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**Russians' individual values and climato-economic context of regions as factors
of corruption**

PhD Dissertation Summary

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISSERTATION

The relevance of the research problem

The dynamics of corruption crimes over the past twenty years indicates that the situation with corruption in Russia remains acute, since during this period of time the number of registered crimes related, in particular, to bribery, has been steadily growing (Stupina, 2021, p. 47).

Corruption is known to emerge in the economic sphere for the purpose of material and immaterial enrichment of individuals or a group of individuals and is initially seen as an economic problem. However, the main breeding ground and area of corruption is the public sphere (Nisnevich, Stukal, 2012).

Corruption has a negative impact on the nature of the economic and political structure of society, which gives corruption the status of one of the most serious threats to the stability and well-being of society.

The structure of the political and economic spheres is one of the strongest macro factors of corruption (Sumah, 2017). The "overregulated" economic sphere of the country, or the country's regulatory framework, which entails many state restrictions and inefficient decisions in the economic sphere, leads to an artificial monopolization of state power and creates the grounds for the implementation of corruption mechanisms in order to speed up bureaucratic procedures (Dimant, 2014; Sumah, 2017). From the perspective of the rational-functional approach, at this stage we can talk about corruption as a socio-cultural practice that has a significant degree of approval from society.

Incomplete normative and legal regulation of anti-corruption activities and rapidly changing professional and ethical standards equally form a "soft" normative and legal regulation of corrupt relations, which can be seen as acceptable and even justifying corruption, and a "double standard" of behavior, when under rapidly changing norms of behavior a person is forced to seek a different support (for example, in corruption) to make decisions about the nature of his actions and deeds (Sumah, 2017).

The "soft" normative-legal regulation of corrupt relations, in turn, finds its expression in the preservation and maintenance of such forms of social relations as patronage and ingroup favoritism.

The point is that the ambiguity in the perception of what is corruption and what is not, leads to the desire to preserve such a form of social relationship as patronage, when the loyalty of the patron is more important and weightier in relation to ethical and moral norms of behavior (Buhenu, 2014). For example, in the logic of the patronage relationship, the giving of a gift is an expression of deference, honor, and loyalty, while in terms of social good, it can be seen as an element of a corrupt relationship (Buhenu, 2014).

While patronage involves a relationship between an individual and an official with authority, there is another form of relationship that serves as the basis for corruption: intra-group favoritism (Sumah, 2017). Ingroup favoritism is commonly viewed as a preference given by an individual to members of his or her social group in dealing with various kinds of issues in relation to members of an external social group (Brewer, Chen, 2007).

Thus, being under the conditions of, on the one hand, the manifestation of the fight against corruption as a certain social norm and, on the other hand, the constantly recurring domestic corruption, the individual experiences corruption pressure, or the impact of such social and psychological factors that lead her to a situation of choice between criminal and law-abiding behavior (Vannovskaya, 2009).

The inability to resist corruptive pressure and making a choice in favor of criminal behavior is called low anti-corruption resistance and indicates an individual's propensity for corruption (Vannovskaya, 2009), which is largely determined by the value orientations of an individual (Vannovskaya, 2009; Zakirova, Khamitova, 2015), attitudes of various kinds (Radaev, 2001; Ilyin, 2002; Zenuk, Malineckij, Faller, 2014; Mukhamedyarova, Gazizova, 2015; Kosals, Izyumov, 2021) and other personal factors (Vannovskaya, 2009; Nisnevich, Tomilova, 2016).

Thus, the existence of corruption in modern society is determined by factors of different levels: while macro factors of corruption exert corruption pressure and lead a

person to a situation of choice between criminal and law-abiding behavior, its anti-corruption resistance and propensity for corruption are determined by factors of corruption at the individual level.

It is important to note that, firstly, most studies of corruption factors in domestic and foreign literature are implemented on the basis of the normative-legal approach or use insufficiently reliable methodology for psychological science to study the factors of corruption. Secondly, the existing studies are based on a single level of analysis of the phenomenon under study. While it is the influence of different levels of corruption factors that leads an individual to a situation of choice between law-abiding and criminal behavior and prompts to make a choice in favor of one or the other behavior. That is why the application of a systemic approach in the study of the mutual determinism of corruption by factors of different levels would make it possible to take the necessary step in gaining a deeper understanding of such a complex social phenomenon as corruption.

