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On The Corruption Of Power

Ira Seidman 4/19/2021

The Unchecked Corruption of Trump's Cabinet

Federal Level

The lavish spending of top officials rarely makes headlines anymore, but that doesn't mean the problem has gone away.

MAY 20, 2019

POLITICS • JUSTICE

Paul Manafort Convicted of 8 Counts of Bank and Tax Fraud

Decision to drop Michael Flynn case was 'corrupt and politically motivated,' court-appointed lawyer says



By Christina Carrega and Marshall Cohen, CNN

Updated 4:49 PM ET, Fri September 11, 2020

Ryan Zinke resigns as interior secretary amid multiple investigations

By JULIET EILPERIN AND JOSH DAWSEY

WASHINGTON POST | DEC 15, 2018 AT 11:43 AM



A scandal for all seasons: Scott Pruitt's ethics violations in full

HHS Secretary Tom Price resigns amid scandal over use of private planes

BY KATHRYN WATSON
UPDATED ON: SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 / 5:34 PM / CBS NEWS

Lobbyists, hand lotion and Chick-fil-A - it's hard to keep up with the scandals engulfing the former EPA administrator

Ex-New York assembly speaker Sheldon Silver sentenced to 6 1/2 years

"This was corruption pure and simple," the judge said while sentencing the man who was once one of the three most powerful state officials.



——— Former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, second from right, leaves U.S. District Court after he was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison in the corruption case that drove him from power, in New York on July 20, 2020. John Manchillo / AP

Central NY News

All guilty: Jury convicts Cor execs Aiello and Gerardi, plus Kaloyeros and Ciminelli

Updated Jan 30, 2019; Posted Jul 12, 2018



Cor Development executives Steve Aiello, left, and Joe Gerardi have been on trial in Manhattan federal court with former SUNY Poly leader Alain Kaloyeros and a Buffalo developer. (Tim Knauss)

Percoco corruption conviction is a political blow for Cuomo

State Level

A Brief History Of Past Cuomo Scandals And Controversies

BY ROSS BARKAN

MARCH 2, 2021 1:04 P.M. • 25 COMMENTS



➡ Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2012 at the Manhattan Columbus Day Parade. JUSTIN LANE/EPA / SHUTTERSTOCK

NEW YORK

News | Wanted By The FBI | Community Outreach | Recruitment

U.S. Attorney's Office

Twitter Facebook Email

July 22, 2015

New York State Senator Thomas W. Libous Found Guilty by White Plains Federal Jury of Lying to the FBI

Elaine Phillips

stated on August 26, 2016 in a post on Facebook:

In the past decade in New York State "more than 30 current and former state officeholders have been convicted, sanctioned or accused of wrongdoing — more than any other state."



ETHICS

NEW YORK

ELAINE PHILLIPS

The MTA's still failing to end massive overtime abuses

By Post Editorial Board

April 17, 2021 | 11:10pm | Updated



We've supported the MTA's successful efforts to get major bailouts from the feds, but the agency needs to get serious about breaking the bad habits that let employees rob it blind.

HISTORY

The Origins of Corruption in the New York City Police Department

NEW YORK

Richard (The Boss) Croker: How the crooked Tammany Hall leader became 'Master of the City'

By JAY MAEDER

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | AUG 14, 2017 AT 6:00 AM



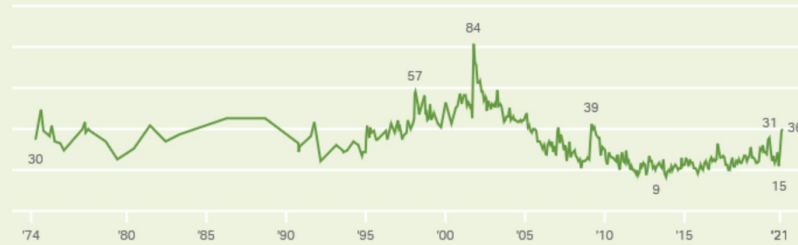
Thomas Nast cartoon showing political boss Richard Croker's tentacles firmly fastened on City Hall. (Thomas Nast)

