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WESTERN PHILOSOPHERS' VIEWS ON CORRUPTION

Abstract: The scientist's views on corruption have retained their relevance to this day. It is enough to recall his comparison of corruption with consumption, which is initially easy to detect but difficult to cure, and if the disease is ignored, it is easy to detect but very difficult to cure. The essence of corruption is that it disrupts public relations, disrupts the normal order of things in society.

Keywords: public, society, consumption, corruption.

Introduction

Corruption as a phenomenon has been familiar to people since ancient times. It is not one of the oldest, but it is also not a relatively young phenomenon of social reality. For about seven centuries, history has taught us that in the course of civilization mankind has been quite successful in fighting this evil. But even at the beginning of the third millennium, we humans have not yet succeeded in eradicating corruption in the full sense of the word.

Since ancient times, power and corruption have been inseparable. Throughout history, corruption has evolved in parallel with the evolution of the state. While at the dawn of statehood, paying a priest, leader or warlord for personal recourse to their assistance was considered a universal norm, later, as the state apparatus became more complex, professional officials began to receive only a fixed income officially – which meant that bribes moved into the realm of the shadow economy.

On January 3, 2017, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Combating Corruption” was adopted. The main principles of combating corruption in Uzbekistan are:

1. Legality;
2. Priority of citizens' rights, freedoms and legitimate interests;
3. Openness and transparency;
4. Systematicity;
5. Cooperation between the state and civil society;
6. Priority of measures to prevent corruption;
7. Inevitability of responsibility.

Famous Western philosophers and statesmen have paid great attention to studying the manifestations of corruption. T. Hobbes believes that corruption always and with all its temptations is rooted in disrespect for the law. N. Machiavelli is rightfully considered one of those who deeply studied the mechanisms of the functioning of the state, including corruption relations. The scientist's views on corruption have retained their relevance to this day. It is enough to recall his comparison of

corruption with consumption, which is initially easy to detect but difficult to cure, and if the disease is neglected, it is easy to detect but very difficult to cure.¹

The essence of corruption is that it disrupts public relations, disrupts the normal order of things in society, as a result of which it occurs. "Corruption" is the "degradation" of power. In fact, corruption is the use of their positions by individuals in a particular state administration to influence social and political processes in society, satisfy the needs of other individuals for their own benefit, and use the opportunities in the existing environment for other purposes. In the system of state administration, such situations can directly lead to disintegration of society, appropriation of state property by others, and many objective factors.²

According to the definition given by Ya.I.Kuzminov, "Corruption, in a narrow sense, is a phenomenon in which officials deliberately neglect their duties or violate these obligations in exchange for a certain material reward. Two parties are always involved in corruption: whoever buys and whoever receives a bribe contradicts his official duties. Bribery occurs due to the ambiguity of the official's duties, the lack of administrative and financial capabilities of the state (often artificially created)"³.

Currently, corruption-related crimes can also be found in developed countries, but they are constantly fighting corruption and are ranked high in the world in terms of low corruption levels. In particular, according to statistics from the international non-governmental organization Transparency International in 2020, New Zealand ranked 1st, Denmark 2nd, Finland, Singapore, and Switzerland 3rd in the ranking of countries with low corruption levels, while Kazakhstan ranked 94th, Kyrgyzstan 124th, and Uzbekistan 146th among the Central Asian countries⁴. No country is completely immune to corruption and its harmful effects. Therefore, the fight against corruption is recognized as one of the most pressing issues in the laws of each country. In particular, according to Article 382 of the Criminal Code of China, corruption is considered to be the embezzlement, theft, fraudulent acquisition or other misappropriation of state property by civil servants using their official privileges. It is also determined that the embezzlement, theft, fraudulent acquisition or other misappropriation of state property by persons entrusted with the management and management of state property by state organs, state-owned enterprises, enterprises, organizations, and people's associations using their official privileges is also considered to be corruption. The punishment for corruption-related crimes is determined by the severity of the crime, and for individual corruption involving more than 100,000 yuan, the penalty is imprisonment for a term of more than ten years, with or without confiscation of property, or imprisonment for a term of years or life imprisonment, in particularly aggravating cases, the death penalty and confiscation of property. In addition, according to Chinese law, any public official whose property or expenses exceed his legal income is required to explain the sources of his property, if the difference is too large. If he cannot prove that the sources are legal, the part exceeding

¹Макиавелли Н. Избранные произведения. – М.: Художественная литература, 1992. URL: <http://lib.ru/POLITOLOG/MAKIAWELLI/gosudar.txt>.

²Кабанов П.А. Политическая преступность: сущность, причины, предупреждение. –Нижнекамск: Нижнекамский филиал МГЭИ, 2000. – С.136.

³Я.И. Кузьминов. Тезисы о коррупции Государственный университет высшая школа экономики. – Москва: [б. и.]. 2000. – 38 с.

⁴Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkilotining Korrupsiyaga qarshi Konvensiyasi. // [Elektron manba]. URL: <https://lex.uz/docs/-1461329> (United Nations Convention Against Corruption); URL:<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/nzl>

his legal income is considered illegal wealth. Any public official must report to the state in due course about his funds held in a bank outside China.⁵

From the first days of his election as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev adopted a number of laws and by-laws in the field of combating corruption. In particular, on January 3, 2017, Law No. 419 “On Combating Corruption” was adopted. This law determined the priority areas of state policy in combating corruption and regulated anti-corruption activities, creating a legal basis for combating corruption. Article 3 of this law defines the concept of corruption. According to it, corruption is the unlawful use of a person’s position or official position for the purpose of obtaining material or non-material benefits for personal gain or the interests of other persons, as well as the unlawful presentation of such benefits.

Corruption is a serious problem that causes significant harm to the development of the state and society, threatening economic, political and social stability. Identifying the factors that cause corruption in the new Uzbekistan and developing mechanisms to effectively combat them plays an important role in ensuring the stability of the state and establishing social justice. Corruption causes moral, economic and political problems not only in the state system, but also in society, which hinders the development of the country.

Conclusion

Factors that cause corruption:

Economic factors: One of the main reasons for the widespread corruption in Uzbekistan is economic inequality and unfair distribution of resources. Poverty, unemployment and economic crisis, as well as limited access to state resources, increase corrupt practices for personal gain. These factors are effective in studying and combating corruption among the population.

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⁵ Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China. // [Electronic resource]. URL:<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/cgvienna/eng/dbtyw/jdwt/crimelaw/t209043.htm>