



Organizing Leviathan

Why are some countries less corrupt and better governed than others? Challenging conventional explanations on the remarkable differences in quality of government across the globe, this book argues that the organization of bureaucracy is an often overlooked but critical factor. Countries where merit-recruited employees occupy public bureaucracies perform better than those where public employees owe their post to political connections. This book provides a coherent theory of the reasons behind this, and ample evidence showing that meritocratic bureaucracies are conducive to lower levels of corruption, higher government effectiveness, and more flexibility to adopt modernizing reforms. Data comes from both a novel dataset on the bureaucratic structures of over one hundred countries as well as from narratives of particular countries, with a special focus on the relationship between politicians and bureaucrats in Spain and Sweden. This book is a notable contribution to the literature in comparative politics and public policy on good governance, and to corruption studies more widely.

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Politicians, Bureaucrats, and the Making
of Good Government

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Till mina föräldrar, Margareta och Lars
A mis padres, Elisabet y Benjamín

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