

**Triana, J. (2017). "Media in Colombia: Corruption, Capture and State Cooptation", in: Public Opinion, Peace Process and State Cooptation. Studies from the media. Bogotá: National University of Colombia. Pp. 100 - 125.**

Identify and describe different corruption scenarios in Colombia, object of observation by the Observatory of Media -Obsemed, in light of concepts such as co-optation, capture of the State and co-opted reconfiguration of the State.

It addresses issues of corruption, the capture of the State and co-opted reconfiguration of the State; corruption in Colombia; corruption in Colombia through the mass media; and the conclusions.

In Colombia, institutionalized corruption, apathetic citizenship, and factors such as drug trafficking and the armed conflict have deteriorated the morale of society, opening space for clientelism practices in electoral scenarios.

The phenomena of corruption, capture and co-opted reconfiguration of the State, together with the effects and consequences that they bring for society, have been the object of studies and definitions of special utility in Colombia, due to the high levels of complexity that criminal actions have reached within the State. The erosion of morals, the impossibility of seeking respect for the law and legality, the distortions in the economy and in the social sphere, the ineffectiveness of governments and the loss of legitimacy of the State are some of the negative consequences that they attribute it to the complex phenomena of corruption, which are understood as an insurmountable obstacle to consolidating a true rule of law.

Illegitimate practices have become a common mechanism that citizens have to relate to the State, while abstentions triumph in participation mechanisms.

The media constantly broadcast political and corruption scandals that relate the entire political class to the idea of corruption, create the political reality of corruption, which generates a distrust of the population with respect to state institutions and their officials. Parapolitics, the recruitment carousel and many other scandals have been reiterated and are remembered by citizens, and yet disorganized civil society does not seem to take action in this regard, becoming passive agents in the face of the phenomenon of state co-optation.

It is important what the media hide, since in the complexity of relationships between the different actors that revolve around the capture of the State, the media may eventually find themselves co-opted. In addition, they seem to favor the interests of the national governments on duty in the presentation of the news.