RECOMMENDED ON DAILY NEWS

Congressional Job Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

— % Approve

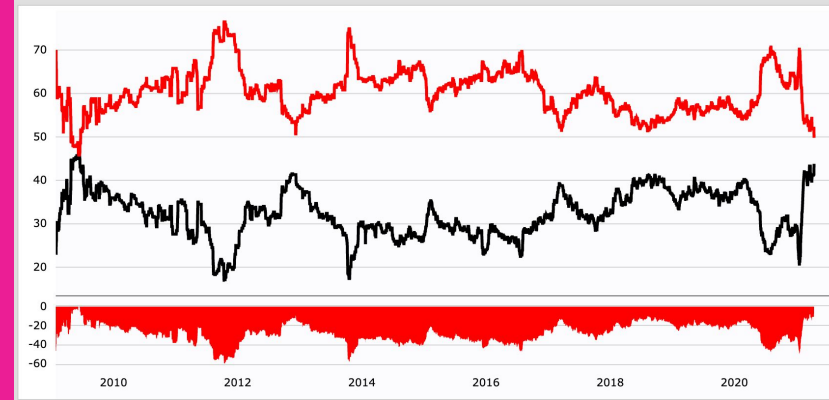


GALLUP

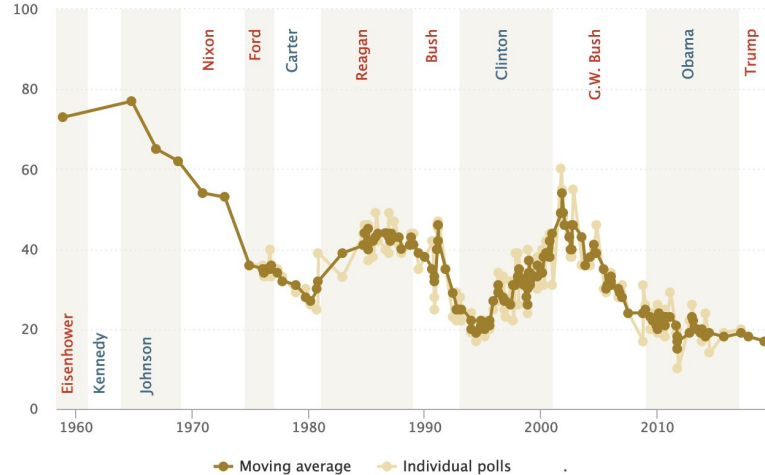
REAL
CLEAR
POLITICS

RCP POLL AVERAGE
Direction of Country

43.8 Right Direction 49.8 Wrong Track



% who trust the govt in Washington always or most of the time



— Moving average — Individual polls

CLICK LEGEND ITEMS TO REMOVE THEM FROM CHART

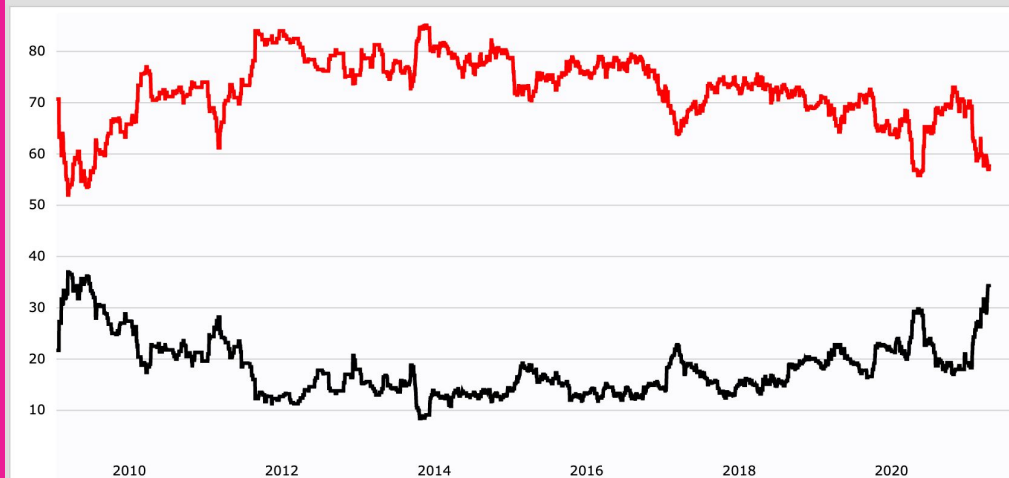
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

