

Summary: Corruption in the Russian government keeps reforms from working. Useful against a variety of cases (see the Impacts section, page 290, for specific applications.)

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Most applications in the Impacts section (page 290) are self-contained and do not require a link to set them up, so check the specific application you're going to use before tagging a link to read.

LINK: CORRUPTION HIGH

Very high

Samuel Bakowski (Communications Department, Transparency International), [January 29, 2010](http://blog.transparency.org/2010/01/29/courage-to-face-down-corruption-%E2%80%93-russia-%E2%80%99s-endemic-problems/), [Transparency International \(the world's leading NGO dedicated to fighting corruption\), "Courage to Face Down Corruption - Russia's Endemic Problems"](http://blog.transparency.org/2010/01/29/courage-to-face-down-corruption-%E2%80%93-russia-%E2%80%99s-endemic-problems/), <http://blog.transparency.org/2010/01/29/courage-to-face-down-corruption-%E2%80%93-russia-%E2%80%99s-endemic-problems/>

The findings of Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer 2009 suggest corruption is endemic in Russia. Public officials and civil servants were perceived as the country's most corrupt institution sector at 4.5 out of 5 (1 = not at all corrupt, 5 = extremely corrupt), with 31 per cent of respondents reported paying a bribe in the previous 12 months.

Corruption Kills Your Plan

Rising

Andrew Kuchins (PhD from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University), November 2007, Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Alternative Futures for Russia to 2017: A Report of the Russia and Eurasia Program Center for Strategic and International Studies", http://csis.org/files/media/isis/pubs/071210-russia_2017-web.pdf (page 31)

The last two years have seen a rise in corruption in Russia. This is a serious economic and political issue that is usually a battle cry of any reform or opposition. Any serious attempt to combat high-level corruption would be an important sign of policy change.

Bribes over twice as much as taxes

Steven Lee Myers, August 13, 2005, New York Times, "Pervasive Corruption in Russia Is 'Just Called Business'", <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/13/international/europe/13russia.html>

The Indem Foundation, a research group in Moscow that has conducted the most extensive efforts to measure bribery here, estimated last month that Russians paid more than \$3 billion in bribes annually and that businesses paid \$316 billion - nearly 10 times the estimate of its first survey just four years ago. The total is more than two and a half times what the government collects in budget revenues, the survey found.

Response: anti-corruption measures have failed

Center for Applied Policy Research at Munich University and the Bertelsmann Stiftung Foundation, 2009, "BTI 2010 | Russia Country Report", http://www.bertelsmann-transformation-index.de/fileadmin/pdf/Gutachten_BTI2010/CIS/Russia.pdf (page 8)

However, most anti-corruption efforts have been merely symbolic. Official accusations of corruption are still perceived as public relations campaigns inspired by political power struggles. The judicial prosecution of corruption charges has improved neither in quantitative nor in qualitative terms. Accordingly, there are no indications that corruption in Russia has been reduced in recent years.

IMPACTS

Democratization: Police corruption undermines democracy efforts

Prof. Theodore P. Gerber (PhD in sociology, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia at the University of Wisconsin) and Sarah E. Mendelson (PhD in political science, director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies), 2008, Law & Society Review, "Public Experiences of Police Violence and Corruption in Contemporary Russia: A Case of Predatory Policing?", Vol. 42, No. 1, http://beta.csis.org/images/stories/Russia%20and%20Eurasia/080221_ruseura_MendelsonPolicing.pdf (page 3)

Our findings suggest that regardless of progress on other fronts, police misconduct undermines democracy in Russia.

Corruption Kills Your Plan

Law Enforcement: Judges are puppets of the officials

Philip P. Pan, June 24, 2009, Washington Post, "Corruption Taints Courts In Russia, Report Says", <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/23/AR2009062301407.html?hpid=sec-world>

She [*Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, former German justice minister and author of an investigation on corruption in the Russian judicial system*] said she found prosecutors with "almost unchecked" power to put people behind bars and subservient judges "subject to an increasing level of pressure aimed at ensuring convictions in almost all cases."

The practice of "telephone justice" -- an official calling and telling a judge how to rule -- has evolved for the worse, she wrote: Russian judges are now so worried about making a mistake and being disciplined or dismissed that they pick up the phone themselves to ask for instructions.

Nuclear Security: Corruption allows terrorists to get materials

Prof. Gordon M. Hahn (PhD in political science, adjunct professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies), 2007, Yale University Press, "Russia's Islamic Threat", ISBN: 978-0300120776 (page 229)

Using a "micro" approach, exploiting widespread corruption and lax work on security cultures to access small amounts of material at Russia's many WMD sites, could garner terrorists sufficient materials for a damaging attack such as one utilizing a "dirty bomb."

[See also Terrorism, page 292-B and 292-C, for more evidence along this line.]

Reforms: Corrupt enforcement hinders results

2005, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (international organization of 31 countries "committed to democracy and the market economy"), "Russia: building rules for the market", ISBN: 9264011226, <http://books.google.com/books?id=MzOMIKYJELIC> (page 36)

But improvements in the quality of the laws have not yet been matched by improvements in the quality of the institutions that implement them or those that interpret and enforce them. The weakness, inefficiency and corruption of all branches of government are the most important obstacles to further progress in reforming Russia.

[See also Law Enforcement, page 291-A, for more evidence along this line.]

Corruption Kills Your Plan

Spending: Russian spending wasted

Andrew Kuchins (PhD from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University), November 2007, Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Alternative Futures for Russia to 2017: A Report of the Russia and Eurasia Program Center for Strategic and International Studies", http://csis.org/files/media/isis/pubs/071210-russia_2017-web.pdf (page 12)

In effect, the Russian government has tried to create a paternalistic Soviet-like state but without the social benefits of the Soviet Union. The national projects have been described as "swamp pits of nepotism and corruption," and even legal spending appears largely wasted.

Terrorism: Cannot solve without reducing corruption

Robert Orttung (PhD in political science, senior fellow at the Jefferson Institute), December 2006, PONARS Policy Memo No. 430, "Causes and Consequences of Corruption in Putin's Russia", http://csis.org/files/media/isis/pubs/pm_0430.pdf (page 4)

Corruption within the law enforcement agencies makes it possible for criminal and terror groups to operate on Russian territory, while corruption within the customs service and border guard facilitates the transport of illicit goods across Russian borders. It will be impossible for Russia to address these problems without first reducing the amount of corruption in state agencies.

Terrorism: Police aid terrorists (example)

Prof. Theodore P. Gerber (PhD in sociology, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia at the University of Wisconsin) and Sarah E. Mendelson (PhD in political science, director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies), 2008, Law & Society Review, "Public Experiences of Police Violence and Corruption in Contemporary Russia: A Case of Predatory Policing?", Vol. 42, No. 1, http://beta.csis.org/images/stories/Russia%20and%20Eurasia/080221_ruseura_MendelsonPolicing.pdf (page 9)

Recent Russian experience shows that the connection between police corruption and terrorism is not merely hypothetical. In September 2004, terrorists apparently bribed law enforcement agents to allow them to reach the school in the town of Beslan in the Russian province of North Ossetia, where they seized hostages, ultimately resulting in hundreds of deaths.