

## **SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONALLY CONSCIOUS POLITICAL ELITE AS A CHARACTER OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION**

An assessment of the state's activities is an assessment of the government and its officials activities. Current Ukraine governance is an illustrative example of growing country problems. Political corruption is the shameful and painful problem of a democratic, independent Ukrainian state. Corruption greatly undermines the authority of the political elite, people's confidence, trust in the government, thus poses a direct threat to the national security. In classical meaning, corruption means the decline of the political system, «the general illness of a political organism» [1, p. 41]. If society is full of corruption, then the existence of a political elite in the country is questionable. Thus, the German scientist W. Hoffmann-Lange argues that «leaders ... can not be attributed to the elite until they succeed in institutionalizing their political influence ...» [6, p. 51].

Corruption as a socio-political phenomenon is the object of scientific research by political scientists, lawyers, sociologists, and economists. Explanations on this issue are presented by A. Zakalyuk, Y. Kashuba, V. Kovalenko, M. Melnyk, S. Rose-Ekerman and others.

The magnitude and impact of corruption processes on public life is the evidence of the fact that corruption has become a key element of public administration. The current political elite is unable effectively address actual problems in the interests of society. Some researchers, political observers suggest that there is no political elite in modern Ukraine. After all, the elite - these are the best representatives of society, who support the state, acts in accordance with the basic law of the state. This is evidenced by the results of an expert survey conducted by Razumkov Center of Political Studies. For the question if there is political elite in Ukraine? - the following answer was chosen «... according to formal signs - yes, and in the level of public authority and public trust -» no «, in percentage it is 55%.

Current Ukrainian political elite has no enough will to fight against illegality, injustice. Just as Dmitry Dontsov wrote in his work «The Spirit of our Ancient Times»: «The essence of our problem lies in the question of the formative ruling caste. There was such a caste wise, brave and strong morally - and there was a state. If it was weak or degenerate and decomposed - the state was weakened and died.»

In truth, Ukrainian elite can be considered as being in process of formation, and this process is long and controversial. Favorable conditions for the consolidation of the political elite may be ideological pluralism and multipartyism.

The positive sign that strengthens the foundations of a democratic society is the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the state for 2014-2017 as an important element in ensuring the national security of Ukraine [2]. After all, the fight against corruption is a priority area of activity of a nationally conscious political elite. For effective policy in the fight against corruption N. M. Kolisnychenko [3], A. Tin'kov [5], I. Chubenko [7], and M. Miller [4] advise to

borrow experience of the countries of Western Europe in which the interconnected activity of all branches of power and civil society structures have become the key to the effective implementation of an effective anti-corruption policy.

It is clear that the political elite will not be able to overcome political corruption, even if it changes for the better. This, above all, should be the cause of every person in every corner of Ukraine. The fight against corruption should be linked to the protection of the national interests of Ukrainian society. Civil society plays a significant role in overcoming political corruption and in mobilizing the people in support of democratic reforms in order to build a legal Ukrainian state.

#### LITERATURE:

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