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“ETHICS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN TURKEY”

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OUTLINE

- Definition Revisited: Corruption and Political Corruption
 - Typology
 - Anti-Corruption Measures
 - The Case of Turkey
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Narrow and Broad Definition

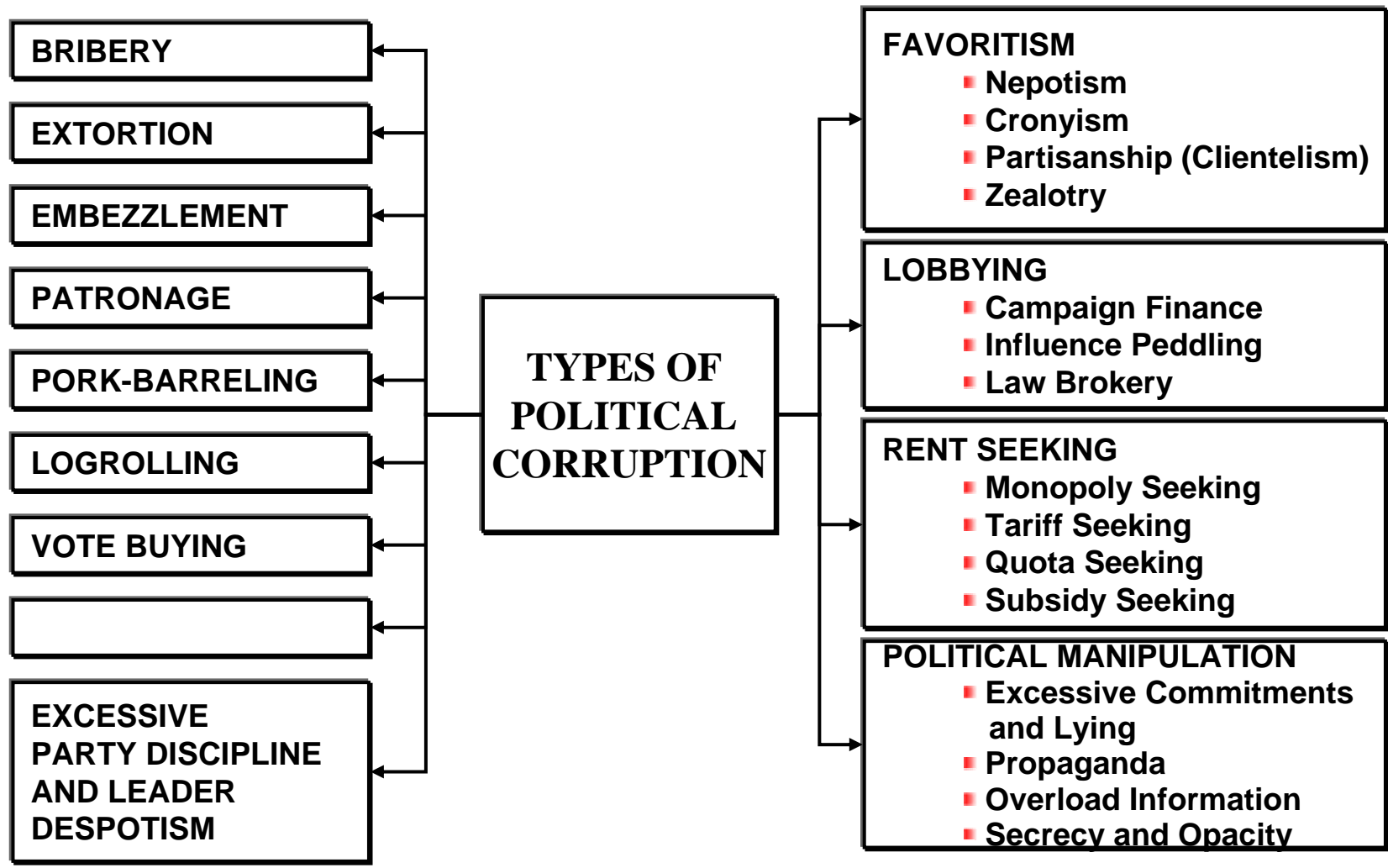
- **NARROW DEFINITION: CORRUPTION**

Misuse of public office and public power by public servants for private gain.

The term of corruption is often equated with “bribery.”

- **BROAD DEFINITION: POLITICAL CORRUPTION**

In its widest meaning, political corruption refers to all kind of behavior and actions of the political actors (voters, politicians, bureaucrats, interest and pressure groups) violating formal and informal ethical rules to gain private benefit.



ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

How to deal with Corruption?

