

BOOKREVIEWS:

Shaazka Beyerle; *Curtailing Corruption: People Power for Accountability and Justice*, Lynne Reinner, 2014

Focusing on citizens initiatives against corruption, Beyerle's book brings a refreshing new perspective to the study of civil resistance and nonviolent action, and how to counter this particular type of misconduct from the bottom-up. Beyerle's more than seven case studies from Afghanistan, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Uganda and elsewhere add deep insight into how grassroots initiatives can be organised and performed in campaigns that blacklist corrupt politicians, monitor development projects or organise citizens to protect an anti-corruption institution, as done in Indonesia. The case studies include many concrete examples of practical campaign tools, such as the "zero-rupee" note from India, useful to hand over to civil servants asking for an extra "fee". Each case is systematically structured with a description of the case and its context, the campaign attributes, outcomes, case analysis and lessons learned.

The book expands our knowledge about how to use nonviolent direct action against non-state actors, such as the mafia in Italy. By including examples from both democracies and dictatorships, Beyerle also reminds us that the logic of nonviolent action remains the same under varying circumstances. She is convincing in showing how monitoring authorities suspected of misconduct can be a useful for disrupting systems of corruption and convincing those not wedded to graft to switch loyalty. This is a method not usually included in the repertoire of nonviolent action.

The two concluding chapters focus on the lessons learned and the implications for internationals aiming to support anti-corruption work. The first would have been more interesting with a longer discussion drawing more on the case studies, while the latter is thorough and highly relevant, especially since Beyerle's work is a documentation of the effect that citizens' agency can have. There is no point in waiting for the "right" conditions to fight corruption to be

created from above, because people's own actions are one of the most important factors for such circumstances to develop.

An impressive start for the study of nonviolence and corruption, this book will hopefully be followed by more research, especially in relation to the long-term impact of citizen campaigns against corruption.

Majken Jul Sorensen, Honorary Post-Doctoral Research Associate, The Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts University of Wollongong, Australia