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## **THE ORIGINS OF CORRUPTION IN EUROPE**

**Summary:** The dominant trend in the study of corruption today is represented by attempts to measure corruption, the basis of which is the perception of the current state of corruption. However, the appearance and existence of corruption is closely related to the appearance and existence of the state, which is why it is necessary to take into account the origin of corruption when studying corruption. Therefore, in this paper, we will look at the origin of corruption in Europe, looking for it in the period of the creation of ancient and medieval European states. A brief analysis of the historical context in which the first forms of corruption and the first anti-corruption measures appeared will show that the then social order, based on slave ownership or class inequalities, regardless of belonging to the European West or East, was in itself a risk factor for corruption and that it actually hides the origin of corruption in Europe.

**Keywords:** corruption, anti-corruption measures, origin, Europe

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