Traditional Anti-Corruption Strategies

- Education,
 - Ethics/ Morality/ Values in society...
 - The role of religious organizations and institutions
 - Control through laws, courts, police, media etc.
 - Citizen participation,
 - Sanctions,
 - Etc.
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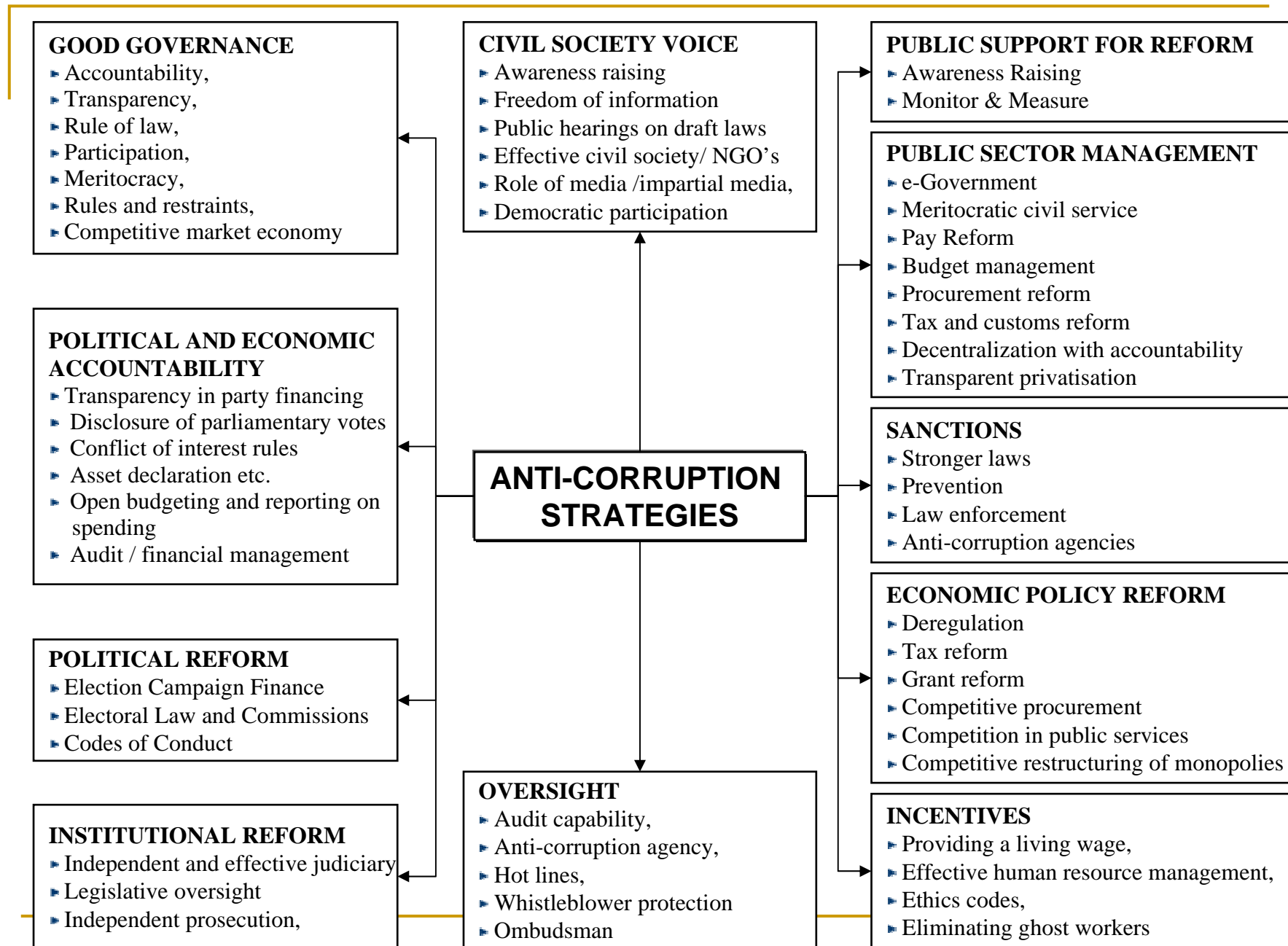
Shortcomings of Traditional Corruption Control Strategies

- Lack of understanding government failures (the deficiencies of the excessive government)
 - Not taking into account the principal-agent relations in government, (The myth of principal; selection of agents, behaviour and actions of agents)
 - Assumption of public interest maximization by political actors,
 - Unaccounted harms of interest groups: rent extraction and rent seeking,
 - Limits of the voice of people: rational voter ignorance and irrelevance,
 - Lack of ineffective judiciary,
 - Lack of independent press that exposes corruption,
 - Focusing only to increase the salaries of civil servants only.
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CURBING CORRUPTION

