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Corruption and Economic Development
New Evidence from the Middle Eastern and North African Countries

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Abstract: This paper analyzes the role of economic development in curbing corruption by focusing on political and economic freedoms for a sample of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries over the period 1984-2013. In addition, the analysis investigates whether political and economic freedoms lower corruption in natural-resource-rich countries by considering both linear and non-linear effects. The results reveal that the interactive relationship between economic and political freedoms and government size leads to a reduction in corruption. Furthermore, our results show robust support to suggest that an increase in income increases corruption in natural-resource-rich countries. Overall, our findings provide some relevant policy implications for MENA countries.

Keywords: Corruption, economic development, democracy, economic freedom, MENA Countries

JEL classification: E31, E3, C33, P44.

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