

Corruption in Russia: Problems and Prospects

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Abstract: Corruption in Russia manifests itself in virtually all spheres of state activity, in which financial or other material resources are distributed, permits are issued for the performance of certain activities and actions. The Prosecutor General's Office found violations of the legislation on public service in the Federal Customs Service, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, and other central government bodies of Russia. Corruption in the renewed Russia blossomed because the official was able to manage not only budgetary funds, but also state or municipal property, state orders, licenses, benefits, etc. Becoming actually one of the elements of the functioning of the state, an integral part of its relations with the oligarchic business, corruption created monstrous disproportions in the system of governance and functioning of state institutions. The aim of the study is to analyze the situation and determine the further ways of counteracting corruption in Russia on the basis of world experience. The author regret that the fight against corruption has not yet yielded significant results in Russia and points to obvious ways to activate it.

1. Introduction

Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika, speaking at the State Duma, said: "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]. According to the Prosecutor General's Office, in all federal ministries and departments covered by prosecutorial inspections, facts were found out of violations by employees of the requirements. Recently, the number of crimes of corruption directed by heads of administrations, responsible heads of federal and regional authorities has sharply increased. To assert that in Russia no one is fighting corruption, one cannot. Virtually all are fighting. There is a national plan and strategy for fighting, specific measures are being taken, for example, in 2010 the list of officials and their relatives, obliged to declare income, was expanded.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, civil servants "trade" information entrusted to them containing state, commercial and other secret protected by law, assist the entities under their control in obtaining illegal privileges and privileges, in acquiring property, in speeding up the procedure for issuing documents.

In conditions where the current legislation does not establish criminal responsibility, confiscation of property, or other severe measures to counter corruption, it flourishes in a lush color. If in 2001 the volume of corruption deals was estimated at \$ 50 billion, then in 2007 it reached \$ 250 billion. This is a fivefold increase in six years. It turns out that the war of corruption, declared by V.V. Putin, has brought absolutely opposite results. Moreover, in the period of 2000-2008, in the

first term of his country's leadership, he not only failed to initiate the adoption of anti-corruption legislation, but also twice vetoed the draft laws adopted by the State Duma.

With the help of the initiative of DA Medvedev drafted the National Plan for Combating Corruption, adopted a package of anti-corruption laws that came. In the federal law of December 25, 2008 on countering corruption, for the first time in Russian post-Soviet legislation important provisions were laid: principles and organizational bases for combating corruption, measures for its prevention, directions for government agencies to improve the effectiveness of countering corruption, settlement of the conflict of interests of state and municipal employees, responsibility of individuals and legal entities for corruption offenses, etc. A significant shortcoming of this law was the absence in it of specific norms of criminal, administrative and other legal responsibility of individuals and legal entities, officials and politicians for committing acts of corruption. This law contained neither confiscation of property, nor long periods of imprisonment of corrupt officials convicted by the court. By signing and ratifying UN Convention as a whole, Russia has not ratified 20th article, which not only defines illegal enrichment as a difference between official incomes and official expenses, but also recommends confiscating property of corrupt officials. The toothlessness of the anti-corruption laws of the Russian Federation has led to an even greater increase in the scale of corruption. The decree of the president recognizes that despite the measures taken by the state and society, "corruption still seriously hampers the normal functioning of all social mechanisms, hinders the implementation of social reforms and modernization of the national economy ..." [2]

In the absence of systematic work of government bodies and civil society institutions, the mildness of punishment for corruption schemes in Russia during the second period of Vladimir Putin's presidency, the growth of corruption intensified. This is evidenced by many facts, including data from the Control Office of the Presidential Administration, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation, and publications in the mass media. Thus, the head of the Control Administration of the Administration K. Chuikin reported to the President in 2010 about embezzlement from the state budget through corruption schemes of an acute amount of 1,000,000,000,000 rubles. This fact was reported in 2010 by the Russian newspaper Vedomosti in the article "Steal a trillion." [3] The Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of Russia, S. Stepashin, informed about this scale of corruption personally to President Vladimir Putin in 2014. The corruption of public authorities and municipal government is illustrated by the number of corruption-related offenses exposed by the prosecutor's office. Only in 2014, according to the Prosecutor General, more than 381 thousand violations of the law in the sphere of combating corruption were revealed [4].

Ignoring the anti-corruption legislation by officials and officials resulted in an even greater increase in corruption and led to unprecedented embezzlement from the state budget. Thus, according to the head of the Russian Accounting Chamber, T. Golikova, with the help of various criminal schemes, including corruption schemes, 1.9 trillion rubles were stolen from the country's budget [5]. She reported this to President Putin at a working meeting in December 2017. However, this time no significant response was received from the head of state. No proper measures were taken to strengthen the fight against corruption. Putin did not use the political will to activate the anti-corruption policy in the country.