The present research is aimed at bridging the existing gap, namely a systematic study of the relationship between regional level factors (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual level factors (individual values of Russians) with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation. This, on the one hand, makes it possible to expand theoretical understanding of both macro-level and individual-level factors of corruption, and, on the other hand, to identify their mutual role in the determination of corruption.

However, it is worth noting that this paper is the first attempt to build comprehensive models of the determination of corruption, taking into account some macro-factors of corruption and the factors of corruption at the individual level, and do not claim to fully explain the causes of corruption, taking into account all its potential factors.

The research problem is the need to obtain a systematic view of the relationship of regional and individual level factors with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation.

The degree of scientific development of the problem

In modern psychology, corruption as a socio-psychological phenomenon is defined as the use by an official of the power resources given to him in order to extract personal or group benefits in both material and non-material form (Andrianov, 2009; Nisnevich, Stukal, 2012; Nisnevich, 2016), which is illegal in relation to the legal norms and societal norms of behavior.

At the same time, this work is focused on such a type of corruption as everyday (economic) corruption, which is determined through the interaction of citizens with bodies, institutions, and officials of the lower level of government and is reflected in the form of some attitude towards corruption (Nisnevich, Stukal, 2012).

The results of modern domestic and foreign studies indicate that corruption can be determined by factors of different levels.

Thus, macro factors of corruption include the political and economic environment (Svensson, 2005; Goel, Nelson, 2005; Sardzoska, Tang, 2009; Dimant, 2014; Allen, Qian, Shen, 2015; Sumah, 2017; Kosals, Izyumov, 2021), professional ethics and law-making activities (Zakirova, Khamitova, 2015; Sumah, 2017), and ethnographic characteristics of society (Friedrich, 2005; Heidenheimer, 2005; Brewer, Chen, 2007; Rivas, 2013; Lee, Guven, 2013; Buhenau, 2014; Zakirova, Khamitova, 2015; Sumah, 2017)).

Corruption factors at the individual level include value orientations (Vannovskaya, 2009; Zakirova, Khamitova, 2015); individual, moral, social and legal attitudes (Radaev, 2001; Ilyin, 2002; Zenuk, Malineckij, Faller, 2014; Mukhamedyarova, Gazizova, 2015; Kosals, Izyumov, 2021); life satisfaction, job satisfaction, and personal status and self-concept; locus of control; response type (Vannovskaya, 2009; Nisnevich, Tomilova, 2016); and socio-demographic characteristics of society (Melgar, Rossi, Smith, 2010; Sumah, Mahic, 2015)).

While the macro factors of corruption exert pressure on the individual and lead him/her to a situation of choice between criminal and law-abiding behavior, the anti-corruption pressure exerted is contrasted with the anti-corruption resistance of the individual and the degree of his/her propensity for corruption, which are usually determined by the factors of corruption at the individual level.

However, there are no studies of corruption factors, which would proceed from a systemic approach in the methodological aspect of considering corruption and, therefore, assume a comprehensive approach to the issue of determination of corruption by factors of different levels.

As of today, economic factors of corruption are the most represented on the macro-level, which seems quite logical in the context of the discussion of corruption as a certain dynamic process in which its primary form is economic corruption. However, in the last two decades one of the most perspective and interesting macro-psychological theories, namely the climate-economic theory of culture (Van de Vliert, 2011), has started to take shape in this direction. This theory explains social and psychological phenomena with the help of factors external to society, in particular one of the social and psychological bases of corruption, intragroup favoritism, extending the boundaries of the economic approach to the study of the determinants of corruption on the macro level (Van de Vliert, 2011).

A study of ingroup favoritism, carried out in the framework of the climate-economic theory of culture (Brewer, Chen, 2007; Van de Vliert, 2011), gives us grounds for the assumption that climate demands are a macro factor that can exert pressure on the individual, leading to a choice between approving corruption and law-abiding behavior, and the financial well-being of the individual is a factor containing the possibility to resist corruption.

At the individual level, we prioritize individual value orientations according to Schwartz's refined theory of individual values (Schwartz et al., 2012). Individual values are motivational, supra-situational goals that serve as guiding principles in people's lives (Schwartz, 2012). Individual values determine different forms of human behavior and have great explanatory potential for corruption. It is value orientations that determine an individual's anti-corruption resistance under conditions of corruption pressure and its predisposition to corruption. However, to date, little attention has been paid to the relationship between personal value orientations and corruption, not only in the context of psychological sciences, but also in other scientific fields.

