

## Penetrated and failed states

In the context of alienation and polarisation of groups of people, emerging obstructions to development, for example deprivation and exclusion from basic services, enforce each other in a recurrent feedback process where unexpected outcomes start to surface. Self-serving groups, such as cronies and gangs, secure an existence in the jungle of social decay and unique behavioural rules create the route towards a failed and corrupt state, for example Somalia. In stark contrast to the disadvantaged in developing countries are the privileged, such as political and business elites, who perceive their entitlement as a natural right, even a divinely determined destiny to secure special treatment in power relationships on all levels of society. The Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa during apartheid is an example. More recently, President Jacob Zuma said in South Africa that those not voting for the ANC would not go to heaven.

### A RECURRING LOOP

The behaviour of the privileged is unlimited and unrestricted, because there are no checks and balances, for example the execution of power by



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President Idi Amin during the 1970's. Such behaviour aggravated the initial situation of unbalanced development and under such conditions, states that are penetrated by corruption, and failed states, are driven by its self-made processes which it cannot cure or release itself from.

Corruption strengthens further corruption and create a negative recurring loop from which such states cannot escape without hard structural changes.

In states penetrated by corruption and failed states, the poor and wealthy have very limited in common. A rift develops between the rich and poor. Both groups become alienated from each other and are polarised, each with its own culture and self justification. If this rift becomes too large, it can co-produce violence and revolution, as shown by the French revolution of the 17th century and the Russian revolution of 1917.

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