Thus, despite the ongoing state anti-corruption policy, the political mechanisms involved, the situation in our country has not changed significantly for the better. According to the Center for Anti-Corruption Research and Initiatives of Transparency International-R, the Russian Federation is among the most corrupt countries in the world: in 2014, Russia took 136th place out of 175 countries, sharing it with Nigeria, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Cameroon [6]. The Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee initiate criminal proceedings against high-level corrupt officials, including employees of the President's divisions, governors, regional ministers,

their deputies and even government members. For the loss of confidence, the head of the Komi Republic, V. Gaizer, the governors of the Bryansk region N. Denin, the Kirov region N. Belykh, the Sakhalin region A. Khoroshavin, the Minister of Economic Development of Russia A. Ulyukaev and several other high-ranking officials were dismissed from office and arrested. Due to the absence of a system in the anti-corruption policy and the systemic nature of its practical implementation, corruption has now reached unprecedented scale, penetrated not only the regional and municipal authorities, the court, the prosecutor's office, customs, police police, but also in the upper echelons of power: the Presidential Administration, Government, State Duma, Federation Council. These and other arguments and facts make it possible to make a well-founded conclusion that Russia's time of Putin's rule has made an impressive breakthrough and found itself in the group of the most corrupt states of the planet.

Corruption has now become an integral part of the relationship of government officials with business and citizens, which generates perverse forms of public administration and the functioning of state institutions, hinders the development of the economy, small and medium-sized businesses in our country. At the same time, the growth of corruption discredits the system of public authorities and municipal government, reduces their authority among the population.

2. Purpose and Questions of Research

The following methods are used in this study.

In carrying out this study, the author set themselves the following main questions.

1. Analyze the current state of the fight against corruption and show the true (real) results of this struggle.

2. Identify the main reasons for the continuous growth of corruption in Russia to the extent that threatens the national security of the state.

3. Show the real role of President V. Putin in the organization of combating corruption in government and government. On specific examples, demonstrate the lack of political will of the president in the fight against corruption in the highest echelons of power.

4. At the same time, the main focus is on generalizing the world experience of fighting corruption, which leads to a reduction in its scale in the country.

When investigating the problems of counteracting corruption in Russia, the authors mainly focused on the analysis of the reasons that led to the growth of its scale during the reign of President V. Putin. The greatest interest of the researchers was caused by the reasons for the long absence of anti-corruption legislation (from 1991 to 2008) and the relative softness of the criminal punishment of corrupt officials, which excludes the confiscation of illegally acquired property. Moreover, the researchers could not but be interested in the fact that Vladimir Putin vetoed anti-corruption laws in 2000-2008. and did not include in them the norms recommended by the UN Convention against Corruption. Criminal penalties in the form of long periods of imprisonment and confiscation of property are contained in the codes of most European states. "The embezzlement of wealth is flourishing, - the newspaper "Peasant Russia" writes. - A rollback from any contract amount in favor of an official making a decision about this amount - no less than 20 percent "[7].

A lot of facts and analysis of anti-corruption show that real work to limit corruption in the country is often replaced by declarations. In March 2000, immediately after the election of the president, V.Putin declared: "There can only be one remedy here: a uniform understanding of laws and a consistent struggle for their implementation." It's consistent, tough and persistent. "There can be no specificity, no special approach to this. We need just a persistent, consistent and principled fight against corruption, I must say that this is one of the most important tasks of the state in order to make our country economically attractive and politically developed. Without the fight against

corruption, there is no progress in the sphere of economics, it will not exist, and therefore it was and remains one of the most important tasks of the state" [8]. After some time, V.Putin promised: "... we will work hard and persistently in the fight against corruption" [9]. In 2001, President Vladimir Putin announced that he would "strictly oppose corruption" [8] In 2003, speaking of the role of the judiciary in countering corruption, the head of state stressed: "The important task is to prevent irresponsibility, abuse of power and, even more so, corruption, especially when it concerns the judiciary" [9]. A year later, Putin rightly points out that exact and realistic measures are needed - both in combating manifestations of corruption, and, most importantly, in preventing it. In 2005, President Vladimir Putin, referring to the problems of combating corruption, which was gaining in scale, pointed to the conditions for successful work in this area: "We will be able to effectively combat this phenomenon only if we really promote the development of ... independence of means mass information and the creation of effective institutions of civil society and a multiparty system" [9]. Very correct words. The only shortcomings were specific actions to implement them through anti-corruption policies and political mechanisms.

