

“A carefully edited, comprehensive volume on finance and corruption in both democratic and democratizing countries. This volume represents the ‘state of the field’ in an area that is increasingly important: corruption and its perception in contemporary politics. This book should be used as an agenda-setting instrument, strengthening democratic institutions all over the world.” —ILAN PELEG, Lafayette College

Money, Corruption, and Political Competition in Established and Emerging Democracies, edited by Jonathan Mendilow, investigates the effectiveness of public subsidization of political competition as an anti-corruption mechanism. The exponential growth of advertising and polling techniques, the need to reach wider publics, and the inability to raise commensurate funds from ordinary members confront parties with ever-increasing difficulty to budget their apparatus. The use of contribution solicitation from corporations and wealthy individuals, drawing on the unpaid use of public services as sources of contributions from government employees and contractors, and the “sale” of policies, are commonly perceived as corrosive to democratic governance. Such solutions shade into one another. Even where provider–consumer connections are only implied, donations by corporations and rich donors involve the desire to surmount the democratic constraints of “one man, one vote” in order to gain disproportionate influence on the policymaking process.

Mendilow’s collection clarifies outcomes that are critical to an assessment of the ramifications for modern democracy. In a politically divisive climate, the contributors to this essential collection provide thoughtful insight into some of the most important public and economic policy questions facing our world today.

Contributors

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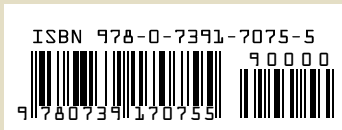
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Lexington Books

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The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.
800-462-6420 • www.rowman.com

Cover image credit: as necessary



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EDITED BY

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