



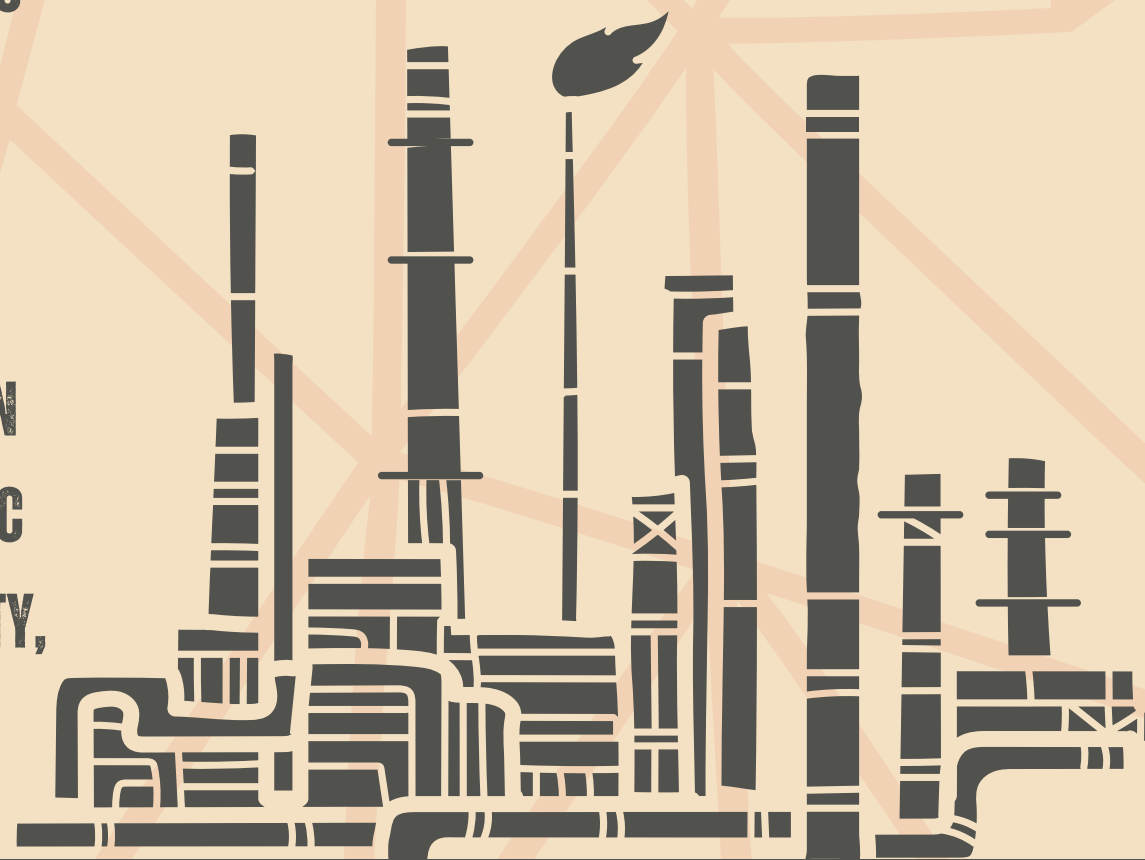
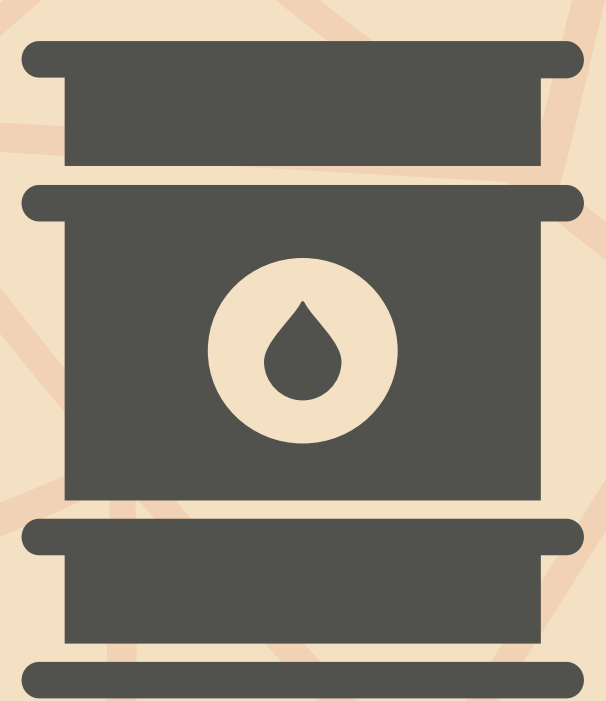
FUELING CORRUPTION

IRAQ'S OIL WAS DRAINED

OIL FUELS CORRUPTION AND HARMS THE PLANET.