REAL
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POLITICS

RCP POLL AVERAGE

Congressional Job Approval

34.0 Approve 58.0 Disapprove



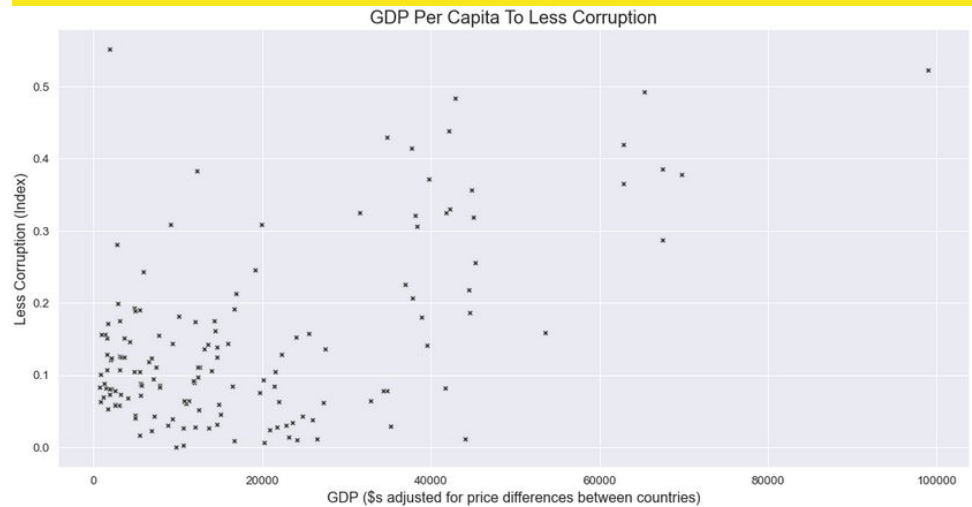
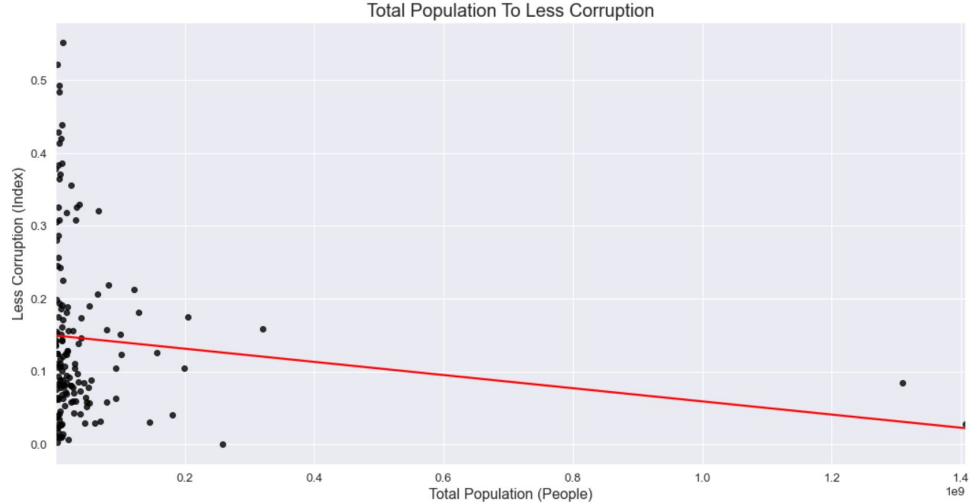
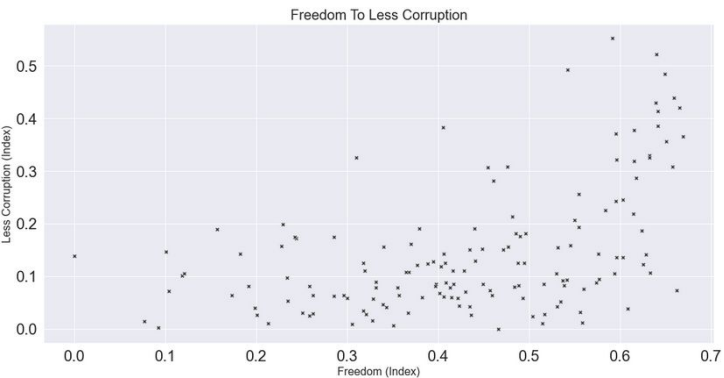
Problem Statement

