

unsolved homicides, Italy ranked about in the middle in terms of Mafia-type activities and relatively low in terms of unsolved homicides. Rather, the countries of Colombia, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and the Russian Federation have the highest scores on both Mafia-type activities and rates of unsolved homicides. (Note: The United States was absent from this comparison.)

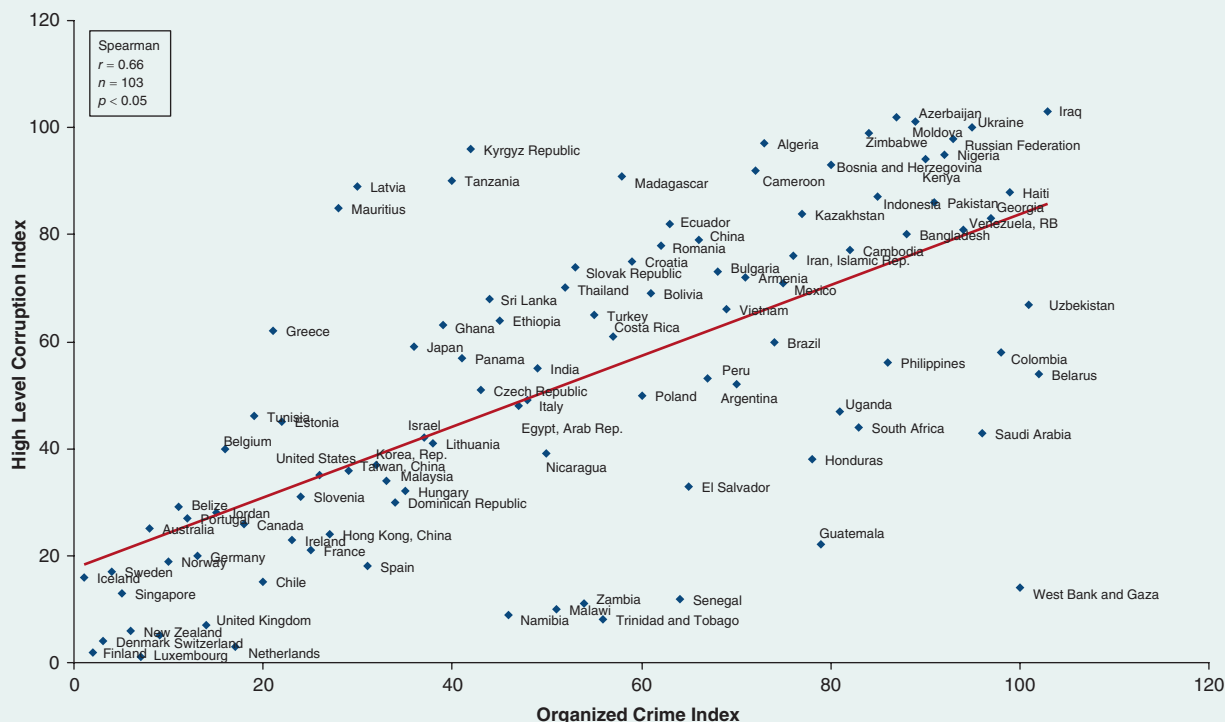
In addition, Van Dijk correlated the OCP Index with another index that measured high-level corruption in many countries.¹²⁹ The findings of this analysis, as shown in Figure 14.2, reveal that the highest-scoring countries on both organized crime and political corruption included Iraq (the highest on both scores), Ukraine, Nigeria, Haiti, Pakistan, Venezuela, and the Russian Federation. It is interesting to note that the United States scored relatively low on both these measures. Given the noticeably high prevalence of organized crime and political corruption in the United States (as suggested by constant

media reports of political corruption and recent arrests for organized crime), it is shocking that we are doing better than most countries on these two types of criminal activity—at least according to these various measures. It is also notable that the countries that scored relatively higher on both organized crime and political corruption in this analysis were from scattered regions of the world, including the Middle East, Asia, Africa, North America/the Caribbean, and South America. Probably the only area that scored low on this analysis was the Australian continental region.

Thus, it can be concluded that organized crime is prevalent in virtually all parts of the world, as is political corruption. So the myth of Mafia-type organizations being largely present in Italy and the United States can be absolutely dismissed. Organized crime is alive and well throughout virtually all societies and, as shown in the results in Figure 14.2, is likely to be correlated with political corruption as well.

FIGURE 14.2

Prevalence of Perceived Organized Crime and Regional Scores on Composite Index Measuring High-Level Corruption/State Capture



Sources: World Economic Forum. (2005). *The Global competitiveness report 2004–2005*. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan; Merchant International Group Limited. (2004). *Gray-area dynamics, organized crime figures 2004*. Special analysis commissioned by UNICRI; BEEPS. (2014). *Business environment and enterprise performance survey*. World Bank and the EBRD. Buscaglia, E., & Van Dijk, J. (2003). Controlling organized crime and corruption in the public sector. *Forum on Crime and Society*, 3, 3–35.