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**Research Article** 

# Corruption and Iraq Banks Performance: Expanding the "Grease or Sand the Wheel" Hypothesis

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# **Abstract**

The main goal of the study is to investigate the effect of corruption on the profitability of Iraqi banks during the period 2012–2020. The paper used a sample of nine private banks that account for a considerable proportion of the overall assets of the Iraqi commercial banks. The advanced technique of method of moment quantile regression (MMQREG) is used. To validate the initial results, we use the feasible generalized least squares (FGLS) and panelcorrected standard errors (PCSEs) techniques. Our results support the 'grease or sand the wheel' hypothesis of corruption for Iraqi banks. This finding supports the view that the current weak governance structures and the power-sharing political system in the country serve as an 'escape hatch' for individuals in power. Furthermore, the findings of the PCSE and FGLS validated the MMQREG results in terms of coefficient sign. Correspondingly, income and inflation are shown to be positive drivers of ROAA. Furthermore, it was demonstrated that Iraqi banks are not getting any benefit from economies of scale regarding financial performance. On the other hand, our results reveal that the ratio of cost income has a statistically significant negative effect on bank profitability, implying that Iraqi private banks are operating below their optimal capacity.



#### **About the Journal**

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## 1. Introduction

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> The impact of corruption in Iraqi banks is manifested in multiple ways, as its harmful effects can be seen on the infrastructure and the banking sector efficiency. These apparent impacts include mismanagement of financial institutions, encouragement of unethical practices, and promotion of financial poverty, and then reducing the confidence in the banking system. The problem of bribery and corruption in banking operations is among the most prominent challenges affecting the profitability of these institutions. Bribery and corruption can tarnish reputation and weaken competition, which negatively affects the selection of projects and financial operations in general, thus reducing expected profitability (Myint, 2000, p.33-34). In addition, the lack of transparency in banks' actions and decisions leads to the concealment of some illegal operations, which promotes financial manipulation and causes deterioration in profitability. It is difficult for investors and customers to assess potential risks and clearly understand financial operations in the absence of transparency, which affects their confidence in the banking system. In this context, confronting the influence of corruption on the Iraqi banks profitability requires taking serious measures by the responsible authorities and by the banking sector itself. Supervision and effective enforcement of laws must be strengthened, in addition to promoting integrity and transparency within banking institutions, to ensure the banking sector stability and to enhance its profitability in the interest of the national economy. The concept of corruption extends comprehensively and includes a range of unethical practices and misconduct, which can cause the collapse of financial and economic systems. The impact of corruption accelerates when it touches the walls of banks, affecting every aspect of their operation, from their internal management to their relationships with customers and the financial market (Bhandari, 2023, p.755).

> This research attempt to shed a light on the financial corruption and its impact on banks profitability by adopting a policy of analyzing a group of variables subject to study in the context of the relationship with the methods of corruption that obstruct this activity and how their multiple impacts on the profitability of Iraqi banks. Consecutive governments have pledged to address corruption through both political and economic reforms. However, thus far, these promises have not been adhered to satisfactory action. Usually mostly a result of an unwillingness to encounter the systemic nature of corruption, weak and ill-equipped organizations, and fierce resistance from entrenched interests seeking to preserve the existing status quo. But maybe most commonly, the contemporary issue of corruption in Iraq can be attributed to power sharing (sectarian affiliation) arrangement that was established after the US occupation of Iraq in 2003. Furthermore, the power-sharing groups both collude to protect each other and protect their members from facing legal consequences launched by other groups and from the legal pursuit of unlawful activities (Abdullah, 2019, p.361).

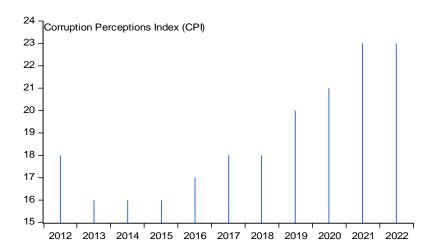


Figure 1. Corruption perceptions Index (CPI) in Iraq 2012-2022. Source: (WDI) World Bank

There are different perspectives regarding corruption. Some, like Aburime, 2009 for Nigeria; Mongid and Tahir, 2011 for ASEAN countries; Arshad & Rizvi, (2013) for 10 Islamic banks. Bougatef, 2017 for Tunisia; Bolarinwa and Soetan, 2019 for both developed and emerging countries; Hassan et al., (2021) for 77 Islamic banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Meanwhile, there are others, like Asteriou & Tomuleasa (2021) who sample of 326 banks from the 19 Eurozone countries; Nasreen et al. 2023 for 15 Asian countries; Abuzayed et al., (2024) in a sample of 7235 banks from 160 countries, assign negative role to corruption in bank profitability.