Is it possible to predict corruption using information about a country's government structure and outcomes?

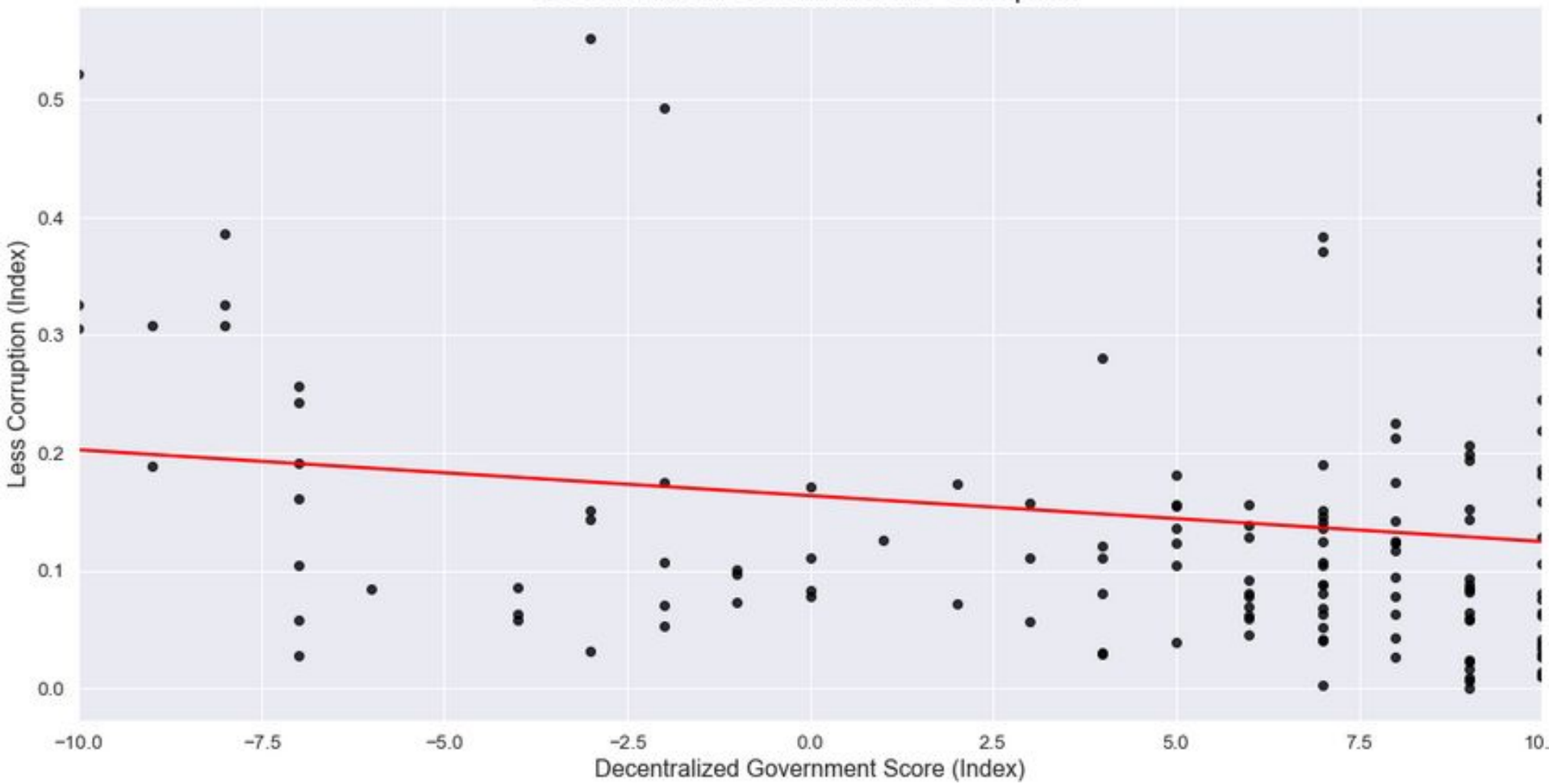
Data sources – eight features and one target. UN

