

## The Influence of Corruption on Management in Modern Russia

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### Abstract

*It has been established that the Russian Federation is one of the countries with a high level of corruption. Corruption has affected almost all levels of government. In 2023, its global anti-corruption ranking was very low, ranking 137th between Paraguay and Kyrgyzstan. This fact negatively affected the socio-economic development of modern Russia. The authors sought not only to reveal the reasons for its unprecedented growth over the past two decades, but also to show how corruption slows down the country's economic development, and why Russian anti-corruption policies do not produce real results. Based on factual material, the authors not only show the increase in the scale of corruption, point out significant shortcomings of anti-corruption policies and Russian legislation, but also identify the main ways to improve them for the purpose of further socio-economic development and improvement of public administration. There is a certain connection between the effectiveness of public management and corruption. This study can provide government authorities and management bodies of both Russia and other post-Soviet states, where the level of corruption is also high, with real assistance in improving the forms and methods of anti-corruption policy.*

**Keywords:** *Corruption in Russia; reasons for its growth; Impact on Public Administration.*

### Introduction

The experience of public administration in corrupt Russia has clearly shown that corruption reduces the effectiveness of management, causes direct harm to the economy and social sphere, leads to the impoverishment of the masses, and reduces the rate of economic development. This conclusion is supported by numerous facts, including the following table compiled by the authors.

**Table 1.** Growth rates of the Russian economy compared to China (in %).

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	In 9 years
Russia	-3,7	-0,2	1,5	1,8	-0,1	-3,8	4,6	-2,1	3,6	+1,6
China	6,9	6,7	6,9	6,6	5,1	2,1	8,2	3,0	5,2	+50,7

It follows from the table that due to errors in economic strategy, the coronavirus pandemic, corruption and other reasons, the economic development of our country has practically stopped. According to a number of economists, the protracted recession was the result of the wrong economic strategy of the Russian leadership, which led the once developed country to technological backwardness and critical import dependence. Over 9 years, gross domestic product increased by only 1.6%, while China over the same period increased its economy by one and a half times, or more precisely, by 50.7%.

In 2022-2024 The Russian economy has demonstrated all the factors pointing to a long recession, a prologue to a new economic crisis. One of the reasons for this situation is high corruption in the highest echelons of power. The scale of corruption in modern Russia is evidenced by the following statistics. In 2009-2010, the prosecutor's office identified 500 thousand cases related to corruption of government officials. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation calculated that the damage from corruption crimes in Russia at the end of 2021 increased to 64 billion rubles. versus 58 billion in 2020 (Moiseev V., 2023). It seems to us that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Prosecutor General of the Russian

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Federation Igor Krasnov, confirming this conclusion of the researcher, reported to the Federation Council on April 24, 2024 that in 2023 alone, the courts satisfied the anti-corruption claims of prosecutors in the amount of more than \$400 billion rubles (Prosecutor General, 2024). Other facts also testify to the enormous harm that corruption causes to the Russian economy. According to the former chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, Sergei Stepashin, more than 1 trillion rubles are stolen from the state budget every year due to corruption schemes in the field of public procurement alone. This fact was confirmed by the Control Directorate of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation. As a result of corrupt practices, the Russian economy has suffered significant damage.

According to the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, in 2023, the amount of violations identified in the expenditure of budget funds, including those related to the use of corruption schemes, exceeded 2 trillion rubles (Accounts Chamber, 2024).

The head of the Investigative Committee, Alexander Bastrykin, said that even now, in difficult times for the country, corruption schemes are being implemented in the military-industrial complex, in particular, in the implementation of state defense orders. Thus, in 2022, after the start of a special military operation and subsequent partial mobilization, it was discovered that almost one and a half million sets of military uniforms had disappeared without a trace at the Ministry of Defense. In this regard, law enforcement agencies have a lot of work to do.