This study adds to the literature on the nexus between corruption and profitability in two ways. Firstly, it challenges the assumption of normal distribution, thereby providing credibility to the utilization of regression models employing the Ordinary Least Method employed in previous researches. For doing so, the Method of Moment Quantile Regression, which diverges from estimates based on the conditional mean, is used. Second, few researchers have evaluated the effect of governance dimensions the profitability of banks, especially the control of corruption.

The remaining of this study is outlined below: Section 2 we introduces our literature review, followed by Section 3, which introduces the data panel used in this paper, the hypotheses, well as the methodology. Section 4 outlines the results, and in Section 5 is reserved for the conclusions and proposes relevant recommendations.

## 2. Literature Review

The nexus between profitability of banks and corruption has been an important issue in both empirical and theoretical literature during the last two decades. However, the relationship between corruption and bank profitability remains a matter of disagreement. Some believe that it leads to bypassing bureaucratic procedures; thereby positively contributing to increasing the profitability of banks (the hypothesis of Sand or greasing the wheels). Others see the opposite. Generally, studies that have addressed this issue are limited and inconclusive in terms of outcomes.

Table (1) provides an overview of some of these studies.

Table 1. Review of previous studies

Author(S)	Method(S)	Period	Country/Region	Result
Kumar et al. (2023)	Pooled- OLS/GMM	2010-2017	Emerging countries	Corruption ↓ ROA PI ↓ ROA Corruption ↑ LIQ
Nguyen (2023)	news-based approach	2005-2019	Vietnam	Cor.Cont↑ ROA
Nasreen et al. (2023)	GMM	2010-2020	Asian countries	Corruption ↓ ROA & BS Transparency ↑ ROA & BS Regulations ↑ BS
Hendeniya et al. (2023)	FEM/REM MLRA	2015-2021	Sri Lanka	Corruption ↓ ROA Size ↑ ROA & BS
Athari and Bahreini (2023)	FEM/REM OLS	2003-2017	Arab countries	Cor.Cont ↑ ROA Governance ↑ ROA
Dogan and Yildiz (2023)	FEM/GMM	2007-2020	Turkey	GDP & INF↑ROA & ROE
Asteriou et al. (2021)	AB.GMM	2005-2018	Eurozone countries	Corruption ↓ ROA Economic freedom ↑ ROA Transparency ↓ ROA Regulations ↑ ROA
Titiloye (2020)	ARDL	2005-2019	Nigeria	PI ↓ GDP
Yekini et al. (2019)	DM	2002-2016	ECOWAS	Corruption ↑ ROA
Fhima (2018)	3SLS	2008-2015	MENA	Corruption ↓ GDP Corruption ↓ BS
Bougatef (2017)	GMM	2003-2014	Tunisia	Corruption ↑ ROA
Mongid and Tahir (2011)	C-S.Reg	2003-2008	Asian countries	CIR ↓ ROA GDP ↑ ROA CRPIX ↑ ROA
Sufian and Chong (2008)	MLRA	1990-2005	Philippine	Size ↓ ROA INF ↓ ROA

Notes: ARDL: Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model; GMM: Generalized Method of Moments; (OLS): Ordinary Least Squares; MLRA: ; (FEM): Fixed Effect Model; Multiple Linear Regression; (REM): Random Effect Model; CIR: cost to income ratio; (C-S.Reg): cross-sectional data regression; (CRPIX): Corruption index; (ECOWAS): economic community of west African states; (DM): dynamic model; (PI): political instability; (3SLS): three stage least squares; (MENA): Middle east and North Africa; ARDL: autoregressive distributed lag; (MLRA): multivariate linear regression; (BS): bank's stability; (\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$):Decrease: (\$\$\frac{1}{2}\$):Increase.

