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Title of Project:	“Accountability and Corruption: Political Institutions Matter”
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Précis of 100 Words or Less:	This study uses a cross-country panel to examine the determinants of corruption, paying particular attention to political institutions that increase political accountability. Even though for a long time the theoretical literature from political science and economics has indicated the importance of political institutions in determining corruption, the empirical literature is relatively scarce and new. The main theoretical underpinning of our empirical investigation is that political institutions affect corruption through two channels: political accountability and the structure of provision of public goods. Our main results confirm the role of political institutions in determining the prevalence of corruption. In short, democracies, parliamentary systems, political stability, and freedom of press are all associated with lower levels of corruption. Additionally, we show that common results of the previous empirical literature on the determinants of corruption related to openness and legal tradition do not hold once political variables are taken into account.
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