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## Struggle Against Corruption in Russia: Historic Overview and Modern Problems

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*The article deals with corruption. It is viewed as a societal phenomenon. The author defines corruption and analyses it in a diachronical perspective. Particular features of corruption are under the scope of close observation. Its manifestations in different historical periods are exposed in the experience of different generations of the Russian and Soviet people. Contemporary social ills originated in corruption are revealed.*

*Keywords: corruption, societal phenomenon, politics, state governance, anti-corruptive actions.*

### Introduction

Russian corruption has been a struggle for numerous generations. It comes back to previous centuries. Russian aristocracy, a vast gathering of men of noble birth with titles, tsars, emperors, general secretaries and prime ministers, honest ministers and governors have been struggling against corruption. Great Russian poets and writers such as I.A. Krylov, A.S. Pushkin, N.A. Nekrasov, N.V. Gogol, M.E. Saltykov – Schedrin, as well as, actors of various artistic genres made a bigger contribution into that fight. Artists also have been implicated in depicting immoral behaviour.

In effect, it seemed that massive attacking the corruption would have resulted in its disappearance from the Russian people's life and professional activity.

Attitudes towards corruption in a historic perspective could be seen as the struggle against

its manifestations. One can compare them with the poisoned crown of the antiar, the tree of poison. Its deepest roots are spreading suckers just after the stem having been cut. The greatest Russian poet, A.S. Pushkin, described antiar growing in a hot and dry desert. He visualized the scaring tree as an alone and violent guard in the universe. Corruption, in contrast, is sprouting on a fertile soil, in the centre of civilization.

### Point of view

Corruption appeared to be an unavoidable societal phenomenon within the institutionalized state structures and formations. The reason is: no one attempted either to erase or to eradicate its preconditions.

Despite the intention to get rid of corruption, it is still alive. What is more, its vitality can be easily explained by the fact that multi-layered structures of all kinds of officials are interested

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