**Source:** Prepared by authors.

# 3. Data and Methodology

### 3.1 Data

The dataset is a balanced panel dataset. Bank-specific data were extracted from the annual reports or calculated indirectly by definitions. Country data (Macroeconomic) (GDP per capita growth) is collected from the World Bank (WDI 2023). Well-documented literature such as Asterioua et al. (2021) and Thanh et al. (2022) shows that the growth of per capita income, as a measure of overall economic activity, is projected to have an effect on several variables linked to the supply of and demand for loans and deposits. Hence, more expansion of the economy may result in an expansion of demand for interest and noninterest activities, thereby boosting financial sector performance.

Table (2) reports the sources as well as the definitions of the variables included in our panel and used for empirical investigation.

Notation Variable Measure Source **Dependent variables** Average Return on Assets **ROAA** Net income divided by average assets Bank Scope Bank-specific variables **SIZE** Natural log of total assets. Bank Scope Share of total equity divided **EDSTF** Equity divided by deposits plus ST funding. Bank Scope by deposits plus ST funding. Net Stable Funding Ratio **NSFR** Net Loans divided by deposit and ST Funding Bank Scope Operating expenses over operating income Cost to income ratio CI Bank Scope generated. Macroeconomic variables **Economic Activity** Annual real per capita GDP growth rate WDI **GDPGR** Rate of inflation (Annual) Inflation INF WDI Governance variables Corruption Cor.Cont Corruption index

Table 2. Measurement, sources, and definition of the study's variables.

**Note:** (WGI): stand for World Governance Indicators. (WDI): stand for world development indicators from World Bank; (ST): stand for Short term

**Source:** Authors calculations.

Table (3) lists summary statistics for all variables. The summary includes the central tendency as well as the variability measures.

Staistics **ROAA** CI **SIZE NSFR EDSTF GDPGR INF** CorCon Mean 2.4306 48.9046 13.5805 25.6970 101.5395 0.7085 -2.5032 -1.3816 Max 17.2258 -1.2482 8.0297 135.8283 73.6653 304.0165 11.0230 18.2040 Min 12.3448 9.7244 -14.0902 -30.1997 -1.4017 5.4854 0.1468 -1.4617 Std. Dev. 2.2191 7.0612 30.3507 1.2367 18.1263 61.3527 13.7199 0.0689 Skewness 0.6535 0.8401 2.1993 0.8576 1.1377 -0.5588 -0.3710 0.5408 Kurtosis 2.6463 3.1323 6.3972 3.2880 4.5342 2.9642 2.7996 2.1724 Jarq-Bera 6.1876 9.5879 104.2476 4.2202 10.2092 25.4194 1.9937 6.2602 Prob. 0.0453 0.0083 0.0000 0.0061 0.0000 0.3690 0.0437 0.1212 Obs. 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81

Table 3. Summary Statistics

Source: Authors calculations.

#### 3.2 Econometric Models

The basic model employed in this study is presented through a linear regression function, which links bank profitability to bank-specific determinants, macroeconomic determinants, and corruption control in the following form:

 $\begin{aligned} \textit{Profitability}_{it} &= f(\textit{Bank Specific Variables}_{it}, + \textit{Macroeconomic Variabless}_{it} \\ &+ \textit{Corruption Control}_{it}) \dots \dots (1) \end{aligned}$ 

Hereinafter, we develop the basic regression model in (1), as follows:

 $POFT_{it} = \alpha + \vartheta CorCon_{it} + \beta' X_{it} + v_i + \varepsilon_{it} \dots \dots (2)$ 

where i=1, ..., 9 (Banks included) and t=2012, ..., 2020, (period covered).  $\alpha$  is the intercept.  $v_i$  is bank-unobservable specific characteristics and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is error terms. Similarly,  $\beta$  is the vector of coefficients.  $X_{it}$  is the variables that determine bank profitability and macroeconomic condition. Finally,  $\vartheta$  is the coefficient of corruption control.

This study uses the MMQREG with fixed effects. Despite the fact that quantile regression is robust to outliers, it remains unsuccessful in capturing non-observed individual heterogeneity within the panel.

# **3.3 Estimation Techniques**

From what is commonly acknowledged in the literature of econometrics, the all techniques, based on the OLS method, capture the average relationship between the response variable (profitability in this study) and a set of explanatory variables (as in our case: bank-specific factors, macroeconomic factors, and corruption) and based on the mean function. Their estimates offer only a measure of the mean of the dependent variable without taking account for the lower and upper ranges. In other words, the estimates do not consider banks with higher or lower profitability levels, and therefore they will give inefficient results about the studied relationship. Consequently, using standard regression techniques based on the means to estimate the relationship may not reflect reality and will not provide all relevant information (Al-Jafari & Altaee, 2023, p.8; Altaee & Azeez, 2023, p.691). In order to tackle the limitations associated with classical linear regression techniques, the study uses the quantile regression approach. The PSCE and FGLS techniques were used to serve as robustness for the MMQREG.

