

Corruption in Russia: Reasons for the Growth

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Abstract—The scale of increased corruption in Russia is such that it began to threaten the national security of our country. This conclusion belongs not only to the authors of this article, who have been conducting research in this field for a long time, but also to the head of state, who recently signed a special directive on national security. The main goal of the authors of the article was to show why corruption in Russia acquired such a wide scope, what reasons contributed to its growth in 2000-2019. In accordance with the purpose of the study, the following main questions were identified: 1) showing the increase in the scale and level of corruption in the country in 2000-2019; 2) to analyze the causes of weak anti-corruption in Russia; 3) showing the role of authorities in organizing the fight against corruption.

Keywords—corruption; power; world experience

I. INTRODUCTION

The Strategy and National Anti-Corruption Plans approved by the President, anti-corruption laws that impose criminal penalties and multiple fines for bribes, the introduction of declarations of income for officials and other measures - all this indicates that they country leadership trying to counteract corruption in our country.

State structures have been created in Russia that strengthens anti-corruption mechanisms. So, in November 2003, the Presidential Council for Combating Corruption was formed. The main objective of the Council was to assist the head of state in identifying priority areas of state policy in the fight against corruption. The structure of this body included, in addition to the president himself, the chairmen of both houses of parliament, the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Prosecutor General, as well as the leaders of the three highest courts of the Russian Federation - the Constitutional, Supreme and Supreme Arbitration Courts. It was assumed that such a representative political institution would develop a strategy and tactics for combating corruption nationwide, coordinate the implementation of the planned activities, and help strengthen political mechanisms in this area. President Vladimir Putin, opening the first meeting of the Council on January 12, 2004, set a new task for the new institution: to identify the causes and conditions for the spread of corruption and, on this basis, to develop a systematic anti-corruption policy on a national scale. However, the President's

Council did not bring tangible results, since its composition was practically no longer assembled, and soon it was abolished, without becoming a viable political institution.

Pursuant to the President's instructions, a special commission of the State Duma was created to prepare proposals for amending existing legislation in order to enhance legal mechanisms to combat corruption. However, a legal mechanism to combat corruption was not created in 2000-2008: the State Duma twice passed a law on combating corruption, and both times, President Vladimir Putin rejected it, using the right of veto.

The main reason, we are convinced, was that, in the absence of political will, the political mechanisms to fight corruption were not launched.

As a result, it turned out that formally political mechanisms were created in the country, but they practically did not work. However, corruption in Russia is not only decreasing from this but, on the contrary, is becoming rampant. A sharp assessment of corruption in the country was given by the Prosecutor General of Russia Yuri Chaika: "It cannot be said that corruption is characteristic of certain parts of the state machinery. It permeates all levels of power, acquires a systemic character" [1].

The numerous arrests of ministers, governors and their deputies, deputies of the State Duma and members of the Council of the Federation, employees of the Presidential Administration of Russia, and other state and municipal employees testify that corruption affects all levels of state power.

The scale of this phenomenon is evidenced by its defeat of most state institutions, the spread of corruption in the entire system of stratification of society, as well as the species diversity of manifestations. Corruption entered the ordinary consciousness of citizens as a rational and pragmatic form of relationship, systematically confirming its effectiveness.

Corruption can hit any official in Russia if he has the right to distribute money, quotas, property and other resources that do not belong to him, at his discretion. The term corruption is most often used in relation to the bureaucratic apparatus and the political elite. Corruption can hit in Russia any official with

discretion - the right to allocate any resources that do not belong to him, at his discretion. The main incentive for corruption is the possibility of obtaining economic profits associated with the use of power, and the main deterrent is the risk of exposure and punishment.

New political and socio-economic conditions have become fertile ground for the growth of corruption.

The Russian leadership is actively fighting corruption. Presidents V. Putin and D. Medvedev called corruption "the number one enemy" of a just society, and included this struggle among the state's priority tasks. However, the results of the fight against corruption are still not encouraging; there is no significant reduction in its level in our country.

Professor V. Lunev named the reason for this situation, said: "We have a lot to fight corruption more effectively, but we do not have the main thing - political will. And without it, all our intellectual efforts are useless. Corruption has become our constitution, and irresponsibility for it has become everyday practice." [2].

