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Paper title: Legacies, Particularism, and the Irrelevance of EU Policy for Addressing Corruption: A Case Study of Bulgaria's and Serbia's Path towards EU Integration

Abstract: This article looks into origins of endemic corruption and analyzes European Union's effectiveness at addressing them in the context of enlargement. In particular, it comparatively examines the case of Bulgaria and Serbia in relation to EU anticorruption norm transposition through the Coordination and Verification Mechanism for the former, and the pre-accession conditionality for the latter. I will look at the two countries' historical evolution towards sustainable political and economic modernization and underline its correlation to origins of endemic corruption. I argue that legacies from the periods of state building, interwar, communism and transition constitute a continuum that has resulted in cultures of lack of collective action and particularism. Next, I look at the evolution of EU policy in order to underline EU's timid institutional evolution and its consequent inappropriateness for addressing causes of endemic corruption. The article concludes that even in a system of close interaction between countries and economies, solutions to endemic corruption cannot be imported and are highly dependent on domestic factors. These factors appear to be more related to normative constraints in the form of collective action rather than to legal and technocratic ones.