In addition, corrupt officials cause irreparable harm to the economy by bribing government members, ministers, governors who make decisions on the distribution of government contracts, distribute licenses, all kinds of benefits and quotas, hold tenders, etc. Obtaining advantages in entrepreneurial activities and businesses through corruption schemes, corrupt officials make government officials accomplices in crimes and discredit the idea of competition in the economic sphere. Due to the growing scale of corruption in the country, inflation is rising, prices for goods, technologies and components, which inherently have a corruption component, are rising in price.

Thus, the harm that corruption causes to the Russian economy and public administration is obvious.

## Literature Review

The theoretical framework of the study includes an analysis of the scientific literature, providing theoretical contextualization, identifying gaps, contradictions, and identifying important directions for this work.

The understanding of the institutional causes of corruption, its growth and harm to the state and society is based on the ideas of Charles Montesquieu (1955), S. Rose-Ackerman (1999), Hodgkinson P.(1997), Dille, B. (2016), etc. In their works, not only the typical reasons for the growth of corruption are analyzed and its harm to public administration is shown, but also ways to combat this social evil are substantiated. According to their conviction, supported by arguments and facts, a high level of corruption automatically becomes a threat to democracy.

The French scientist Charles Montesquieu in the middle of the twentieth century pointed out in his writings that the main source that fuels corruption aspirations has always been the greed of those in power. According to him, an official endowed with power strives to use his official position for the personal enrichment of himself and his loved ones (S.L. Montesquieu, 1955; Tahsin, 2023).

American economics professor Mansur Olson in his works convincingly showed the harm of corruption for the socio-economic development of any state. He wrote: in order to avoid a slowdown in the rate of economic development, it is necessary to counteract corrupt practices by all means (Olson, M., 1995). The British corruption researcher P. Hodgkinson, in his work "The Sociology of Corruption - Some Topics and Problems," published in 1997, noted that the use of power for personal gain is characteristic of many officials, and primarily in structures related to public administration (Hodgkinson P., 1997).

Developing this idea, the American scientist Benjamin Dille noted that corruption in the highest echelons of power causes discontent among the people and can lead to anti-government protests (Dille, B., 2016). Indeed, in the spring of 2011, citizens' dissatisfaction with growing corruption in government became the main reason for social revolutions in a number of Arab countries (Moiseev V.V., Karelina E.A., Sudorgin O.A., 2018).

A significant contribution to the study of corruption in modern Russia has been made by domestic scientists (Andrianov, V.D. (2011), Astanin, V.V. (2014), Bilinskaya M.N. (2011), Goncharova I.V. & Chuvardin G.S. (2019), Kabanov, P.A. (1998), Moiseev V.V. (2018, 2019, 2023), Kosmin, A.D., Grudtsyna, L.Yu. & Kuznetsov, V.V. (2022), Nitsevich V.F., Stroeve V.V. (2019), Prokuratov, V.N. (2012, 2013), etc. large factual material, using official statistics, they analyzed the reasons for the growth of this social evil in the post-Soviet period, showed a threat to national security. Corruption distorts the administrative function of the state, reduces competitiveness in the economy, reduces the authority of power structures, and negatively affects the international image of Russia.

As a social phenomenon, corruption has been inherent in public-service relations throughout the history of Russia (Moiseev V.V., 2023). Corruption reached its greatest flourishing and enormous scale after the collapse of the USSR, in modern Russia. According to the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation Yuri Chaika, corruption has affected all levels of government and has become systemic. Corruption schemes for stealing federal, regional and municipal budgets are widely used in all areas of government activity, especially in those where financial or material resources are distributed. (Bilinskaya, M.N., Moiseev, V.V., Nitsevich, V.F., 2011). Massive corruption has been officially recognized as one of the threats to national security (Presidential Decree, 2021).

However, a number of authors, fearing reprisals, do not subject the anti-corruption policy to constructive and objective criticism when assessing the measures taken in the country to combat corrupt practices. Therefore, the authors of the article, having conducted a critical analysis of counteracting corrupt practices, offer scientifically based recommendations for reducing its level in modern Russia.

The article analyzes the reasons for the unprecedented growth of corruption, shows its harm to economic development, notes the main shortcomings in organizing the fight against corruption schemes, and also suggests ways to reduce it, taking into account international experience.