# 3.4 Hypothesis

Researches on the influence of corruption on bank profitability have reported contradictory findings.

Based on the findings of previous studies focusing on countries with similar situations as Iraq under the current weak governance structures and the power sharing system that existed in the country, one hypothesis can be established: that in order for a system to work smoothly, like the wheels, sometimes additional "sand or grease" is required. In the context of corruption, this "sand or grease" usually refers to unlawful payments made to those in positions of power to facilitate or expedite certain procedures.

#### 4. Estimation and Results

# **4.1 Pre Estimation Outcomes**

# **4.1.1** Multicollinearity Test

Table 4 presents the correlation coefficients of the profit determinants. In order to reduce the increasing risk of making a Type I error, we use the Sidak correction. Results suggest that multicollinearity problem is not presented.

	ROAA	CI	Size	NSFR	EDSTF	GDPGR	INF	CorCon
ROAA	1.000							
CI	-0.678	1.000						
CI	(0.000)							
SIZE	-0.175	-0.411	1.000					
SIZE	(0.119)	(0.000)						
NSFR	0.224	(-0.169	-0.178	1.000				
NSFK (	(0.044)	0.132)	(0.112)					
EDSTF	0.180	0.170	-0.597	-0.153	1.000			
EDSIF	(0.107)	(0.130)	(0.000)	(0.174)				
GDPGR	0.336	-0.213	-0.007	0.073	-0.083	1.000		
UDFUK	(0.002)	(0.056)	(0.949)	(0.515)	(0.463)			
INF	-0.113	0.252	-0.001	-0.052	-0.036	-0.044	1.000	
	(0.316)	(0.023)	(0.995)	(0.646)	(0.753)	(0.694)		
CorCon	0.437)	-0.263	-0.053	0.100	-0.128	-0.040	0.014	1.000
	(0.000)	(0.018)	(0.636)	(0.375)	(0.255)	(0.723)	(0.905)	

Table 4. Pearson Correlation Matrix

Sidak's correction has been applied, p-values in parentheses. ***p<0.10		
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Source: Authors calculations.

# 4.1.2 Test of Normality

To further check the normality of the variables included in our panel, we employ the Shapiro-Francia W' test. Based on the table 5 results, there is adequate evidence to conclude that displacement variables are not normally distributed. These results give additional support for the Jarque-Bera test. Based on the aforementioned, it becomes necessary to employ an alternative technique that doesn't require the fulfillment of the classical assumptions required by the ordinary least squares method.

Table 5. Shapiro–Francia "W' test of normality.

Variable	Obs.	W	V	Z	Prob > z
ROAA	81	0.94423	4.271	2.831	0.00232
SIZE	81	0.60781	30.037	6.634	0.00001
CI	81	0.93592	4.908	3.102	0.00096
NSFR	81	0.93181	5.223	3.223	0.00063
EDSTF	81	0.90129	7.56	3.944	0.00004
GDPGR	81	0.94101	4.518	2.94	0.00164
INF	81	0.94449	4.251	2.822	0.00239
CorCon	81	0.93811	4.74	3.034	0.00121

Source: Authors' calculations.

# 4.1.3. Testing for Cross sectional independence, Heteroscedasticity, and Autocorrelation.

To assess the validity of the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) assumptions within the context of this study, we employed three post-estimation tests. First, conduct the Pesaran's cross-sectional independence test to assess cross-sectional independency. Second, examine autocorrelation using Wooldridge test. Finally, assess heteroscedasticity using the Modified Wald test.