Due to the lack of a system in anti-corruption policy and systematic practice in its implementation, corruption has now reached unprecedented proportions, has penetrated not only the regional and municipal authorities, the court, the prosecutor's office, customs, police, but also to the upper echelons of power: the Presidential Administration, the Government, State Duma, Federation Council.

II. PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS OF RESEARCH

The purpose of the study is to show the causes of corruption in Russia.

The main issues of this study.

1. Showing the increase in the scale and level of corruption in the country in 2000-2019.
2. To analyze the causes of weak anti-corruption in Russia.
3. Showing the role of authorities in organizing the fight against corruption.

Corruption in Russia has become a mass phenomenon with the following causes and conditions:

- a) Lack of political will,
- b) The weakness and underdevelopment of political countermeasures,
- c) Unsystematic and ineffective fight against corruption;
- d) Soft legislation, which contains a huge number of loopholes,
- e) Greed and impunity of corrupt officials and etc.

This is indicated by numerous arguments and facts.

An analysis of the declarations filed in accordance with the law showed that many high-ranking Russian officials either hid their property from the declaration or transcribed it to their close relatives: spouses, adult children, nephews, etc. As a confirmation of this thesis, the declaration of income of the State Duma deputy V.A. Pekhtina. The United Russia deputy did not indicate in his submitted declarations his real estate and land acquired in the Leningrad Region [3]. And the well-known politician V.V. Zhirinovskiy re-registered a significant part of the acquired property to his spouse. As follows from the

declaration of her income, she owned 12 land plots, 5 residential buildings, 8 apartments, 8 cottages, 2 non-residential premises. Other well-known declarants went the same way. In particular, the Governor of Primorsky Krai S. Darkin. His wife, working as an actress of a local theater, declared income of 540 million rubles [4].

As practice has shown, the institution of income declarations did not immediately work in terms of combating corruption and other unearned incomes. The reason was that no anti-corruption measures were envisaged for concealing or misrepresenting the data in the income declaration, neither to officials nor to politicians. This was possible because until 2013 no one in Russia had to explain why his car was worth more than a salary for several years.

Over the past five years, corruption in Russia has been characterized by the special greed of officials. Here are some of them. On March 4, 2015, Sakhalin Governor Alexander Khoroshavin was arrested for corruption schemes. His apartments were searched; during which 1 billion rubles in cash, 800 jewels, and a pen worth 36 million rubles were found. Sentenced to a fine of 500 million rubles and imprisonment for a term of 13 years [5].

In September 2015, the head of Komi Vyacheslav Gaizer was arrested for corruption. The governor created a criminal group of 15 people, which included representatives of local authorities. The amount of damage is 1 billion rubles [6].

Russia's Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukayev was arrested for taking a bribe of \$ 2 million. The court sentenced the ex-minister on December 15, 2017, to 8 years in prison and a fine of 130 million rubles [7].

Police Colonel Dmitry Zakharchenko should fight corruption, as it was one of the leaders of the anti-corruption structure in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia. Instead, he actively enriched himself, using his official position. During the search, he was found a large amount of money - more than 8.5 billion rubles [8].

In April 2019, three officers from the Federal Security Service (formerly the KGB), Kirill Cherkalin, Andrey Vasilyev and Dmitry Frolov, were arrested for corruption. These heirs of F. Dzerzhinsky robbed the state for 14 billion rubles [9].

Over the past five years, many regional leaders appointed by President Vladimir Putin have been arrested and prosecuted for corruption. Among them: V. Dudka (Tula Region), A. Khoroshavin (Sakhalin Region), N. Denin (Bryansk Region), V. Gaizer (Komi Republic), N. Belykh (Kirov Region), P. Konkov (Ivanovo Region), V. Ishayev (Khabarovsk Territory) and others [10]. These leaders stole millions and billions of rubles from the state and society. The appointment of these officials to high posts, which they used for illegal enrichment, testifies to serious mistakes in the personnel policy of President V. Putin.

