

# **The Quality of Government**

*Corruption, Social Trust, and Inequality  
in International Perspective*

BO ROTHSTEIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO AND LONDON

# Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments	ix
CHAPTER 1. What Is Quality of Government?	1
CHAPTER 2. Quality of Government: What You Get	34
CHAPTER 3. Corruption: The Killing Fields	58
CHAPTER 4. Creating Political Legitimacy: Representative Democracy versus Quality of Government	77
CHAPTER 5. Curbing Corruption: The Indirect “Big Bang” Approach	98
CHAPTER 6. Quality of Government and the Welfare State	120
CHAPTER 7. The Low Trust–Corruption–Inequality Trap	145
CHAPTER 8. Quality of Government and Social Trust: Two Experiments	164
CHAPTER 9. The Tale of Two Countries: Democratic Jamaica versus High Quality of Government Singapore	193
CHAPTER 10. Preventing Societies from Self-Destructing	207
References	227
Index	265