For example, individual values determine innovative (Lebedeva, 2010; Lebedeva, Bushina, Cherkasova, 2013; Grigoryan, Lebedeva, Breugelmans, 2018), conflict (Batkina, 2020), creative (Бульцева, Лебедева, 2019; Lebedeva et al, 2019), prosocial (Efremova, Bultseva, 2020), economic (Efremova, Lepshokova, 2010; Efremova, Lepshokova, 2013), digital (Tatarko, Mironova, Makalova, 2019), and other behaviors. While there are very few studies that could serve as examples of studying the connection between individual values and corruption (Tatarko, Mironova, 2015; Tatarko et al., 2020).

Nevertheless, the existing research on the relationship between individual values and corruption (Tatarko, Mironova, 2015; Tatarko et al., 2020), as well as other theoretical assumptions allow us to identify the following mechanisms of the relationship between personal value orientations and corruption: (1) corruption as a way of overcoming the state of frustration caused by high corruption pressure and significantly reducing the variety of legitimate ways to meet human needs (Nisnevich, Tomilova, 2016), (2) corruption as a consequence of ingroup favoritism, as a result of climatic threats, "soft" regulations of the country's social sphere, or the patriarchal way of life of society (Van de Vliert, 2003), (3) corruption as a result of the close connection between a person's needs and the corresponding motive, formed by the person's upbringing or other social factors (Nisnevich, Tomilova, 2016), and (4) corruption as a consequence of "gray" corruption, an illegitimate sociocultural practice about which there is no consensus in society (Friedrich, 2005; Heidenheimer, 2005; Dimant, 2014; Sumah, 2017).

Thus, we believe that consideration of the relationship between value orientations and the acceptability of corruption, in particular in the climate and economic context of the Russian regions, has the greatest theoretical validity, since the climate and economic context of the regions creates conditions for the emergence of corruption pressure, under which a person makes a choice between legitimate and illegitimate way to meet their own needs, while the value orientations of the individual determine its anti-corruption stability in the face of corruption pressure and its predisposition to corruption.

The aim of the research is to identify the relationship between regional level factors (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual level factors (individual values of Russians) with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation.

The objects of the research:

Theoretical objects

- Analyze the main theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of corruption, as well as the results of empirical studies on the factors of corruption.
- Develop conceptual foundations for the study of individual values and climatic demands of regions and their economic well-being as factors of corruption.

Methodological objects

- Choose a method for studying corruption at the regional and individual levels, individual values, climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being.
- Develop the design of an empirical study of the climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being, and the individual values of their population as factors of corruption.

Empirical objects

- Based on the collected data, analyze the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and their well-being with corruption at the regional level.
- Determine the nature of the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and corruption at the regional level, in particular, depending on the level of economic well-being of the regions.
- Based on the data collected, analyze the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and the individual values of their population with corruption at the individual level.
- To identify the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being, and the individual values of their population with corruption at the individual level.

Object of the research: corruption factors.

Subject of the research: individual values of Russians and climato-economic context as factors of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation.

Hypotheses of the research:

Hypothesis 1: Regions' climatic demands positively relate to corruption at the regional level, and their economic well-being is a moderator of this relationship: when the economic well-being of regions is high, the correlation between corruption on their territory and their climatic demands weakens, when the economic well-being of regions is low, the positive correlation between corruption on their territory and their climatic demands increases.

Hypothesis 2: Individual values relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.1: Individual values of "Self-Enhancement" positively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.2: Individual values of "Openness to Change" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.3: Individual values of "Conservation" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.4: Individual values of "Self-Transcendence" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 3: Individual values more significantly relate to the acceptability of corruption than do climatic demands and the economic well-being of regions.

The theoretical and methodological base of the study was:

– Theoretical approaches to the study of the phenomenon of corruption and forms of corruption in psychology (Yu.A. Nisnevich, E.A. Tomilova, L.M. Zakirova, L.M. Khamitova, O.V. Vannovskaya, C.P. Glinkina, V.D. Andrianov, D. Stukal, J. Gardiner, C.J. Friedrich, C.P. Hantington, A.J. Heidenheimer, D. Kaufman, C.-J. Wei).

