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**THEORETICAL AND APPLIED ASPECTS OF RESTRICTING  
CORRUPTION**

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***Abstract***

The article describes the theoretical and applied aspects of limiting corruption offenses in modern Russian society, substantiates their social danger and systematic nature. The article analyzes the experience of the most effective measures to reduce corruption. The position of Russia on the level of perception of corruption in international ratings is analyzed. The article presents relevant aspects in relation to combating corruption, including those aimed at improving the management system, as well as, which is important, the development of new anti-corruption legislation. The past experience of Russia in combating corruption is described and the results of such measures are analyzed. The degree of influence of anti-corruption measures taken in Russia is highlighted. The article provides recommendations on combating corruption based on successful experience. The expediency of studying mechanisms and strategies to reduce the manifestations of corruption is substantiated. Preventive as well as coercive measures to combat corruption are described. The article focuses on the relevance and necessity of solving the bribery problem for the future prosperous and progressive future of Russia. Revealed the need not only for the formation of a single holistic structure for combating corruption, but also the importance of improving and complying with legal acts related to anti-corruption legislation.

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**Keywords:** Anti-corruption, bribery, corruption, corruption crime, civil servant, civil society.



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## 1. Introduction

In recent years, civil society is increasingly paying attention to the fact that in the field of distribution of social goods the existing legal regulation mechanism does not fully correspond to the public interests. In the development of the Russian state the accumulated problems and crisis phenomena have determined the priority directions for its improvement, because in essence it cannot be formed in isolation from economic, social, cultural, educational, spiritual and other factors (Demidov & Mokhorov, 2018; Demidova & Mokhorova 2018; Gründler & Potrafke, 2019; Hauser, 2019; Mocetti & Orlando, 2019).

In the field of limiting corruption the current legal policy of the state should be characterized by scientifically sound, systemically consistent activities of political, legal, organizational and managerial measures of public authorities which aims to eradicate this social disease. At the same time, it must be noted that at the present stage of the development of our state, all this activity focuses on the rule-making process, in which, trying to show wisdom, experience and knowledge in the management of the state and realizing their constitutional law, lawmakers of various levels and ranks come up with various legislative initiatives. And they naively believe that this is precisely the way that will help increase the effectiveness of the fight against corruption. As a result of this, new regulatory legal acts are constantly being adopted, amendments and additions are made to the existing ones, the adopted conflict ones are corrected by them, non-working ones are eliminated, compromised ones are canceled, etc. However, even a superficial analysis of these documents suggests that most of them are purely populist, and not practice-oriented. They are lack of specific, deeply thought-out events that allow you to really fight this socially dangerous phenomenon. Such documents are lack of a large-scale scientifically based warning component. That is why their embodiment in real life has a very low efficiency. The detriment of this situation lies in the fact that the population of Russia has formed a stable opinion that the adopted multilevel regulatory legal acts will hardly be implemented, but if they do, it will be very poor quality. As a result of this, there is a distortion of universal and legal values, legal nihilism is increasing, distrust of public authorities is growing, disappointment comes in the ideas of equality of citizens in front of the law, inevitability of punishment, justice, proportionality, etc.) (Polishchuk, 2017, p. 83–89).

## 2. Problem Statement

The problematic of this research is that, most of the modern domestic criminologists note the fact that in recent years, officials of various government authority, as well as local authorities, have steadily participated in the corruption system, which is not only a breeding ground for organized crime, but in a number of regions it itself creates organized criminal groups in the government authority. According to statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, only in January-October 2018, 69300 crimes of an economic and corruption orientation were identified, 22700 of which were committed on a large or especially large scale or caused major damage. Of the total number of crimes, 3700 were committed by a group of persons by prior conspiracy, and 4900 were committed by an organized group or by a criminal community, 15200 crimes of corruption were identified, including 7700 crimes against state power, the interests of public service and service of local government (Ministry of internal affairs, 2020).

Given the high secrecy of corruption deals it should be noted that official statistics do not fully reflect the true extent of corruption in Russia. In reality they are much higher. A number of authors state by commenting on the results of prosecutorial inspections that government authorities are amazed by corruption on a massive scale. Illegal actions of officials at various levels have embraced a wide range of relations regulated by legislation on state and municipal services, property, budget and procurement for state needs. The facts of unlawful participation of employees in commercial activities, ownership of shares and blocks of shares, occupation of paid positions in economic structures, failure to submit statutory declarations were constantly revealed (Belova, 2019; Nicevich et al., 2015, pp. 84–88).

