

FOREWORD

There has been much vague talk about links between corruption and privatization, but this careful study comparing private and public tax enforcement regimes in Bangladesh represents a significant advance in knowledge. If you think privatization is an all-purpose remedy for corruption in public bureaucracies, Chowdhury's analysis will show you why privatization can sometimes make corruption worse. Not only does he demonstrate that private enforcement of customs duty in Bangladesh involved higher levels of corruption than public bureaucracy corruption, but also provides an elegant and rigorously-argued theoretical explanation. The analysis has implications that go far beyond the particular case chosen, and everyone who is interested in remedies for corruption should read this book. I am delighted to see the work getting into print.

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