## Method and Data Collection

In the article, the authors used a variety of research methods. Based on the statistical method, the authors show the growth in the level and scale of corruption in modern Russia. Using a comparative method, the authors tried to show the differences between the fight against corruption in the Russian Federation and world experience. Based on the use of the institutional method, an attempt has been made to show the role of the president and other government institutions in organizing the fight against corruption, as well as to analyze the impact of corruption on the effectiveness of public management.

Modern Russia and its economy in recent years have not been going through the best times in post-Soviet history. Unforeseen factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and most importantly, Western sanctions imposed in response to military actions on the territory of Ukraine, have become a serious test of the stability of the Russian financial system, many enterprises and even entire industries.

Under these conditions, as statistics show, the level of corruption in a warring country not only does not decrease, but, on the contrary, grows even more, taking on monstrous proportions. The greed of officials, law enforcement officers and individual deputies is growing. In Russia, a high position has become a means of personal enrichment. After the appointment of Andrei Belousov to the post of Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation instead of Sergei Shoigu in May 2024, numerous arrests of high-ranking generals took place in the military department. Thus, on May 14, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation announced the arrest of the head of the personnel department of the Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant General Yuri Kuznetsov, who is accused of receiving a large bribe from an entrepreneur for assistance in concluding government contracts. According to the investigation, the businessman thanked the curator from the military department by buying and deeding land in Krasnodar to the wife of General Kuznetsov for 7.5 million rubles and building a residential building there worth almost 23 million rubles. During searches in a country house, a Moscow apartment and the general's office, more than 100 million rubles in Russian and foreign currency, gold coins, collectible watches and luxury items were seized. On May 23, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant General Vadim Shamarin, was sent into custody, accused of receiving a bribe in the amount of 36 million rubles. On the same day, Vladimir Verteletsky, head of the Department of the Russian Ministry of Defense for Providing State Defense Orders, was charged with abuse of power. As a result of corruption schemes, the accused military

officer caused damage to the state in the amount of more than 70 million rubles. Even earlier, at the end of April 2024, the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, Army General Timur Ivanov, was arrested for receiving a large bribe (Four Defense Ministry, 2024).

It is noteworthy: law enforcement officials, including the prosecutor's office, the FSB, the police, etc.) instead of fighting corruption through legal means, themselves use corruption schemes to enrich themselves. Thus, in April 2019, three employees of the Federal Security Service (FSB, former KGB), Kirill Cherkalin, Andrey Vasiliev and Dmitry Frolov, were arrested for corruption. These heirs of F. Dzerzhinsky robbed the state of 12 billion rubles (Moiseev V.V., 2019).

It should be emphasized here that dishonest officials, appointed to positions by special decrees of the head of state, annually rob Russia not of billions or hundreds of billions, but of trillions of rubles. According to the data of the ex-chairman of the Accounts Chamber Sergei Stepashin, which he personally reported to President V. Putin, high-ranking corrupt officials stole an astronomical amount from the state budget - 1,000,000,000,000 rubles (Moiseev V.V., 2023). After the necessary measures were not taken by the president, the direct damage from corruption increased. As the new Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation A. Kudrin reported, the control agency revealed violations amounting to 1 trillion 865 billion rubles. "This is almost twice as much as in 2016, 3.5 times more than in 2015. But I'll say right away that 760 billion rubles. of this amount are accounting violations at Roscosmos; based on the results of these checks, criminal cases have been opened (Kudrin A., 2018).

These and other facts indicate that Russian corrupt officials are not stopped by either long-term imprisonment or public condemnation. Greed and passion for enrichment in any way are the main motives for the corrupt actions of modern Russian officials, both civilian and military. These and other facts indicate that Russian corrupt officials are not stopped by either long-term imprisonment or public condemnation.