According to the data of judicial investigative authority, officials of state authority and local self-government authority for the purpose of illegal enrichment commit offenses in the field of distribution of misuse of budget funds, tax concealment, distortion of financial statements, sale of land and etc. (Karpushin, 2019, pp. 37–44). The most dangerous manifestations of corruption in this area are related clans, as well as when the criminal group includes officials of higher organizations, representatives of law enforcement agencies, members of criminal groups of various kinds (Koryakin, 2019, pp. 130–133).

Studying the problems of corruption, criminologists distinguish the following signs: a) it is official; b) it is characterized by corporatism; c) it is an organization, that means, it has signs of stability and coordination of efforts; d) incompatibility of corruption and interests of the service; e) the size of the benefits and advantages provided to an official is not comparable with what the state can provide him for faithful and honest service (Kameneckiy et al., 2007). These signs combine corruption in local government and organized crime at the local level. Organized crime is also partly official; it is characterized by corporatism, signs of organization; members of an organized criminal group do not complain about their salaries (Fedorov, 2019, pp. 74–80; Onasenko, 2019, pp. 14–22). The only difference from corruption is that they do not have to be in service of a state or municipal, and by necessity this group can and does commit any serious violent crimes, including contract killings, kidnappings and others. A feature of organized crime at various levels is the desire to monopolize power, which is supported by all kinds of criminal groups in every possible way (Agapova, 2019; Romancheva, 2019; Sabanchieva et al., 2019).

### **3. Research Questions**

Research questions are related to solving the following research tasks in the field of studying the problem of corruption:

- 3.1. to investigate the concept of corruption and the forms of its possible manifestations in the sphere of public administration;**
- 3.2. to reveal the content of the concept and principles of organizational and management activities to prevent corruption;**
- 3.3. to analyze the normative legal acts governing anti-corruption activities;**
- 3.4. to investigate the organization and types of measures to prevent corruption;**
- 3.5. to analyze the activities of the subjects of corruption prevention.**

#### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to consider the problem of corruption in modern Russian society at the scientific and practical level on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the current national legislation, the provisions of international acts, the achievements of modern legal science. The specified purpose of the study is related to the fact that, modern theoretical and applied jurisprudence proposes various measures to limit corruption. At the same time, all of them are subordinate to the desired, purposeful, systemic and rigid will of state power. Doctrinal science is rooted in the opinion that the desire for state power is a priori aimed at limiting corruption. At the same time, often the existing system of power cannot fully implement the mechanism of checks and balances. Unfortunately, the mechanism of the Russian state was originally built on the arbitrariness of state power and its full control over the society. The evolution of this mechanism quite logically led to the modern arrangement of the state, in which control is initially regarded as a privilege of the highest authorities of state power. Corruption arising out of arbitrariness constantly expanded its presence in the state apparatus with its development. In the middle of 80s of the last century, corruption struck a significant part of civil servants and, to a certain extent, was inherited by the current government apparatus (Kurakin, 2002, p. 24).

However, before implementing the existing anti-corruption programs or starting to develop and adopt new regulatory legal acts in this area, it is necessary to develop a holistic national doctrine (concept) of the fight against corruption, which would combine all the main directions of this activity and become the basis of the legal policy of Russia.

#### **5. Research Methods**

The methodological basis of the article is determined by the specifics of the subject and objectives of the study, and includes the dialectic method, general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, abstraction, systemic and structural approach), as well as private scientific methods (formal legal method, statistical method, method legal modeling). The dialectical method made it possible to consider the legislation governing the fight against corruption, in its development and its relationship with other regulatory legal acts, as well as to determine its essence and characteristic features.

Among the applied general scientific methods, the analysis method was used. The synthesis method, which is a combination of the elements obtained as a result of the analysis into a single whole, made it possible to formulate the main conclusions on the research topic. The use of the induction method (the transition from the particular to the general) made it possible to formulate many generalizing principles, laws, and assessments. The application of the method of deduction (the transition from general to particular) gave the opportunity to divide the general theoretical concepts in the field of combating corruption into more private elements. The use of the formal legal method was due to the fact that this method is a mandatory and necessary component in the scientific knowledge of law.