Development Program, University of Groningen, World Bank, and the Gallup World Happiness Report

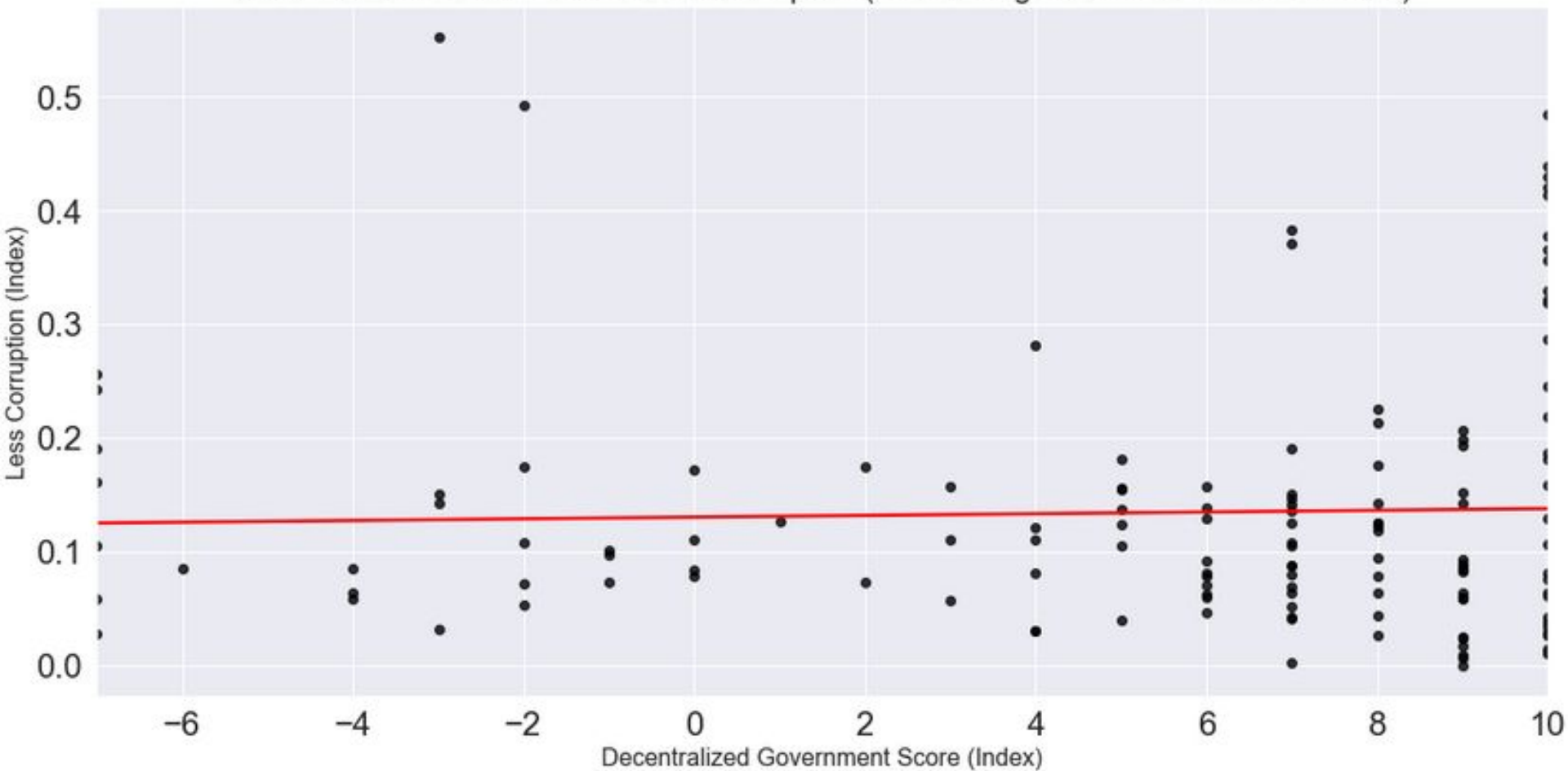
Explore The Data (2015)