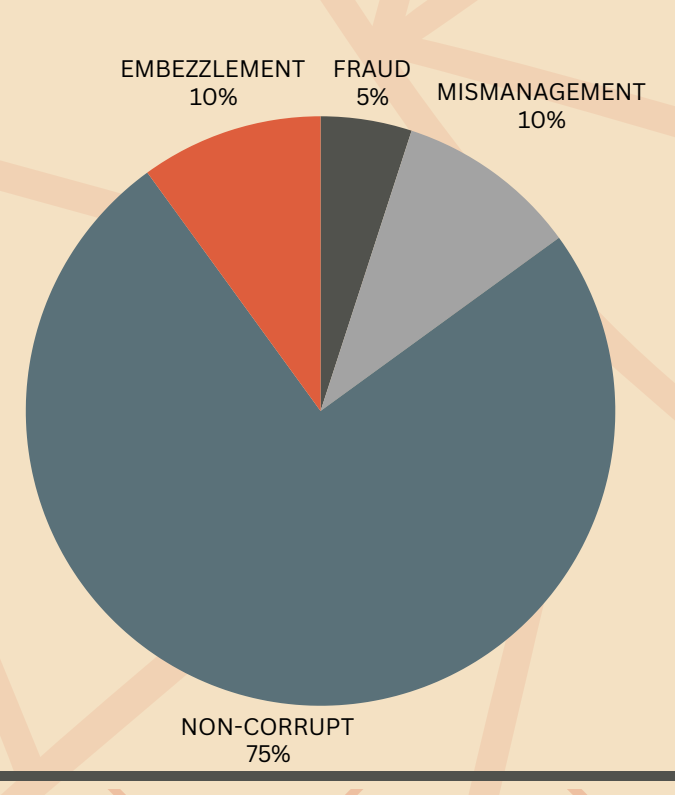
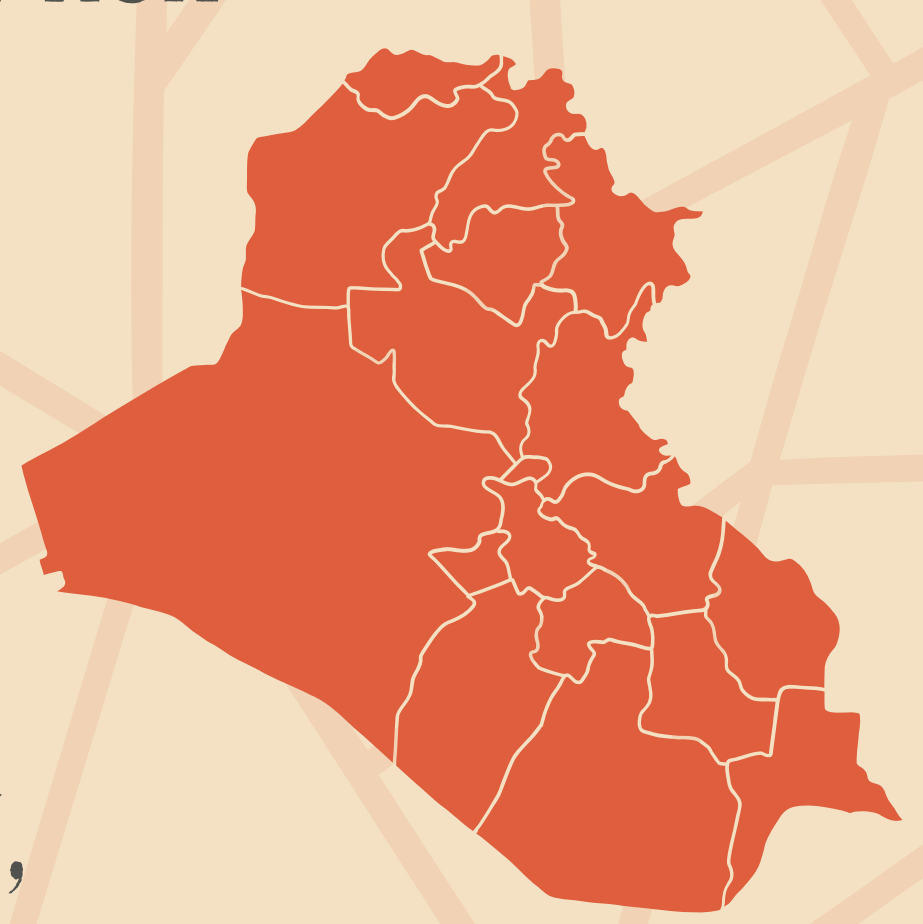
INTRODUCTION