#### **6. Findings**

Corruption as a social phenomenon arises at a certain stage in the development of human society as an objective reality, because on the one hand it is based on the subjective imperfection of a person, and

on the other hand, it is the objective imperfection of society. The origin of corruption was preceded by a long evolutionary process based on objective social inequality among members of society, in the process of which it becomes possible to derive benefits directly from one's social position. Consequently, corruption is the mercenary arbitrariness of entities endowed with power.

For many centuries, society has tried to combat this social ailment and achieved certain results. Nevertheless, in most countries of the modern world, corruption is at a fairly high level, and in some of them at a critical level, posing a threat to statehood itself. Unfortunately, the Russian Federation is one of such states, which causes particular concern among the population. The international anti-corruption movement, Transparency International, published the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for year 2018. Russia took 138th place out of 180 and scored 28 points out of 100. Over the past three years, Russia scored 29 points, and this year it lost one point and dropped to three places (Corruption Perceptions Index, 2018).

Studying the main social causes of corruption, it should be noted that they are closely interrelated with such phenomena as the crisis and the imbalance in economic relations, high taxes, falling labor productivity, rising unemployment, budget deficits, etc. This criminal state of social and economic processes is promoted by legal nihilism not only of the population itself, but to a certain extent by the government, the deterioration of executive discipline and personnel work in local governments, an imperfect legal framework and certain limitations in law enforcement practice.

Unfortunately, most of Russian people are calm about the problem of corruption. In the public mind, there is a "selection" of priorities, when the main issues are problems of an everyday nature that they face daily (rising prices on food, medicine, goods and basic necessities, housing and communal services). On this background the problem of corruption and its manifestations in government is perceived as something distant and not related to them.

At the socio-psychological level, we can distinguish among the socio-moral causes of corruption: the traditional way for Russia to solve problems through bribery, the mutual responsibility of bribe givers and bribe takers, legal illiteracy of the population, a high level of inaction, and also the unwillingness of citizens to defend their rights.

However, the most serious reason causing corruption in government is the underdevelopment of civil society. Social stratification is deformed, level of poverty is high, the absence a strong middle class, level of legal culture is a low, a conciliatory attitude of people towards the violation of their rights and freedoms, the deformation of moral values. All this contributes to the development and rooting of shadow social relations. Huge problems for the development of civil society are the low level of legal culture of Russians, the tolerant attitude of society to corruption. This is largely due to historical heritage. It is well known that the legal order exists only where human rights and freedoms are secured and protected. Throughout the long history of Russia, the main problem has been to overcome the arbitrariness of state power in relation to a person, his property, dignity, rights and freedoms. This problem is especially relevant for modern Russia.

It should be noted that the peculiarity of corruption is that it, arising in the field of administrative management, replaces public relations, which are legalized by various regulatory legal acts, which means that it creates an alternative to formal legal relations. Thus, any corruption in state and municipal

authorities leads to abuse of power, harms the Russian's financial and economic activities. However, the biggest harm of corruption in government is that the Russian's population is deprived of a number of public benefits.

Since the state's origin with its administrative staff officials at various levels have mercenary intent, which subsequently materializes into abuses which arise from the misuse of one's official position. In the modern sense, such official abuses are commonly called corruption.

## 7. Conclusion

Summing up, it can be noted that corruption has now spread widely in various layers of government. This is evidenced by increasingly high-profile cases to identify the facts of bribery of various government officials. In conclusion, authors would like to add that all corruption activities are aimed at extracting personal material benefits, therefore, limiting the ability of corrupt officials to own and dispose of property obtained by criminal means should significantly reduce the desire of officials to be involved in this activity.

The current situation needs to be changed. To do this, it is necessary to carry out a number of legislative changes aimed at improving the legislative regulation of liability for corruption crimes. These changes should be not only theoretical, but also practical.

Russia does not stand still, struggling with such a difficult socio-economic phenomenon as corruption, while the main tool to eradicate corruption is civil society, its activity in collaboration with government agencies that combat corruption.

The fight against corruption requires a systematic approach, which is not possible without assessing the relationship of each type of corruption. International experience shows that the beginning of anti-corruption reform should be based on three main principles: the transparency of the federal government, the inevitability of punishment, and a decent reward for quality work.

Corruption is not feasible to damage with a point impact on it. Fighting all its manifestations can significantly improve the situation.

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