

What U.S. Experts Are Saying About the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act

Nate Sibley, Research Fellow for the Hudson Institute's Kleptocracy Initiative:

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act was America's historic commitment not to export corruption overseas. But exporting corruption is precisely what China, Russia, Iran, and other authoritarian adversaries are now doing on a global scale, both to enrich their rapacious elites and advance malign political objectives that undermine U.S. security and prosperity. Empowering U.S. law enforcement to target corrupt foreign officials will protect American businesses from extortion, strengthen free-market capitalism and rule of law in the face of rising authoritarian cronyism, and support populations suffering under kleptocratic rulers through renewed American leadership.

Trevor Sutton, Senior Fellow for National Security and Foreign Policy at the Center for American Progress:

This legislation represents an important step forward for U.S. anticorruption efforts that will serve as a powerful deterrent to kleptocrats while helping American businesses compete overseas. Like the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act before it, FEPA will strengthen international transparency norms and help create a global economy that rewards fair and honest competition. Holding foreign officials accountable for corrupt solicitations is one area where the United States has lagged behind many of its peers—that needs to change.

Elaine Dezenski, Senior Advisor for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and Chief Growth Officer of Blank Slate Technologies:

The Foreign Extortion Prevention Act is perhaps the most important piece of legislation in support of a level global playing field in decades – allowing officials to aggressively target corruption at its source. With FEPA, the U.S. will finally be able to prosecute foreign officials who solicit bribes of corporations working abroad, joining nations such as France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. While China and other authoritarian regimes promote rampant corruption as a means of exerting influence and extracting resources, the U.S. is reinforcing its commitment to transparent and enforceable rules of engagement for doing business. That's better for U.S. companies operating overseas while simultaneously delivering more value for citizens around the world.