THE OIL INDUSTRY IS A CORNERSTONE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, GENERATING TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY AND FUELING THE ENERGY NEEDS OF NATIONS. HOWEVER, ITS IMMENSE PROFITABILITY AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE HAVE ALSO MADE IT A BREEDING GROUND FOR CORRUPTION. FROM BRIBERY AND EMBEZZLEMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS AND FRAUD, CORRUPTION IN THE OIL SECTOR UNDERMINES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EXACERBATES INEQUALITY, AND HARMS THE ENVIRONMENT.



IRAQ: POST-WAR CORRUPTION

AFTER THE 2003 INVASION, IRAQ'S OIL SECTOR BECAME A HOTBED OF CORRUPTION. POLITICAL PARTIES DIVIDED CONTROL OF THE OIL MINISTRY, AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN OIL REVENUE WERE LOST TO EMBEZZLEMENT AND MISMANAGEMENT.



CONCLUSION



Corruption in the oil industry is a complex and deeply entrenched problem with far-reaching consequences. It undermines economic development, exacerbates inequality, and harms the environment. However, through transparency, strong institutions, and international cooperation, it is possible to curb corruption and ensure that oil wealth benefits all members of society. The fight against corruption is not just a moral imperative but a practical necessity for sustainable development.

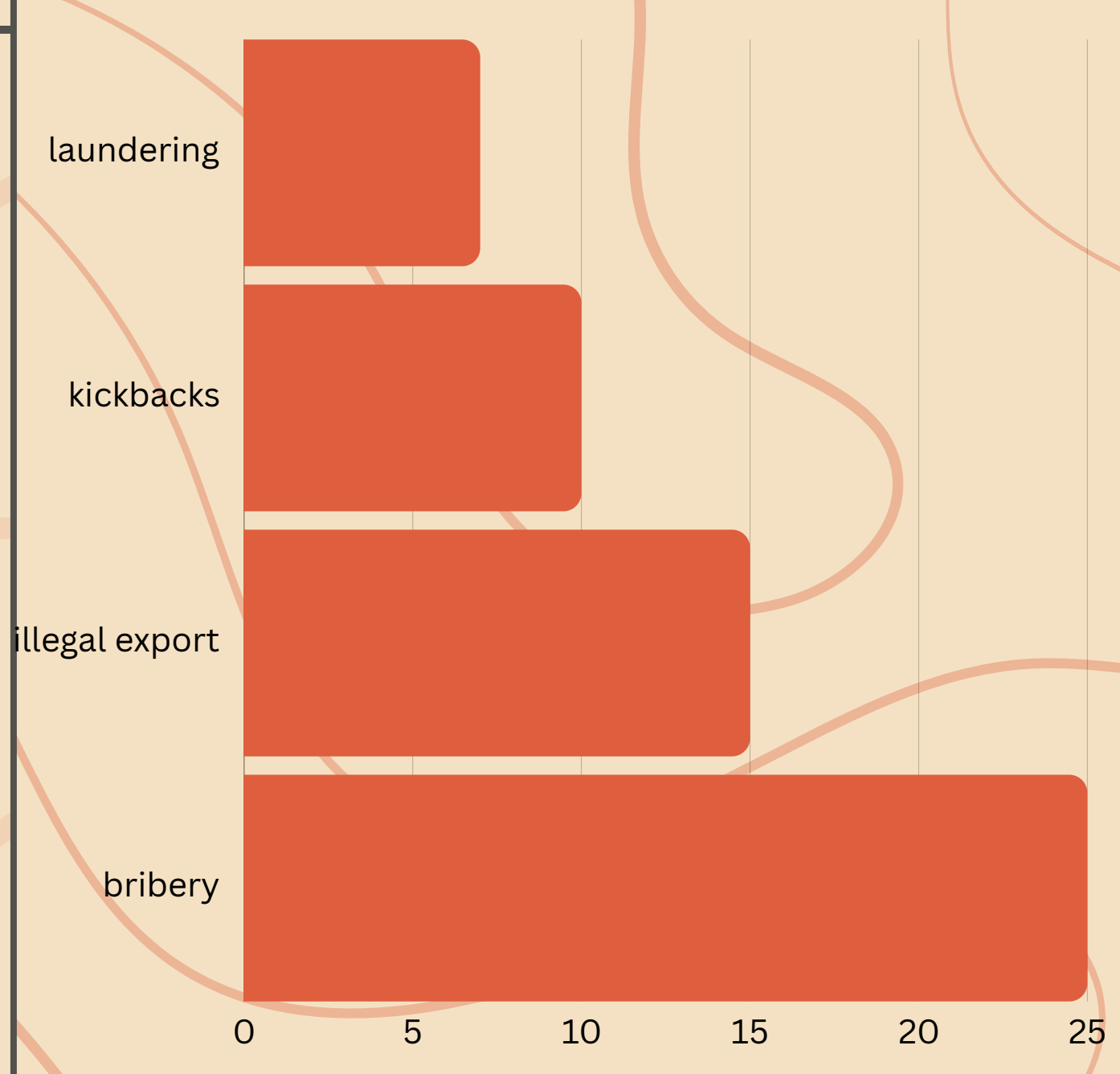
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HOW KICKBACK AND BRIBERY EMERGED.

BRIBERY IS RAMPANT IN THE OIL SECTOR, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ARE WEAK. COMPANIES OFTEN PAY OFF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SECURE EXPLORATION RIGHTS, CONTRACTS, OR FAVORABLE TAX DEALS. KICKBACKS—WHERE A PORTION OF THE CONTRACT VALUE IS SECRETLY RETURNED TO DECISION-MAKERS—ARE ALSO COMMON.