The unprecedented growth of corruption in capitalist Russia became possible due to many reasons, the main one of which, in our opinion, is that the Russian leadership did not have a systematic approach to combating corruption. The unprecedented growth of corruption in capitalist Russia became possible for many reasons. Among them, the authors highlight the main one - the lack of a system in the planning and implementation of anti-corruption measures. It is important to understand that the fight against corruption is not limited only to criminal cases against corrupt officials caught taking bribes. Combating corruption as a social phenomenon must be carried out comprehensively in all areas, namely:

- eradication of the causes that give rise to corruption on a massive scale;
- creation of favorable political conditions to combat the corruption of officials, including independent media, including federal television, free expression of proposals by the opposition, the possibility of open discussions, transparency of power, conditions for the activities of civil society institutions. Without these conditions, the struggle "for power without corruption" will not be successful (Moiseev V.V., 2019).

Other, no less significant conditions are: the political will of the president of the country, his desire and daily focused work to eradicate conditions for the growth of corrupt practices. According to the Constitution, the head of state determines all domestic and foreign policy. Power allows the president to achieve clarity and rigor of legislation and the inevitability of criminal prosecution, to organize a reduction in those areas where decision-making depends on the will of individual officials.

As international experience shows, anti-corruption legislation plays an important role in combating corruption. But those are as truncated and "toothless" as in Russia, where, according to ex-President D. Medvedev, there were more than 10,000 corruption niches and loopholes for circumventing anti-corruption laws. Suffice it to say that until 2008, there were no anti-corruption laws in the Russian Federation: Presidents B. Yeltsin and V. Putin vetoed them. In addition, many legal norms used in the world to reduce the level of corruption have not been implemented into Russian legislation. (Moiseev, V.V., 2019).

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the formation of civil society, raising the educational level of the population, including in terms of legal literacy. And it is necessary not only to identify problems, but also to achieve their solution using political mechanisms, to achieve, if not eradication (which is practically impossible), then at least a significant reduction in corrupt practices.

To combat corruption in Russia, a Strategy and National Anti-Corruption Plan have been adopted, which reflects many of the conceptual foundations of anti-corruption policy, recommendations that were given at one time by Russian scientists. However, practice shows that the Strategy and numerous plans for its implementation, as well as anti-corruption legislation, do not achieve the goal.

This is indicated by scientific research and public opinion polls. This circumstance requires the formation of new conceptual and methodological approaches to the implementation of anti-corruption policy.

Thus, strict rules for conducting tenders and competitions for public procurement, etc. not yet installed. That's why Instead of selecting the objectively best proposal from several participants on a competitive basis, victory can be ensured by a corrupt official who is promised the largest "commission". To do this, in one case, the circle of participants in the competition consists of subsidiaries or affiliated companies, in the second case, the circle is narrowed to one (selected) winner, etc. As a result, corrupt officials win by paying unofficial amounts, which in Russia are called "kickback." According to Russian scientists, the lack of transparent and strict rules for conducting public procurement allowed individual officials, and even entire ministries and departments, to embezzle the expenditure portion of the country's state budget (Nitsevich N.F. et al., 2019).

Despite the fact that the Russian Federation signed the UN Convention against Corruption in 2003, which contains the best directions and methods of combating They practically do not use important provisions in their jurisdiction.

The reason is simple: deputies of the State Duma in March 2006, when ratifying this document excluded the most important articles aimed at effective struggle. Thus, Article 20, which provides for criminal punishment for the illegal enrichment of corrupt officials, and Article 31 on the seizure of illegally acquired property were excluded from Law No. 40 of March 8, 2006 (Federal Law, 2006).

The deputies explained this by the rejection of fundamental anti-corruption measures as ... contrary to national legislation. Let us allow ourselves to disagree with such arguments. And here's why: The Constitution (Basic The law of the Russian Federation provides for the procedure for resolving disagreements between signatories of generally recognized international treaties and existing national laws. Article 15 The onstitution prescribes the unconditional application of the provisions of the UN Convention signed by head of state, even if there are other rules provided for by current legislation (Constitution of the Russian Federation, 2023).