In May 2006, speaking to the political and economic elite of Russia, V. Putin was forced to admit that the level of corruption in the country is unacceptably high, and the effectiveness of fighting against it is low. At the same time, the head of state stressed that corruption is not an original Russian problem and it is present in many countries of the world. However, this does not mean that we should not fight it, the President said. The head of state, while acknowledging the growth of corruption in the country, did not say which program of actions during the previous 5 years of the presidency he and his team developed and implemented, what specific measures, including political, ideological and organizational nature, he intends to take to stop the growth corruption.

Representatives of the Russian state authorities resort to questionable practice - instead of reporting on the work done, they declare plans for the future. In December 2010, at a meeting with heads of small and medium-sized business associations of Russia, V. Putin, being the head of the executive branch, promised: "We will consistently carry out anti-corruption work, severely punish dishonest officials, continue to" clean "the legislation, eliminate the opportunity for corruption manifestations. " The results of this "hard opposition" are depressing: according to the Control Office of the Presidential Administration, the state budget of the Russian Federation loses annually because of corruption 1,000,000,000,000 rubles [10].

Practice has shown that almost the whole bureaucratic apparatus, the entire vertical of power created by President V.Putin, was struck by corruption. Therefore, it is senseless to fight corruption by the forces of corrupt officials themselves. We need to start with a change in the nature of the political environment, which implies not only the presence of opposition, but also real freedom of speech, the real competitiveness of political actors. Without these necessary conditions, any struggle "for power without corruption" will be a fiction. No less significant conditions are: a clear legislative definition of the functions of the state and individual officials; reduction in the spheres in which decision-making depends on the will of individuals; clarity, simplicity and stability of legislation; assistance in the formation of civil society; increase the educational level of the population, including its legal literacy.

Obviously, we should also talk about minimizing the socio-economic conditions that engender corruption of politicians, officials and officials. It is necessary not only to identify problems, but also to achieve their solution.

In the modern world, examples are known when actions aimed at reducing corruption have led to significant successes: Denmark, Singapore, New Zealand, Finland, and others. The examples of the developed countries of Europe and Asia unequivocally speak in favor of the fact that effective

methods of fighting against corruption exist. And they need to be studied and used in Russia, taking into account local peculiarities.

Rigid laws, appropriate salaries for ministers and civil servants, the punishment of corrupt officials, the effective functioning of the anti-corruption department, personal examples of senior executives - all these factors explain how Singapore is fighting corruption [11].

3. Research Methods

The following methods are used in this study.

1. Comparative method, allowing to compare different political, economic, socio-historical, national-cultural contexts of counteracting corruption in Russia with advanced European and Asian states. At the same time, the main focus is on generalizing the world experience of fighting corruption, which leads to a reduction in its scale in the country.

2. Systemic and structural-functional approaches allow to form a holistic view on the mechanisms of counteracting corruption, which are used by the state, civil society and political parties.

3. The institutional approach allows analyzing the influence of various state institutions on reducing and preventing corruption, eliminating the causes that generate negative processes in society.

4. Conclusion

As a conclusion, the following should be noted.

1. The main conclusion is that in order to combat corruption, systemic work is needed, and not fragmentary measures. The system consists of a variety of forms and methods that include not only criminal prosecution for corruption, but also political mechanisms, organizational and political work among the masses to create a climate of rejection of corruption practices.

2. The world experience in the fight against corruption has convincingly shown that where the fight against corruption is systematically and multifaceted, on all levels of government based on the institutions of civil society and at the same time is widely covered in the media - there it certainly yields positive results. This conclusion is confirmed by the examples of many developed countries in Europe and Asia, as well as the United States.

3. The example of Russia shows that in the absence of the political will of the head of state, his interest in reducing corruption in the government and government bodies, when there is no systematic, consistent and purposeful work, when the mass media are limited in freedom of action to expose corrupt officials in power structures, and civil society is underdeveloped - under these conditions, corruption, without meeting the necessary resistance, has grown on a huge scale, threatening national security.

The author suggests the following forms and methods of countering corruption

1. Tighten legislation against corrupt officials. To this end, for illegal enrichment to impose sanctions such as life imprisonment with the simultaneous confiscation of property. In this case, corrupt officials will be unprofitable to engage in illegal enrichment. By law, they lose their property and lose their freedom.

2. Obviously, we should also talk about minimizing the socio-economic conditions that lead to increased corruption among officials and politicians in Russia.

3. Increase the educational level of the population, including in terms of legal literacy.

4. Russia needs to carefully study and creatively use the international anti-corruption Strategy. Only in this case it will be possible, if not to eradicate, then at least significantly reduce our level of corruption.

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