FOR EXAMPLE: IN ANGOLA, A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER, REPORTS HAVE SURFACED OF WESTERN OIL COMPANIES PAYING MILLIONS IN "SIGNATURE BONUSES" TO SECURE DRILLING RIGHTS, WITH A SIGNIFICANT PORTION ALLEGEDLY FUNNELED TO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS.



NEPOTISM AND CRONYISM:

IN MANY OIL-RICH NATIONS, KEY POSITIONS IN NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES ARE HANDED TO RELATIVES OR CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF THOSE IN POWER, REGARDLESS OF QUALIFICATIONS. THIS LEADS TO INEFFICIENCY, MISMANAGEMENT, AND A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE: IN IRAQ, AFTER THE FALL OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, POLITICAL PARTIES DIVIDED CONTROL OF THE OIL MINISTRY AMONG THEMSELVES, LEADING TO WIDESPREAD INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION.

FACE OF A DICTATOR

Saddam Hussein's regime played a significant role in fueling oil corruption in Iraq. Under his leadership, the oil industry was tightly controlled by the state, and the revenues were often funneled directly into Saddam's personal coffers and used to fund military operations. His government was notorious for using the oil sector as a tool for political gain, granting lucrative contracts to loyalists and allies while suppressing transparency and accountability. The "Oil-for-Food" program, initiated during sanctions, was riddled with corruption, where millions of dollars in oil revenues were diverted into kickbacks and bribes. Saddam's centralization of power, combined with his authoritarian control over Iraq's oil wealth, created an environment ripe for widespread embezzlement and exploitation, setting the stage for the vast corruption that plagued the sector long after his regime fell.



Saddam Hussein al-Tikriti
1927-2006