

Acceptance of Corruption Has Grown in Russia Under Putin, Report Suggests

October 16, 2018



Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

A new study suggests that Russians have become more tolerant of corrupt practices in the years since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Russia [ranks](#) among the world's most [corrupt](#) countries in international ratings, with corruption-related crimes [costing](#) an estimated \$2.5 billion in damages between 2014 and 2017. Observers have [said](#) that anti-graft campaigns under Putin's rule have brought little progress, while anti-corruption protests have increased in the country over the past year.

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Negative attitudes toward various forms of corruption have decreased in Russia by almost one-third in the past 27 years, according to a [study](#) by sociologists at Moscow's Higher School of Economics (HSE).

“Intolerance towards bribe-taking, cheating on taxes, avoiding paying for fare on public transport and claiming government benefits without being entitled to them, have considerably decreased,” the authors said, citing 1990-2017 World Values Survey polling [results](#).

Aversion toward bribe-taking has decreased from 85 percent to 58 percent; tax-avoidance from 53 percent to 36 percent; fare-avoidance from 52 percent to 24 percent; and claiming benefits without entitlement from 65 percent to 35 percent, the study said.

“Acceptance of such violations has increased more sharply in the years of stability under [President Vladimir] Putin – from 2006 to 2017 – than in the wild 1990s,” the Vedomosti business daily [reported](#) Monday, citing the results of the survey.

“This trend generally suggests that new norms are being established in Russia, under which people consider deviant behavior permissible,” the publication cited co-author Anna Almakayeva as saying.

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