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

IN GENERAL



**“CORRUPTION IN TURKEY
and ETHICS FOR THE
PREVENTION OF
CORRUPTION IN TURKEY”**

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CONCERNING CORRUPTION IN TURKEY

- How serious are the ethical issues in the political decision making process?
 - Systematic (pervasive) or sporadic corruption ?
 - What are the major unethical behavior and attitudes in government?
 - The types of political corruption in Turkey ???
 - Administrative corruption !! Bribes to public officials to distort the existing rules and regulations.
 - *win procurement contracts*
 - *obtain delivery of public services: monopoly seeking*
 - *gain licenses: license seeking*
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SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CONCERNING CORRUPTION IN TURKEY

- State capture in Turkey: Actions of individuals, groups and firms to shape the formation of rules and regulations through *illicit, non-transparent* provision of private gains to public officials.
 - *rent seeking by powerful special interest groups*
 - *purchase of legislative votes (vote buying)*
 - *illicit political party financing*
 - *etc.*
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ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES IN TURKEY

- **Traditional Anti-Corruption Strategies: Do they work?**
 - Education, /Informal rules and institutions /The role of religious organizations and institutions /Control through laws, courts, police, media etc. /Citizen participation, /Sanctions, etc.
 - **Reinventing and Downsizing Government: Did it work or Will it work?**
 - Public sector reform
 - Privatizing the POE's
 - Delivery of public goods via private sector
 - Etc...
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Turkey: Right Steps...

- Good governance legislation. (transparency/accountability)
 - Law No 5018: **Public Financial Management and Control Law**
 - Law No: 4734. **Public Procurement Law.**
 - Law No. 3628. **Disclosure of Assets.** Law on Disclosure of Assets and Fight Against Bribery and Corruption,
 - **Freedom of Information Act.**
 - Law No 5176: **Law for Establishment of the Ethics Board for Civil Servants**
 - **Code of ethics.** Regulation on the code of conduct for civil servants and principles for applications
 - **International treaties.** Turkey has signed the UN Convention Against Corruption and ratified the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption
 - **Institutional efforts.** Organized crime departments in police and judiciary, Financial Crimes Investigation Institution, (MASAK), Ethics Board for Civil Servants
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Turkey: Reform Agenda

- **Political will and effective leadership.**
 - **Ethics is a social capital...** social glue of the society... Informal rules and institutions matters...
 - **Law on Government Ethics.** A general framework that defines the unethical behavior/attitudes and actions in government is necessary...
 - **Meritocracy:** Elimination of nepotism, cronism, patronage, partisanship, zealotry....
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Turkey: Reform Agenda

- **Limiting the role and functions of the government**
 - Reinventing and Downsizing of the Government
 - Removing the Centralist and Bureaucratic Government Structure
 - Privatization
 - Deregulation
 - Decentralization / Localization
 - **Limiting the power of the government**
 - Constitutional restraints
 - Term limitation. Constitutional limits on government officials to prevent abuse of power (example: term limitation, recall)
 - Limiting taxing power
 - Limits on public borrowing
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Turkey: Reform Agenda

RULES AND INSTITUTIONS

- Designing institutions (rules) that constrains state and officials.
 - Corruption is not primarily a legal issue. (New laws do not necessarily change institutions.)
 - Corruption cannot be solved by appealing to education, faith and morality alone.
 - Reforming rules and institutions is key to overcoming corruption.
 - It is necessary to change the “*rules of the game*” that govern behavior.
 - **Rules vs discretion** in public management and economic policies.
 - Limiting the discretion available to public servants and establishing simple and predictable rules.
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Turkey: Reform Agenda

- e-Governance
 - Effective Civil Society
 - Ombudsman.
 - Effectiveness in Justice and Judicial Services
 - Regulation and Transparency in Campaign Finance
 - Restructuring in Grant (Subsidy) Programs
 - Whistleblowing
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CONCLUSIONS

- Corruption does not mean bribery only, as usually understood. Corruption is a complex issue and concept. Political corruption is much better concept to cover all kinds of **wrongdoings** in political decision making process.
 - There is a need of coherent, overall and holistic approach to understand corruption.
 - Anti-corruption reform is a long-term process.
 - Effective anti-corruption effort requires political will and and clean commitment from the top level.
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CONCLUSIONS

- Pervasive and systematic corruption can be cured only through a broad-based campaign involving **all stakeholders** in political decision making process.
 - No single approach to combatting corruption is likely to be effective. Instead, success involves a **holistic strategy**.
 - Diagnosing the disease in all aspects is essential before curing it. A successful program often begins with diagnosing and a clear understanding of its causes. Cause-effect approach is necessary to see the problem.
 - Traditional anti-corruption strategies do have some shortcomings.
 - New perspectives (such as public choice perspective, institutional perspectives) are useful to understand corruption.
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