Transitions to Good Governance
Creating Virtuous Circles of Anti-corruption

Edited by Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Director of the European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State-Building (ERCAS), Hertie School, Berlin, Germany and Michael Johnston, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Emeritus, Colgate University, US

Why have so few countries managed to leave systematic corruption behind, while in many others modernization is still a mere façade? How do we escape the trap of corruption, to reach a governance system based on ethical universalism? In this unique book, Alina Mungiu-Pippidi and Michael Johnston lead a team of eminent researchers on an illuminating path towards deconstructing the few virtuous circles in contemporary governance. The book combines a solid theoretical framework with quantitative evidence and case studies from around the world. While extracting lessons to be learned from the success cases covered, Transitions to Good Governance avoids being prescriptive and successfully contributes to the understanding of virtuous circles in contemporary good governance.

‘Vicious cycles, where corruption breeds corruption, present special challenges. Nevertheless, some success stories exist. The case studies in this edited volume highlight reforms that created virtuous cycles, where honesty breeds honesty. Nevertheless, the authors caution that reforms may be fragile and incomplete if policies do not shift expectations and behavior sufficiently enough toward a new, less-corrupt status quo.’
– Susan Rose-Ackerman, Yale University, US

‘The reader should immediately plunge into the Mungui-Pippidi and Johnston edited volume. In chapters covering Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Georgia, Qatar, Rwanda, South Korea, Taiwan, and Uruguay, country experts explain how these extraordinarily disparate countries each progressed from a situation where corruption is the norm to one where, if not the exception, it is at least becoming the exception. Readers looking for practical approaches and innovative moves will find much of value.’
– Global Anti Corruption Blog

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