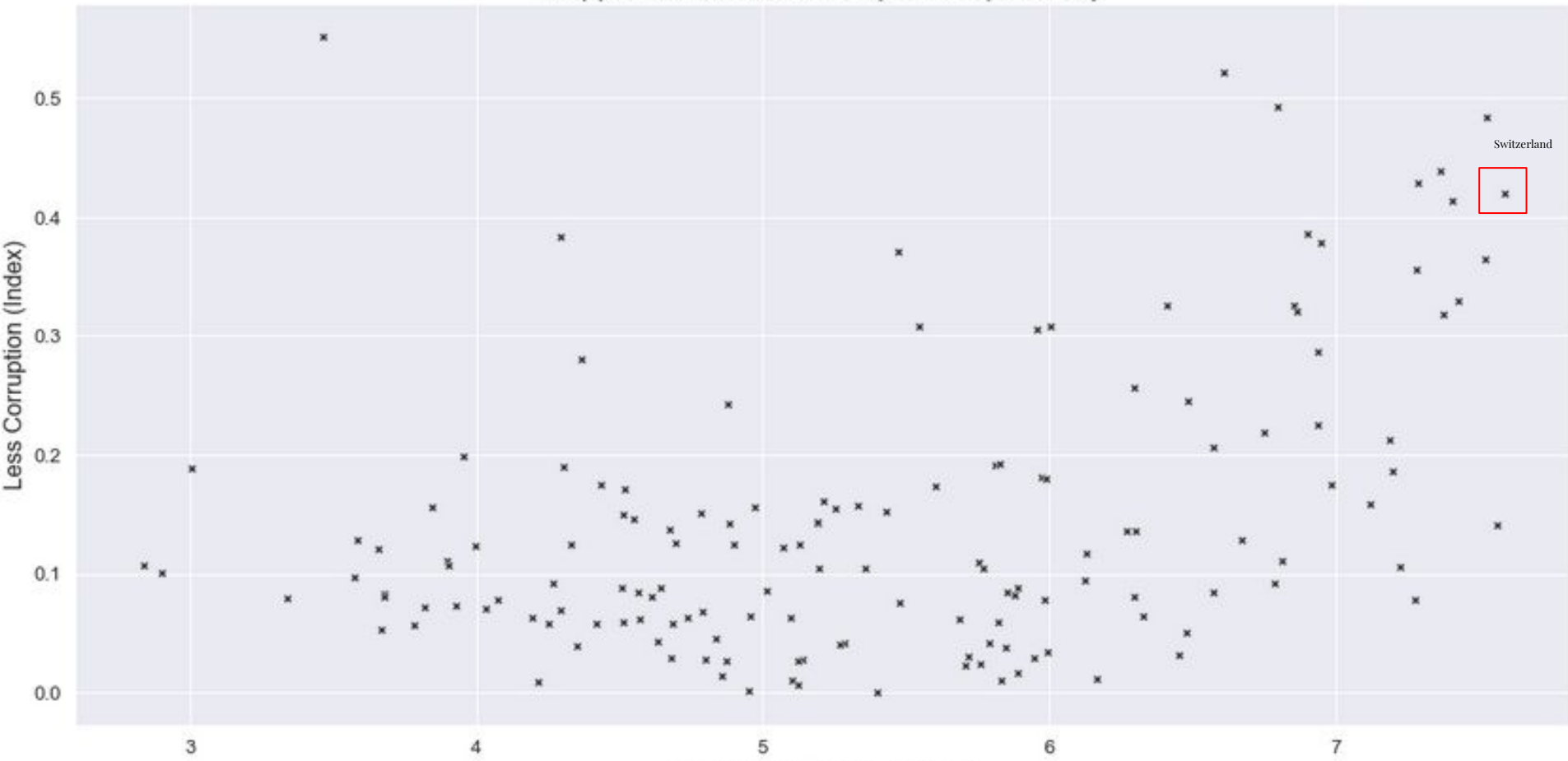
Decentralized Government To Corruption

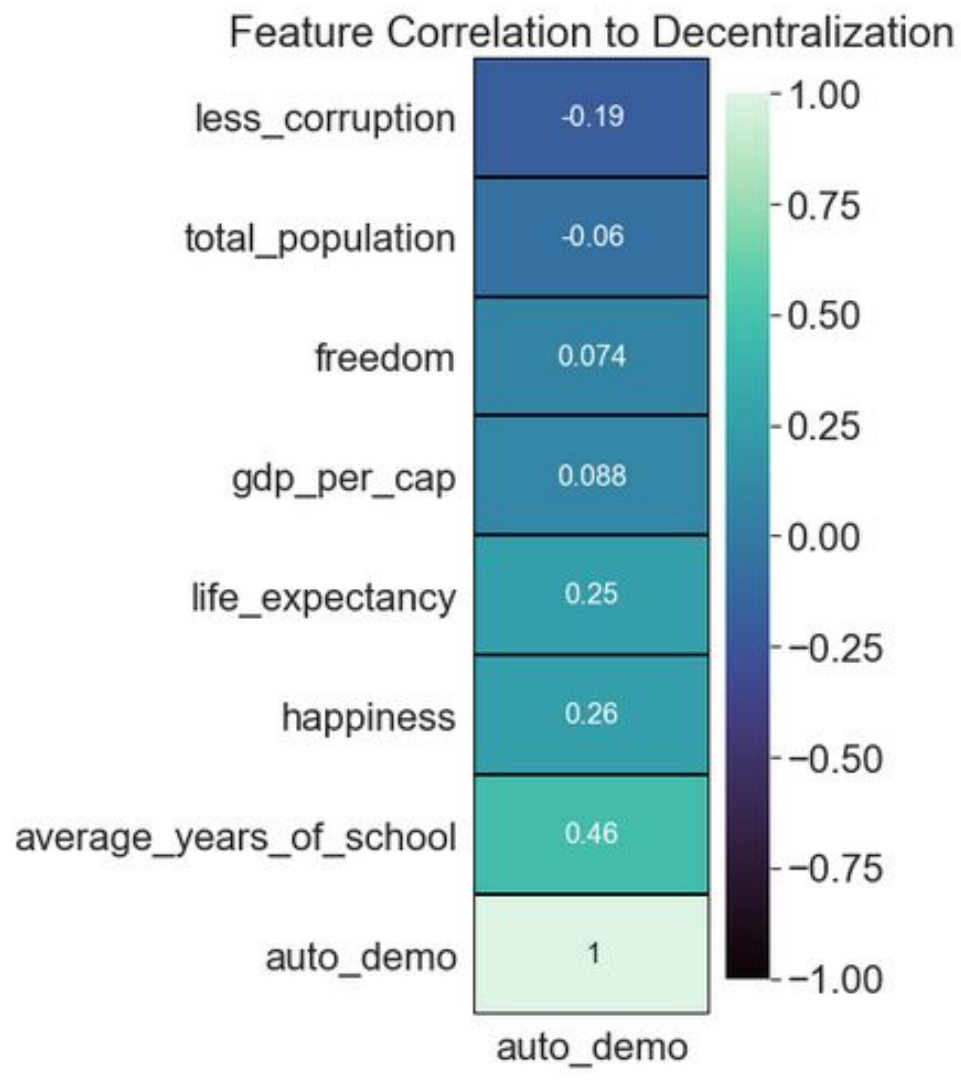
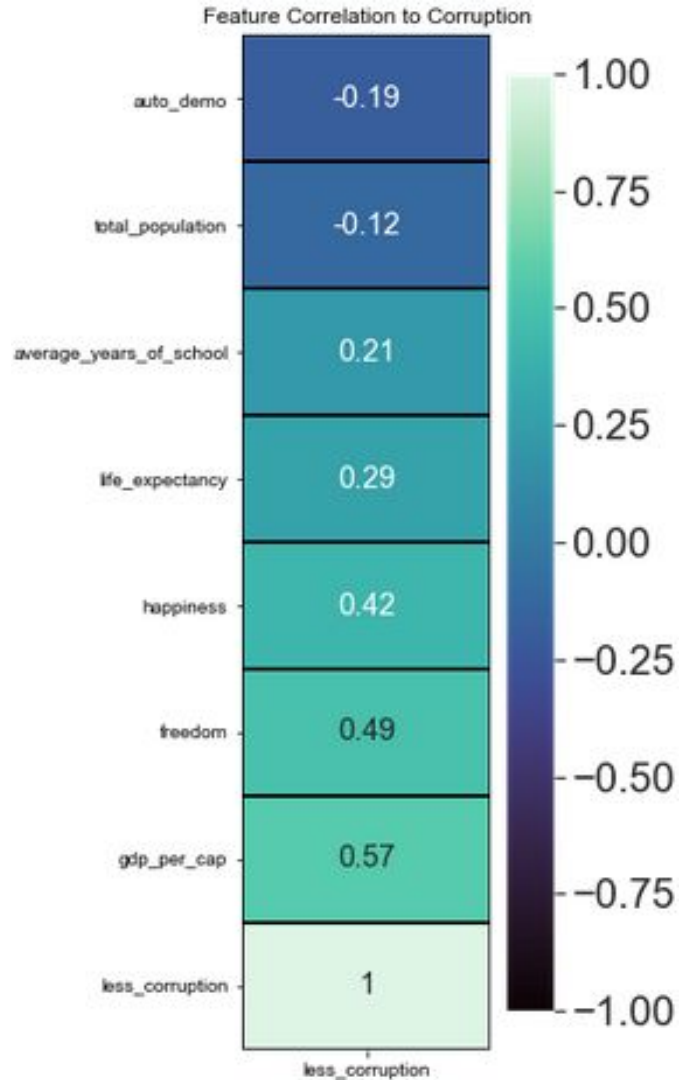


Decentralized Government To Less Corruption (Without High GDP Autocratic Countries)



Happiness To Less Corruption Expectancy





Modeling Results

- Eight models trained – best result was principal component analysis (PCA) with a linear regression model which was able to explain over 25.55% of the variance that we see in the data
- PCA transforms features into new components – results not as interpretable
- Strongest correlations with lessening corruption – **higher gdp per capita, more freedom, and a happier populous**

Discussion & Conclusion - So Does Power Corrupt?

- Next steps - look for more data that quantifies centralization for more granularity, test US state data, further exploration of Switzerland and other governments that experiment with referendums/citizen budgeting
- Reverend Charles H. Parkhurst - New York was “rotten with a rottenness which is unspeakable and indescribable.” The politicians were a “lying, perjured, rumsoaked, libidinous lot” who “under the pretense of governing this city, are feeding day and night on its quivering vitals.”

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