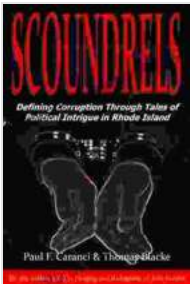


# Defining Corruption Through Tales of Political Intrigue in Rhode Island



## Scoundrels: Defining Corruption Through Tales of Political Intrigue in Rhode Island

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 710 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 283 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Corruption is a complex issue with no easy definitions. It is often defined as the abuse of public office for private gain, but this definition is too narrow. Corruption can also take many other forms, such as bribery, extortion, nepotism, and cronyism.

In this article, we will explore the different ways that corruption has been defined throughout history, and how these definitions have been used to understand and combat corruption in Rhode Island. Ultimately, we will argue that there is no one-size-fits-all definition of corruption, and that the best way to understand and combat it is to take a contextual approach that considers the specific historical, political, and economic factors that contribute to corruption in a given society.

## **Historical Definitions of Corruption**

The concept of corruption has been around for centuries. The ancient Greeks and Romans recognized the dangers of corruption, and they developed a number of laws and regulations to combat it. In the Middle Ages, corruption was seen as a sin, and it was often punished severely.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Enlightenment philosophers began to develop a more nuanced understanding of corruption. They argued that corruption was not simply a moral failing, but also a structural problem that was inherent in all political systems.

In the 20th century, the study of corruption became more scientific. Social scientists developed a number of theories to explain the causes and consequences of corruption. These theories have helped us to better understand the complex nature of corruption, and they have also provided us with some valuable tools for combating it.

## **Corruption in Rhode Island**

Rhode Island has a long history of political corruption. In the 19th century, the state was known for its corrupt political machines, which controlled elections and dispensed patronage. In the 20th century, corruption continued to be a problem in Rhode Island, with numerous cases of bribery, extortion, and nepotism.

One of the most famous cases of political corruption in Rhode Island was the "Buddy Cianci scandal." Cianci was the mayor of Providence from 1974 to 1984, and he was convicted of racketeering and extortion in 1986. Cianci's conviction was a major blow to political corruption in Rhode Island, but it did not end the problem.

In recent years, Rhode Island has continued to be plagued by political corruption. In 2013, the state's former governor, Don Carcieri, was convicted of corruption charges. In 2016, the state's former attorney general, Peter Kilmartin, was also convicted of corruption charges.

These cases show that corruption is still a serious problem in Rhode Island. However, there are also signs that the state is making progress in combating corruption. In 2016, the state passed a new ethics law that is designed to prevent and punish corruption. The new law includes a number of important provisions, such as a ban on gifts from lobbyists and a requirement that all state employees file financial disclosure statements.

The new ethics law is a step in the right direction, but there is still more work to be done. Corruption is a complex problem, and there is no easy solution. However, by working together, we can create a more ethical and transparent government in the Ocean State.

## **Challenges of Combating Corruption**

Combating corruption is a complex challenge. There are a number of factors that contribute to corruption, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. However, there are some general principles that can be used to combat corruption.

One important principle is to increase transparency. Corruption thrives in secrecy, so it is important to make government more open and transparent. This can be done by increasing public access to government information, by requiring government officials to disclose their financial interests, and by strengthening whistleblower protections.

Another important principle is to strengthen the rule of law. Corruption is often possible because of weak laws and weak enforcement. By strengthening the rule of law, we can make it more difficult for corrupt officials to escape punishment.

Finally, it is important to promote ethical behavior. Corruption is often a result of greed and selfishness. By promoting ethical behavior, we can create a culture in which corruption is less likely to occur.

### **Suggestions for Combating Corruption**

There are a number of things that can be done to combat corruption. Here are a few suggestions:

- \* Increase transparency by making government more open and accessible to the public.
- \* Strengthen the rule of law by making it more difficult for corrupt officials to escape punishment.
- \* Promote ethical behavior by creating a culture in which corruption is less likely to occur.
- \* Support organizations that are working to combat corruption.
- \* Be an active citizen by speaking out against corruption and by holding your elected officials accountable.

Corruption is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. By working together, we can create a more ethical and transparent government in the Ocean State.

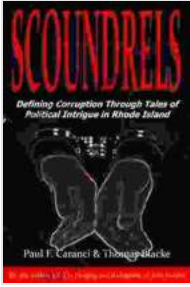
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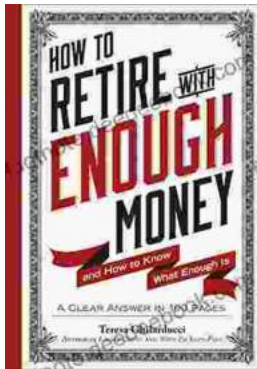
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