Table 6. Cross-Sectional Independence, Autocorrelation, and Heteroscedasticity Test Results

Cross-sectional independence test	Autocorrelation test	Test of Group wise heteroscedasticity	
(Pesaran's test)	(Wooldridge test)	(Modf. Wald test in FEM)	
H <sub>0</sub> : cross-sectional independence	H <sub>0</sub> : No 1 <sup>st</sup> order autocorrelation	$H_0$ : sigma (i) <sup>2</sup> = sigma <sup>2</sup> for all i	
Pesaran's CS independence = -1.494	F( 1, 29) = 4.437	chi2 (30) = 26.01	
Prob (Pr) = 1.8648	Prob > F = 0.0683	Prob>chi2 =0.002	

**Source:** Authors' calculations.

The results listed in table 6 propose that the error in the study is characterized by cross-sectional independence, as the test probability is below 0.05. The same can be said about the autocorrelation test. Nevertheless, the results indicate the presence of heteroscedasticity.

## 4.2 Estimation and Results

# 4.2.1 Method of Moments Quantile regression (MMQREG) outcomes

The results obtained from the MMQREG method are presented in Table 7. The most important result for this study is that of corruption. The estimated coefficient offers substantial support for the validity of the "grease the wheel hypothesis" regarding corruption in the Iraqi banking industry. This finding supports the view that the current weak governance

structures and the power sharing system that exist in the country act as an 'escape hatch' for individuals in power.

From table 7, the MMQREG results show a positive effect to corruption on bank profitability across quantiles (0.5 to 0.95), with an increasing trend as we progress into the upper quantiles. This basically indicates that corruption upsurge the profitability of Iraqi private banks. This result validates the main hypothesis of this study. In addition, we observed a positive impact of GDPGR on ROAA, suggesting that GDPGR increases ROAA among Iraqi banks. To this end, the estimated impact of GDPGR on ROAA across quartiles 0.25 to 0.95 is estimated at 0.052%, 0.059, 064%, and 0.073%, respectively.

Variable qtile\_5 location scale qtile\_25 qtile\_50 qtile\_75 qtile\_95 -0.0581\*\*\* -0.0035 -0.0513\*\*\* -0.0550\*\*\* -0.0585\*\*\* -0.0612\*\*\* -0.0658\*\*\* CI (0.0048)(0.0085)(0.0061)(0.0048)(0.0029)(0.0048)(0.0070)-0.7570\*\* -0.4987 -0.640\*\* -0.7707\*\* -0.8733\* -1.0445\* -0.1303 **SIZE** (0.1388)(0.0837)(0.2454)(0.1772)(0.1392)(0.1397)(0.2026)0.0001 0.0041 -0.0080 -0.0036 0.00050.00380.0091 **NSFR** (0.0079)(0.0048)(0.0139)(0.0100)(0.0078)(0.0079)(0.0114)0.0040 0.0047 0.0039 0.0033 -0.0008 0.00560.0023 **EDSTF** (0.0028)(0.0017)(0.0049)(0.0035)(0.0028)(0.0028)(0.0040) $0.058\overline{4^{***}}$ 0.0591\*\*\* 0.0643\*\*\* 0.0729\*\*0.0453  $0.0524^*$ 0.0066 **GDPGR** (0.0173)(0.0104)(0.0304)(0.0219)(0.0171)(0.0173)(0.0249)0.0156 0.00560.00440.0105 0.0162  $0.0206^*$  $0.0280^{*}$ **INF** (0.0076)(0.0133)(0.0096)(0.0075)(0.0076)(0.0110)(0.0046)7.2672\*\* 3.7399 5.6681\* 7.4540\*\* 8.8542\*\* 11.1920\*\* 1.7783 CorCon (2.1676)(1.3063)(3.8213)(2.7628)(2.1687)(2.1778)(3.1516)20.518\*\*\* 29.810\*\*\* 25.1815\*\*\*  $5.1858^*$ 14.895\* 25.726\*\*\* 36.6270\*\*\* Constant (3.4059)2.0526) (6.0879)(4.4422)(3.5189)(3.4652)

Table 7. Outcomes of MMQREG Technique

**Note:** \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* specify 1 percent, 5 percent, and 10 percent significance levels, respectively. In parentheses are standard errors.

Source: Authors' calculations.

The result aligns with the belief that, in a time of booming economic growth, consumption and investment are picking up. When investment boosts, companies take out loans from banks to finance some of their investments, which in turn can lead to higher profitability. This revelation confirms the conclusions of Altaee et al. (2013), where they found an insignificant and positive impact of GDP on bank performance in the GCC, but contradicts that of (AlJafari et al., 2021, p.325) for KSA.

