

## РЕЏЕХЗИ

**Banović Jovana,**

*Doctor of Laws (Criminal Law), Assistant Professor,  
Assistant Professor at the Department of Crime Studies / Criminal Law,  
Faculty of Security Studies,  
University of Belgrade (Belgrade, Republic of Serbia)*

DOI 10.32782/2663-5666.2025.1.16

**CORRUPTION THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE PHYSICAL  
AND CYBERNETIC SPACES OF LAW ACTION: THE TRANSDISCIPLINARITY  
OF A COGNITIVE SCHEME<sup>1</sup>**

The relevance of the research topic remains permanent, despite the existence of numerous studies on anti-corruption issues. Changes in social relations correlate with new challenges for humanity. Therefore, it is always important to review existing legislative mechanisms and management practices to assess their compliance with human virtues and the nature of law. After all, even Dante mentioned corruption in his Divine Comedy (Inferno, Canto 21) when he wrote: 'Plunge him beneath, for I return for others. Unto that town, which is well furnished with them. All there are barrators, except Bonturo; No into Yes for money there is changed.' In this sense, we can say that corruption is undoubtedly a timeless issue.

The author has successfully explored, in the reviewed monograph, the issues of corruption-induced distortions of anthropocentrism in public legal relations; the destruction of national security through corrupt actions and other predicate crimes committed by entrepreneurs; the digital scaling of national security protection against corruption threats; and the digitization of anti-corruption algorithms to ensure the integrity of public spending. The author perceives the three-dimensional nature of law through different coordinates of legal system formation. The removal of corruption-related contradictions in the national legal space is most prominently observed through digital tools, international cooperation, and interdisciplinary connections between anti-corruption norms of criminal law and the corresponding requirements of administrative and civil (commercial) law.

A study of the monograph's text demonstrates the author's scientifically grounded systematic approach to the issue. The relevance of the topic is

convincingly formulated, the subject, purpose, and objectives of the research are clearly defined, and the methodological tools necessary for achieving these objectives are comprehensively selected.

The work consists of an introduction, four logically interconnected chapters, conclusions, and a list of references. The material is presented sequentially, which facilitates the disclosure of interrelated theoretical and practical aspects of the studied issue. The author thoroughly addressed the assigned tasks and achieved results that are distinguished by scientific novelty.

Among the positive aspects of the monographic study, it is important to highlight the application of a set of scientific methods appropriate to the subject, purpose, and objectives of the research; the use of modern achievements in legal science and a broad source base; and the validation of the study's key provisions. The author's proposals are specific and original, successfully achieving the set goal. From a methodological perspective, a reviewer might highlight the need for greater clarity regarding the initial definition of the study's 'ternary' structure – not as a criticism, but rather as a suggestion. While this structure is undoubtedly present throughout the study, its conclusions, and even intuitively recognizable, a brief introductory passage clarifying its precise role in this work would enhance clarity.

The structure of the work is carefully designed and skillfully addresses the topic, progressing from the general to the specific, striking the right balance between the axiological, legal, and digital aspects of corrupt acts. The legal-philosophical premises are appropriately placed within the context of the application of legal norms, taking into

<sup>1</sup> The Ternary Legal Composition of National Security Protection Against Corruption Distortions : Scientific monograph / O. L. Makarenkov. Riga, Latvia : Baltija Publishing. 162 p.

account – let's say – the behavioral competencies of individuals directed towards (anti)corruptive actions. What makes this work particularly valuable is its acknowledgment of the contemporary challenges brought by digital technologies, so it is a true refreshment to see the connection of various branches of law, as well as other scientific disciplines, within the framework of the skillfully termed 'anticorruption blockchain technology.' Additionally, one of the major issues in detecting and proving criminal acts related to corruption is aptly recognized – that legal norms are generally good, but their efficient implementation is lacking, with the root cause often being corruption 'from within.' Furthermore, concrete proposals are given on how to overcome some shortcomings in the application of digital achievements, not by 'reinventing the wheel,' but by utilizing existing mechanisms, such as international cooperation, while encouraging a multidisciplinary approach through the work of experts from various fields, as well as recognizing new challenges. It seems to us that this is not so much the result of an inability to provide more concrete proposals, but rather a caution to ensure that the treatment of classic criminal law institutions does not take on an uncharacteristic tone. This must be accompanied by a certain authorial distance, since criminal law protection, both in theory and in practice, does not tolerate a radical approach.

It seems that this work, even without its other indisputable qualities, would make a sufficient scientific contribution simply by locating these issues, let alone by addressing them in such a thorough manner. This is certainly commendable, as it deals with yet unexplored segments of thinking about corruption, the scientific analysis of which can easily go too far, but the author has skillfully focused it precisely on corruptive acts. Therefore, this work provides the proper phenomenological, legal, and digital framework as key aspects of the national security system.

Among the minor shortcomings of the monographic study – which, however, do not affect the overall quality of the work – it can be noted that the capabilities of legal and digital tools in resolving binary contradictions of corruption-related oppositions in legal relations require further specification and broader illustration with relevant practical examples.

Taking all the above into account, it must be recognized that the reviewed monograph, as evidenced by its content, is executed at a sufficiently high theoretical level. It sets forth and proposes legal foundations, directions, and other guidelines for addressing the scientific problem of identifying and analyzing the principles of the ternary legal composition of national security protection against corruption-related distortions in legislation and law enforcement.