– Studies of corruption factors at the macro level (K. Buhenau, L. Kosals, A.I. Izyumov, Yu.A. Nisnevich, D. Stukal, L.M. Zakirova, L.M. Khamitova, E. Van de Vliert, C. Sumah, R.K. Goel, M.A. Nelson, E. Dimant, F. Allen, J. Cian, L. Shen, J. Svensson, T.L.P. Tang, C.J. Friedrich, A.J. Heidenheimer, M.B. Brewer, M.F. Rivas, V.S. Le, S. Guven, H. Melgar, M. Rossi, T.V. Smit) and at the individual level (O.V.

Vannovskaya, L.M. Zakirova, L.M. Khamitova, E.P. Ilyin, Yu.A. Nisnevich, E.A. Tomilova, L.V. Mukhamedyarova, O.V. Gazizova, V. Radaev, L. Kosals, A.I. Izyumov, D.A. Zenuk, G.G. Malineckij, D.S. Faller).

– Corruption Acceptability Assessment Methodology by A. Kubiak adapted by A.N. Tatarko and A.A. Mironova.

– Climato-economic theory of culture (E. Van de Vliert).

– Empirical studies of the influence of climato-economic environment conditions on the formation of psychological characteristics of society (E. Van de Vliert, M.B. Brewer, X. Jang, X. Jen, E.J. Krug, L.L. Dahlberg, J.A. Merci, R. Lozano, P.M. Parker, C.A. Kottrell).

– Schwartz's refined theory of individual values (19 values) and the updated Schwartz Values Questionnaire (PVQ-RR).

– Empirical studies of the determination of corruption by individual values (A.N. Tatarko, A.A. Mironova).

Methods of the research

To fulfill these tasks, a special multilevel research design was developed, aimed at studying the relationship between regional level factors (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual level factors (individual values of the Russians) with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation. As the main method of research at the regional level, we used the method of analysis of information resources containing statistical data on several indicators that allow us to distinguish regions from each other by the level of climatic demands and economic well-being. At the individual level, the method of socio-psychological survey was used as the main method of research, which involves the study of the individual values of the population and their acceptance of corruption using the following methodological tools:

- Corruption Acceptability Assessment Methodology by A. Kubiak (Kubiak, 2001) adapted by A.N. Tatarko and A.A. Mironova to assess the acceptability of corruption at the individual level (Tatarko, Mironova, 2015).

- Refined Schwartz Value Questionnaire (PVQ-RR) (Schwartz et al., 2012) to measure individual values at the individual level.

Methods of statistical data processing. The data were processed using SPSS 22.0 statistical software package and PROCESS version 3.3 plug-in. The following types of analysis were used in data processing: descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, multiple linear regression analysis, moderation analysis using Johnson-Neiman procedure, and multilevel analysis.

The empirical base of the study.

The first stage of the study was based on the analysis of macro-level statistical data for 85 regions of Russia, which allow us to distinguish them from each other by the level of climatic demands, economic well-being, and corruption at the regional level.

The index of corruption in the region is based on 1 indicator - the number of crimes under Art. 291 of the Criminal Code (bribery), registered for the year per 10 thousand people in 85 regions of Russia for 2017 (Information and Analytical Portal of Legal Statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation, 2017).

The index of climatic demands in the region was calculated as the sum of four absolute deviations from 22°C for the average of the warmest and coldest temperature thresholds in January and July (geoinformation system "Meteo-measurements online", 1966; information resource "Atlas-Yakutia", 1966).

The index of economic well-being in the region is based on 1 indicator - gross regional product (GRP) per capita for 2016 (Federal statistical system "EMISS", 2017).

The second stage of the study involved the inclusion of corruption factors at the individual level and, consequently, the analysis of statistical data obtained by conducting a socio-psychological survey in 15 regions of Russia.

Thus, the study sample consisted of 1,380 respondents (of whom 34.7% were men), with ages ranging from 18 to 72 (mean age $M=39.06$ years, $\sigma=11.079$ years). About 64% of respondents have higher education. For 2021, 90.9% of respondents have an income above the established subsistence minimum. The study was conducted on the online platforms Anketolog.ru (www.anketolog.ru) and 1ka (www.1ka.si) and involved respondents receiving a certain monetary reward for participating in a socio-psychological survey. The information letter with an invitation to participate in the study was distributed through email services (@yandex.ru and @gmail.com) and social

networks (VKontakte and Facebook). Respondents for the socio-psychological survey were selected using a multistage stratified data collection strategy and according to two criteria: (1) the respondent's region of residence must be one of the regions selected as the target region for this study, and (2) the respondent must have lived in the region for the past 15-20 years. A total of 15 regions were chosen for the study, which differ from each other in terms of economic well-being and their belonging to a climatic zone.