Empirical results show that INF positively influences ROAA. This result contradicts the results obtained by Jadah et al. (2020) and Al-Jafari et al. (2021) for Saudi Arabia, where they argue that inflation has an inverse impact on bank performance. In addition, we observed that NSFR and EDSTF had no influence on ROAA during the period 2012–2020.

Concerning operational efficiency, it has been revealed as a significant contributor to the ROAA. The outcomes from all models indicate a highly significant and negative influence of the cost-income ratio on bank profitability. This suggests that the effective management of costs is essential to boosting the profitability of the Iraqi banking industry, and the more operationally efficient the banks are, the higher will be their profitability. Our findings align with the studies of Al-Harbi (2019) for the OIC countries and Ayalew (2021) for Ethiopia.

But contrary to the discovery of Chalise (2019) for Nepalese commercial banks and that of Antwi (2019) for Ghana.

Similarly, the results in Table 7 demonstrate a statistically significant and negative impact of size on bank profitability, but the impact varies across quantiles, with the strongest impact established at high-profit banks. The results suggest that we are not getting any benefit from economies of scale in terms of financial performance. This result corresponds to that of Olarewaju et al. (2017), where they identified a negative impact of Nigerian banks' size on their performance, as well as the findings of Jadah et al. (2020) regarding Iraq. But contrary to the discovery of Urthy (2008) for GCC, Furthermore, studies by Tharu and Shrestha (2019) found no significant relation between bank size and its profitability.

## 4.3 The Robustness Check

The effect of corruption on the Iraqi bank profitability is further checked by means of the FGLS and the PCSE regression models. Table 8 presents the robustness analysis results. We note that the findings from our baseline are consistent with the results obtained from the FGLS and the PCSE methods. The effect of CorCon on ROAA is highly significant and positive. Accordingly, the implications of our findings from the baseline model as well as those of the robustness checks models remain the same.

Table 8. PCSE and FGLS Results

Variable	PCSE	FGLS	
CI	-0.0556***	-0.0547***	
	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	
SIZE	- 0.1174***	-0.6765***	
	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	
NSFR	0.0073	0.0065	
	(0.4990)	(0.2790)	
EDSTF	0.0049 *	0.0048***	
EDSIF	(0.0610)	(0.0000)	
CDDCD	0.0485***	0.0431***	
GDPGR	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	
INF	0.0168 ***	0.0159***	
	(0.0040)	(0.0000)	
CorCon	6.9153 ***	6.7991***	
	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	
Constant	22.902***	22.859***	
	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	

**Notes:**, p-value in (); \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* 1, 5 and 10 percent significance levels, respectively

Source: Authors' Calculations.

Our overall conclusion from the robustness check is that the outcomes of the baseline model, reported in table 8, are quite robust, and henceforth, we can use them to make the final conclusions and deduce some policy recommendations.

# 5. Concluding comments and suggested recommendations

This study investigates the influence of corruption on bank profitability in one of the most corrupted countries. Using a sample of nine private banks between 2012 and 2020, An advanced technique called Method of Moment Quantile Regression (MMQREG) was applied. The main finding of the study validates the "Grease or sand the wheel" hypothesis of corruption for the Iraqi banking industry. These findings may find justification for some reasons. First, weak governance structures are represented by the absence of transparency, the weak role of the law, and the low effectiveness of the state. Second, the power-sharing political system existed in the country, which acts as an 'escape hatch' for individuals in power. Third, adopting the wrong employment policy based on political loyalties and not on merits. Fourth, the endorsement and use of state institutions and their financial entities for illicit purposes beyond legal jurisdiction by political parties empower these institutions to engage in unlawful activities. It was further concluded that Iraqi private banks are not getting any benefit from economies of scale in terms of bank profitability. The results of the study, through analyzing the relationship between the various variables that were addressed and their dimensions related to the economic and accounting aspects, confirmed that corruption in its various forms has a significant effect on realizing profitability in Iraqi banks.

The major policy formulation derived from the main findings of this study is to highlight the necessity for banks to take further measures in reducing operational costs (general and administrative expenses, staff costs, and amortization and depreciation) and capitalizing on their economies of scale.

