

Abstract

The problem of Czech society today is foremost the part of corruption that can be labeled as systemic, large scale or political corruption; and its causes, demonstrations, and therefore also possible solutions differ significantly from those for individual bribery. The public still holds very distorted opinions about the causes and therefore also possible solutions of large scale corruption. The most significant is the idea of political corruption as a personal ethical failure of an individual. The solution to this is their replacement. However, past experiences prove that political corruption is a systemic problem and replacement of individuals does not bring a substantial change. To understand how large scale political corruption functions, it is important to know the point of view of politicians who are its direct participants or encounter it. It is established that a significant motivational factor for corruption is an effort of politicians to keep their power and prestige, and with it the need of raising funds for re-election.

Key words: corruption, political corruption, systemic corruption, power, status, prestige