It should be noted here that in Russia the state is struggling poorly with illegal enrichment. In the Russian legislation, there is no criminal punishment for such a crime. President V. Putin in 2003 signed the UN Convention against Corruption. In 2006, it was ratified. But at the same time, 5 articles from the

Convention were not transferred to the Russian legislation, including Article 20 on illegal enrichment. The Communist Party faction in the State Duma introduced a draft law on ratification of Article 20 of the UN Convention against Corruption. But the United Russia faction, the largest in the Duma, has been blocking this initiative for ten years in a row [11]. And President V. Putin and the chairman of the government do not insist on the full ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption. This fact causes misunderstanding of the citizens of Russia.

Due to the fact that decisive measures to combat corruption in Russia are not taken, it affects new and new state structures, and officials continue to rob the federal and regional budgets, businessmen and ordinary citizens. The bill went not billions, but trillions of rubles [12]. In this regard, an appeal to the country's leadership appeared in the Russian sector of the Internet: "Dear leadership of the country, can you steal less? We do not have time to earn money!" [13].

The number of corrupt officials does not decrease, new greedy people, come to take the place of those sinning, who are not afraid of the punishments established by the Federal Law on Combating Corruption. Maybe something should be changed in this law, take additional measures, for example, by tightening sanctions for participating in corruption schemes, encouraging those who do not want to put up with this social evil? But you never know the means, methods and methods developed by mankind in its history! We are convinced that in order to effectively combat corruption in our country, those in power need to study world experience. For example, the experience of fighting corruption in Singapore, which led to amazing results: the country from a colony turned into a highly developed state. In terms of GDP per capita, it is 13 times ahead of Russia. This fact alone deserves the respect of Singaporeans.

Among the forms and methods of combating corruption in Singapore, the authors highlight the following.

1. Lee Kuan Yew has created an independent anti-corruption body at the highest levels of government - the Anti-Corruption Agency (ABA). Its director was directly subordinate to the head of government. The agency was vested with serious powers: it received the right to detain potential bribe-takers, to conduct a search in their homes and at work, to check bank accounts, etc. Investigations were even initiated against the close relatives of the prime minister. A number of ministers convicted of corruption were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, someone committed suicide, someone fled the country.

2. In 1989, the law on the confiscation of property appeared in Singapore law. It gave good results: the level of corruption fell sharply, and the treasury was significantly replenished through the sale of confiscated goods.

Anti-corruption policy in Singapore has become more effective after a sharp increase in salaries. The government decided: both the policeman and the official, and the judges should have such remuneration that would exclude the temptation to take bribes. Today, Singaporean officials receive up to 20-25 thousand dollars a month, ministers - up to 100

thousand dollars a month. New independent judges initially received \$ 1 million per month.

These and other measures yielded a positive result: the level of corruption in Singapore has fallen sharply, and the country is now in the TOP 5 of the best countries in the world in terms of this indicator [14].

III. RESEARCH METHODS

The following methods were used in this study: institutional, structural-functional, systemic, and comparative.

IV. CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, the following should be noted.

1. The reasons for the growth of corruption were not only the desire of greedy individuals to get into power and stay in it, but also an insufficiently thought-out state anti-corruption policy, manifested in the inefficiency of the formed political mechanisms of counteraction. The lack of proper counteraction contributed to the growth of corruption in modern Russia.

2. Over the three decades of reform, corruption has become a serious obstacle to the political, economic and spiritual revival of the country, a factor destabilizing the socio-political security of Russia. Corruption has a negative impact on political and socio-economic processes in Russian society. Its growth discredits the work of state and municipal authorities, strengthens citizens' distrust of the authorities, the reforms carried out in the country.

3. Given that corruption is not so much a criminal legal issue as a socio-political problem, therefore, the basis of state anti-corruption policy should not be repressive measures, but political mechanisms for counteraction. In their formation, the definition of tasks and the main content, one should proceed from the main rule - they should be systemic, focused on the period of implementation of political, economic, social and other anti-corruption measures.

4. In the fight against corruption, far from all available legal opportunities are used, including those related to the implementation of international legal acts.

5. The fight against corruption is a vital issue for Russia, without which it is impossible to achieve progress in the socio-economic development of the country.

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