By similar unconstitutional actions, Russian legislators in 2006 did not ratify a number of other important articles of the UN Convention against Corruption. For example, a clause on the protection of applicants was not included in national legislation. As a result, a number of Russian citizens who officially reported the corrupt actions of officials, including in the highest echelons of power, found themselves without legal protection and, moreover, were punished criminally (Prokuratov, V.N., 2013). The authors counted more than a dozen similar exceptions from the initialed UN Convention against Corruption - they are still not included in Russian anti-corruption legislation.

t should be noted here that anti-corruption legislation has a number of national features that have had and still have a beneficial effect on the growth of corruption. Suffice it to say that with the coming to power of President V. Putin, during the first 8 years of his leadership of the country, not a single anti-corruption regulatory legal act was adopted. The reason is simple: the president vetoed bills aimed at fighting corruption (Bilinskaya, M.N., Moiseev, V.V., Nitsevich, V.F. (2011). And only with the election of D.A. Medvedev as president in post-Soviet Russia, the first federal law appeared and an anti-corruption law was formed legislation. But the federal law of December 25, 2008 No. 273-FZ "On Combating Corruption" was not without significant shortcomings. Thus, the law established the highest punishment for corruption... the removal of an official from his position and required the filing of declarations to identify corrupt transactions. but not about income and expenses, in order to establish that an official or other official is

living beyond his means, but only about his income. Moreover, the official himself, his wife and minor children were required to submit income declarations (Federal Law, 2008).

If you follow the letter of this Russian law, then a declaration of income must be submitted by an infant or a schoolchild under 18 years of age. And only under public pressure was it possible to make some adjustments: from January 1, 2013, Russian officials, their wives and minor children began to report not only their income, but also their expenses. Regulatory authorities have the opportunity to establish discrepancies between expenses and income. But only. Bring to criminal liability under Art. 20 of the UN Convention did not allow the Russian law of March 8, 2006 No. 40-FZ, just as it did not allow the confiscation of property acquired by criminal means in accordance with Art. 31 of this international document, partially ratified (Federal Law, 2006).

The fight against corruption in modern Russia has another characteristic feature: it does not fully use the accumulated international experience, in particular, of Singapore. Meanwhile, there is a lot to learn from Singapore. In a short historical period, this state, under the leadership of the wise Lee Kuan Yew, not only significantly reduced the level of corruption, but also made Singapore a leader in economic development.

Singapore's anti-corruption legislation was later amended several times. Thus, in 1989, a rule on confiscation of property was introduced.

These and other correct measures have sharply reduced corruption in the country.

The results show that large-scale corruption in Russia negatively affects the effectiveness of public administration and reduces the political and socio-economic development of the country. With almost 30% of the world's natural resources, the Russian economy accounts for less than 2% of the world economy. South Korea, whose territory is half the size of the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula, and almost 3 times smaller than Russia in population, but its economy produces almost as many goods and services as corrupt Russia.

The USA, China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and others have achieved high economic indicators thanks, among other things, to the effective fight against corruption, improvement of public management, its efficiency and effectiveness. Thus, as a result of the introduction of clear and simple rules, including the abolition of permits and licensing, Singapore's corrupt officials have lost the ability to engage in widespread corrupt activities.

Great practical results in reducing the level of corrupt transactions were achieved by increasing the salaries of judges, officials and police officers. High and sometimes huge salaries have practically eliminated the temptation to enrich themselves at the expense of the risk of receiving a bribe. The salaries of officials increased to 20-25 thousand dollars a month, ministers - to 100 thousand dollars, judges - to 1 million US dollars, which immediately increased their integrity and eliminated the so-called conflict of interest. Moreover, the entire formerly corrupt judicial system has been replaced by lawyers from other top lawyers in the country. Honesty and integrity of an official in Singapore have become the most important qualities for career growth. Of course, the desire to take bribes for services rendered did not immediately disappear among officials, but they knew that constant control was created over them in Singapore. The official is obliged to report where he got the money to buy expensive real estate or a prestigious car. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the last criminal case initiated by the anti-corruption body of Singapore dates back to 1986 (Moiseev V., 2011).

In 2024, Singapore is among the TOP 5 leading countries in the world in the fight against corruption, ranking 4th. (For comparison: corrupt Russia will take a modest 137th place in this ranking.

