyone. According to the Corruption Perception Index published by Transparency International, no one country is completely free from corruption. Furthermore, besides having damaging effects on a country's social, economic, and political development, corruption also undermines the values of democracy.

THEORY: My theory suggests that political corruption and scandals have a negative impact on both institutionalized (i.e. voting) and noninstitutionalized political participation (i.e. protesting) because it reduces citizens' confidence and trust in the government. This in turn weakens citizens' belief that their vote can make a difference and that the government is representative of the people. As a result, citizens become less willing to engage in the whole political process.

H₁: As political corruption and scandals increases, voter turnout decreases.

H₂: As political corruption and scandals increases, protests decreases.

H₀: There is no relationship between perceptions of corruption and political participation.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

PROPOSED METHOD: I propose taking political participation data from both democracies and nondemocracies and combining it with each country's corruption index score.

INITIAL DATA: To preliminary assess these theories, I took a survey conducted on public attitudes toward civic engagement in 14 countries from Pew Research Center and combined it with the Corruption Perception Index score from the Corruption Perception Index 2018. The Dependent Variable is "political participation"; the Independent Variable is "Corruption Perception Index Score".



ANTICIPATED FINDINGS & LIMITATIONS

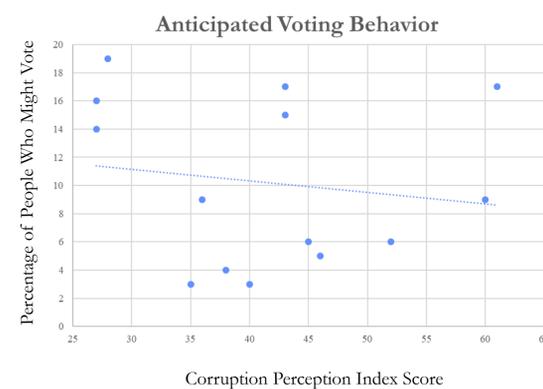
I have found evidence that voter turnout is lower when the corruption perception index score is higher. Additionally, I found that citizens who think they might vote are also lower in countries with higher corruption perception index score.

Furthermore, citizens are less likely to participate in an organized protest in countries where corruption is higher. Interestingly, anticipated protest participation shows the exact opposite. The percentage of people who said that they might protest is actually higher in countries where the corruption perception index score is higher. While higher levels of corruption might incentivize citizens to protest, it does not necessarily mean that they will actually participate in a protest.

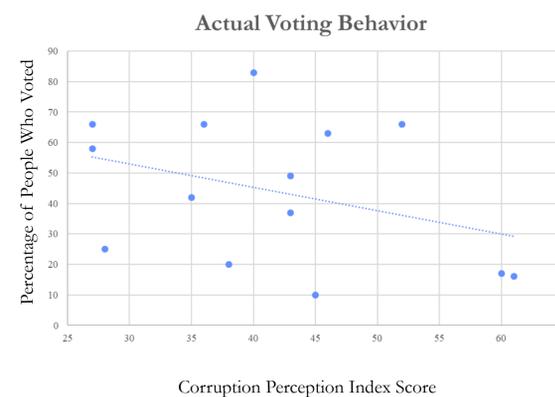
The biggest limitation of this preliminary attempt is the aggregate-level data of these countries. It does not take into account each individual citizen's evaluation and knowledge of their country's level of corruption. With the data I have in hand right now, I am only making inferences about each individual's perceptions of corruption. I anticipate that with more data, there will be more interesting findings that would lend support to my theory.

SELECTED REFERENCES

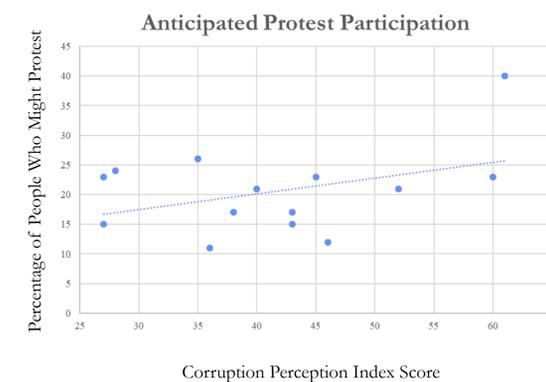
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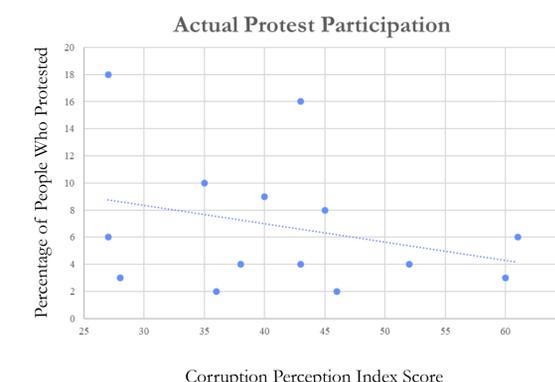
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