Scientific novelty

Theoretical novelty

- For the first time in the Russian context, the climato-economic theory of culture (E. Van de Vliert) was applied to explain corruption at the regional level.
- For the first time in the Russian context, the climato-economic theory of culture (E. Van de Vliert) was applied together with a refined theory of individual values (Schwartz) to explain corruption at the individual level in Russian regions.

Methodological novelty

- For the first time we used the statistical method of constructing multilevel models of determination of acceptability of corruption at the individual level, taking into account factors of corruption at the regional (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual (individual values of Russians) levels.

Empirical novelty

- For the first time in the Russian context, the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and corruption at the regional level has been studied.
- For the first time we studied the relationship between factors of corruption at the regional level (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and at the individual level (individual values of the population of the regions) with the acceptability of corruption in the regions of Russia.

The theoretical significance of the research

This study extends theoretical insights into the mechanisms of corruption at the individual and regional levels of analysis. For the first time in the Russian context, the climato-economic theory of culture was applied to explain corruption at the regional

level. In addition, this theory was applied for the first time together with a refined theory of individual values in a regional perspective. The results show that the climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being are factors of corruption at the regional level, while at the individual level, the individual values of Russians are factors of corruption.

The practical implication

The results obtained can be used by the President of the Russian Federation in the development of state policy in the field of combating corruption, namely in the issues of improving the effectiveness of measures aimed at anti-corruption education and popularization of anti-corruption standards in society, as well as in the issues of participation of citizens and civil society institutions in the implementation of state policy in the field of combating corruption. The extended by the results of the study ideas about the mechanisms and conditions of corrupt behavior in the Russian regions can be used by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and other bodies for coordination of activities in the field of combating corruption to develop more effective anti-corruption legislation in the RF and by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation to more effectively develop state policy and normative-legal regulation in the field of social and economic development of the Russian Federation subjects.

Basic ideas of the dissertation to be defended

1. The climatic demands of the regions are associated with corruption at the regional level, considering the economic well-being of the regions as a moderator of this relationship. When the economic well-being of the regions is high, there is a negative relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and the level of corruption in them, while at its low level this relationship has a positive character.

2. Corruption at the individual level, or the acceptability of corruption, is related to the individual values of Russians, namely such values as "Power – Dominance", "Power - Resources", "Stimulation", "Hedonism", "Face", "Security - Personal". The correlation between these values and the acceptability of corruption arises because of the close connection between the needs caused by the nature of these

values and corruption as the only visible way of satisfying needs as a result of the process of personality socialization.

3. At the regional level corruption is explained by macro factors - climatic demands of the regions and the level of their economic well-being. At the individual level, macro factors do not explain the acceptability of corruption to the individual, which at the individual level is related to the individual values of the individual. Climatic demands of the regions and the level of their economic well-being are not statistically significant for attitudes toward corruption.

Approbation and introduction of the results

The research was done in the Centre for Sociocultural Research of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics". The main results were discussed at the 32nd International Congress of Psychology (ICP) (Prague, 2021), the XXII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development (Moscow, 2021), and the VI International Conference "Culture in Society, Between Groups and Across Generations" (Moscow, 2019).

The main results of the dissertation research were implemented in the research work of the Centre for Sociocultural Research of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" and were presented in the framework of the research seminar "Culture Matters" of the Center for Sociocultural Research of the Higher School of Economics.

The results of the study are presented in the following publications:

- Tatarko A.N., Maklasova E.V., Van de Vliert E. Climato-Economic Context of Regional Crime and Corruption Across the Russian Federation // *Environment and Behavior*. - 2022. – Vol. 54, No. 3. P. 575-596. (In Eng.)
- Maklasova E.V. Interaction of climate and economy as a factor of Collectivism in the Regions of Russia // *Social Sciences and Contemporary World*. - 2020. - No. 2. P. 25-40. (In Russ.)
- Tatarko A.N., Mironova A.A., Maklasova E.V. Individual values and internet use: Comparison of Russia and European countries // *Social psychology and society*. - 2019. - Vol. 10, No. 4. P. 77-95. (In Russ.)

– Tatarko A.N., Makalsova E.V., Grigoryan K.A. Validation of the circumplex of personality metatraits questionnaire on the Russian Sample // Psychology. Journal of Higher School of Economics. - 2019. – Vol. 17, No. 4. P. 705-729.