Successes in the fight against corruption naturally contributed to the socio-economic development of this small country. In terms of business conditions, Singapore is significantly superior to modern Russia, which could not but affect the economic indicators of these countries. Today, corrupt Russia lags behind Singapore in terms of GDP per capita by 10 times. According to foreign rating agencies, Singapore entered the TOP 3 in terms of GDP per capita per year in 2023, showing \$131,580. For comparison, Russia has only \$13,010 (Gold Rating, 2024).

A comparative analysis of counteraction in Russia and Singapore clearly demonstrates the importance of a systemic and uncompromising fight against this social evil. The practice of anti-corruption policies of these

two states has shown: those who want to reduce the level and scale of illegal actions are looking for a way to do this, and those who do not want to are looking for a reason not to organize the fight against corruption in the country, a manifestation of political will. V. Putin's successor as president, D. Medvedev, in one of his public speeches, trying to explain the poor results in the fight against corruption, said that corruption is not considered shameful, that it is a mental problem, and therefore it is difficult to fight it in Russia (D. Medvedev, 2010).

A study conducted on the topic “The fight against corruption in modern Russia” yielded interesting results.

Firstly, the facts presented in the article about the suppression of corrupt activities of representatives of government and administrative bodies, including ministers, governors, generals and colonels of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the FSB, the Ministry of Defense, and senior officials of other ministries and departments, evoke an ambivalent feeling among Russians. On the one hand, it is good that their corruption crimes were stopped, but on the other hand, the public was not informed about the reasons that prompted officials to break the law. The fact that such arrests are just demonstrative actions, settling scores or conflicts between competing clans is said by 47% of respondents to the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion (Corruption in Russia, 2018).

The study showed that corruption in modern Russia has struck with its metastases not only mid-level management personnel, but also the highest echelon of power. This is evidenced by the numerous arrests of high-ranking officials involved in corruption, kickbacks and bribes. Corruption undermines democracy, slows economic growth, destroys public trust in the government, and reduces government legitimacy. Russia is currently confidently becoming a world leader in corruption, which permeates all layers of society, all structures and authorities, reducing the efficiency of public administration and causing irreparable harm to the development of the country.

## Conclusion

A comparative analysis of counteraction in Russia and Singapore clearly demonstrates the importance of a systematic and uncompromising fight against this social evil. The practice of anti-corruption policies of these two states has shown: those who want to reduce the level and scale of illegal actions are looking for a way to do this, and those who do not want to are looking for a reason not to organize the fight against corruption in the country, to show political will. V. Putin's successor in the presidency, D. Medvedev, in one of his public speeches, trying to explain the poor results in combating corrupt practices, said that corruption is not considered shameful, that it is a mental problem, and therefore it is difficult to fight it in Russia (D. Medvedev, 2010).

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In addition, no measures were taken against those who nominated and appointed these people to high positions, who are still pursuing such an ineffective personnel policy. And in this, too, the authors see the specifics of the fight against corruption in Russia.

The study showed that corruption in modern Russia causing irreparable harm to the country. She reduces the efficiency of a market economy, destroys existing democratic institutions, undermines people's trust in government, exacerbates political inequality, gives rise to organized crime, and threatens the country's national security. The scale of corruption in Russia is so great that the authorities are in danger of completely losing control over the functioning of the state.

Due to a number of reasons (lack of political will, weakness and underdevelopment of political countermeasures, unsystematic and ineffective fight against this social phenomenon, failure to use international experience based on the institutions of civil society, etc.), has become a mass phenomenon

and real threat to national security and a factor hindering the economic development of the country. The impact of corruption is so great that it reduces the efficiency of a market economy, destroys existing democratic institutions, undermines people's trust in government, exacerbates political inequality, gives rise to organized crime, and threatens the country's national security. Over the past two decades alone, according to the authors, more than 7 trillion have been stolen through corruption schemes rubles.

In addition, corruption slows down the development of competition in market relations, makes the government's distribution of budget resources unfair, reducing the authority of the authorities.

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