Recent work in political and cultural theory has questioned how corruption has come to be conceptualized as a lingering state of unlawfulness and opaqueness that operates as a foil for the modern and the liberal. Amie Parry puts this theoretical work in dialogue with speculative fiction by such writers as Octavia Butler and Cixin Liu that addresses 20th-century histories of militarized global restructuring. She argues that the cultural texts identify (and intervene into) discourses of corruption and transparency without buttressing liberalism as the bottom line for political interventions with the perceived end of Pax Americana. In this sense, they can be mobilized as resources for transnational political thought in increasingly illiberal times.

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