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## الفساد وأداء البنوك العراقية: توسيع فرضية التزيت أو ترميل العجلة

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### الملخص

الهدف الرئيسي للدراسة هو معرفة تأثير الفساد على ربحية البنوك العراقية خلال الفترة 2012-2020. استخدمت الدراسة عينة مكونة من تسعة بنوك خاصة تمثل نسبة كبيرة من إجمالي أصول البنوك التجارية العراقية. يتم استخدام التقنية المتقدمة لطريقة الانحدار الكمي اللحظي (MMQREG). للتحقق من صحة النتائج الأولية، نستخدم تقنيات المربعات الصغرى المعممة (FGLS) والأخطاء القياسية المصححة باللوحة (PCSEs). تدعم نتائجنا فرضية الفساد في البنوك العراقية. تدعم هذه النتيجة وجهة النظر القائلة بأن هياكل الحكم الضعيفة الحالية والنظام السياسي لتقاسم السلطة في البلاد بمثابة "فتحة هروب" للأفراد الموجودين في السلطة. علاوة على ذلك، أثبتت نتائج PCSE وFGLS صحة نتائج MMQREG من حيث علامة المعامل. وفي المقابل، تبين أن الدخل والتضخم هما المحركان الإيجابيان للعائد على الأصول. علاوة على ذلك، فقد تبين أن البنوك العراقية لا تحصل على أي فائدة من وفورات الحجم فيما يتعلق بالأداء المالي. من ناحية أخرى، تكشف نتائجنا أن نسبة دخل التكلفة لها تأثير سلبي ذو دلالة إحصائية على ربحية البنوك، مما يعني ضمنا أن البنوك الخاصة العراقية تعمل بأقل من طاقتها المثلى.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الفساد، العائد على الأصول، فرضية تزييت العجلة، الانحدار ، الصناعة المصرفية.

## گەندەڵی و ئەدای بانکەکانی عیراق: فراوانکردنی گریمانەی "چەورکردن یان خوٚڵکردنی تایه"

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#### يوخته

ئامانجی سەرەکی توێژینەوەکە لێکۆڵینەوەیە لە کاریگەرییەکانی گەندەڵی لەسەر قازانجی 9 بانکی عێراقی لەماوەی ساڵانی ۲۰۱۲-۲۰۲۰. لە توێژینەوەکەدا نمونەی داتاکانی نۆ بانکی ئەھلی بەکارهاتووە کە بەشێکی بەرچاو لە سەروەت و سامانی گشتی بانکە بازرگانییەکانی عێراق پێکدەھێنن. تەکنیکە پێشکەوتووەکەی شێوازی پاشەکشەی کوانتایلی سات (MMQREG) بەکاردەھێنرێت. بۆ چەسپاندنی ئەنجامە اندى ئەنجامە كان، ئێمە تەکنیکەکانی كەمترین چوارگۆشەی گشتگیر (FGLS) و ھەڵە ستانداردە پاستکراوەکانی پانێڵ (PCSEs) بەکاردەھێنین. ئەنجامەکانمان پشتگیری لە گریمانەی 'چەورکردن یان خۆڵ چەرخەکە'ی گەندەڵی بۆ بانکە عێراقییەکان دەکەن. ئەم دۆزینەوە پشتگیری لەو بۆچوونە دەکات كە لە ژێر پێکھاتە لاوازەکانی ئیستای حوکمپانی و سیستەمی سیاسی دابەشکردنی دەسەڵات لە وڵتدا، كە وەک 'دەربازبوونێکی ھەڵھاتن' بۆ تاکەکانی دەسەڵات كاردەكەن. سەرەپای ئەوە، دۆزینەوەکانی ئەرپای ئەزەلى بەرپاردەۋىنگى ھەڵھاتن' بۇ تاکەکانی دەسەڵات و ھەڵلوسان دەردەكەون كە بزوێنەری ئەرێنی ROAA ن. جگە لەوەش دەركەوت كە بانكە عێراقییەکان ھیچ سوودێک لە ئابوورییە قەبارەییەکان سەبارەت بە ئەدای دارایی وەرناگرن. لە لایەکی ترەۋە ئەنجامەکانمان ئاشکرای دەکەن كە بانكە غیراقییەکان ھیچ سوودێکی بەرچاوی ئاماری لەسەر قازانجی بانكەكان ھەیە، ئەمەش ئەۋە دەگەيەنێت كە بانكە ئەھلىيە عێراقىيەكان لە خوار كۇنجاوی خۆیانەۋە كاردەكەن.

**وشەی سەرەتاييەكان:** گەندەڵی، ROAA، گريمانەی چەوركردنی ويل، پاشەكشەی كوانتايل، پيشەسازی بانكی.