Dissertation structure

The thesis consists of two chapters, contains an introduction and a conclusion, a list of references (128 sources, including 58 in Russian and 74 in English) and 2 appendices. The work includes 9 figures and 14 tables. The total volume of the dissertation text is 166 pages.

Publications: Materials of the dissertation are presented in 4 publications. Of them 3 publications in Russian and 1 publication in English in the journals from the list WoS/Scopus.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The “**Introduction**” reflects the relevance and the problem of research; defines the goal and objectives of the work; identifies the object and subject of research; puts forward hypotheses of research; describes the theoretical and methodological foundations of research, methods used, the sample and the empirical base of research; discloses the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance; formulates the basic idea of the dissertation to be defended; provides data on the testing of research results; gives the characteristics of the structure and scope of the dissertation.

The first chapter "Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Corruption Factors in Russian Regions", consisting of 3 paragraphs and 2 subparagraphs, is devoted to the analysis of classical and modern theoretical and empirical studies of domestic and foreign authors on the problem under study. This chapter allows us to systematize domestic and foreign experience of research on the factors of corruption at the macro- and micro-level of social interaction.

Paragraph 1.1 "**Basic Approaches to the Study of Corruption**" reviews existing approaches to the definition of corruption, describes forms of corruption, introduces the term of corruption pressure, anti-corruption resistance and personal propensity for corrupt behavior.

There are several approaches to the definition of corruption: legal-legal, normative-values, rational-functional, economic, and instrumental. The instrumental approach combines the points of view of previous approaches and presents a more comprehensive view of corruption. Thus, corruption is the use of power resources by an official in relation to normative-legal and societal norms of behavior for the purpose of obtaining personal or group benefits in both material and non-material form.

Corruption originates in the economic sphere, while the environment for its spread and maintenance is the public sphere. Thus, there are two basic forms of corruption - economic and political, each of which is subdivided into several subspecies depending on the extent of corruption. The existence of these interdependent forms of corruption creates a "double standard" of behavior.

Manifestations of the fight against corruption as a certain social norm, on the one hand, and constantly recurring domestic corruption, on the other hand, generates corruption pressure, which is countered by the anti-corruption resistance of individuals and their propensity for corruption.

Paragraph 1.2 "**The study of corruption factors at the macro- and micro-level**" examines domestic and foreign experience of research on corruption factors at the macro-level and at the individual level.

Macro factors of corruption include political and economic environment, professional ethics, law-making, and ethnographic characteristics of society. Corruption factors at the individual level include individual values; individual, moral, social, and legal attitudes; individual satisfaction with life, profession and personal status and self-perception; locus of control; behaviour, or type of response; and socio-demographic factors.

According to the existing theoretical assumptions, it is the macro-factors of corruption that have the potential to exert corruption pressure on a person and lead him/her to a situation of choice between criminal and law-abiding behavior, while his/her anti-corruption resistance and propensity for corruption are determined by individual-level factors.

However, domestic and foreign experience in the study of factors of corruption shows a lack of studies that would proceed from a systemic approach to the issue of the determination of corruption, which involves a comprehensive view of it and its factors.

Paragraph 1.3 "**Factors of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation**", consisting of 2 subparagraphs, considers domestic and foreign experience in studying environmental and personal factors of corruption in general and in relation to the Russian context in particular.

Subparagraph 1.3.1 "**Environmental factors of corruption in Russian regions**" discusses the climato-economic theory of culture and the theoretical and empirical preconditions for the relationship between the climatic demands of the habitat and its economic well-being and corruption.

According to the climato-economic theory of culture, humans form culture as a way of adapting to stress arising in response to the climatic demands of the environment, to which humans respond by spending money to gain an advantage in the matter of their own survival.

For this theory the central concept is the notion of "climatic demands", or climatic conditions of human habitat, according to which human needs are formed, satisfying which human ensures its own survival. The fundamental factor for assessing climatic demands is the temperature of the human environment. The optimal temperature is the average temperature of the temperature range in the thermoneutral zone. Temperatures below or above the thermoneutral zone lead to an increase in biological costs.

In today's world, the resources that make it possible to compensate for the considerable biological costs of sustaining life include money. Thus, when economic well-being is insufficient, humans tend to regard high climatic demands as life-threatening and must make greater efforts to cope with them, while a sufficient level of economic well-being will allow humans to compensate for the biological costs arising from high climatic demands.

According to the research implemented in the framework of the climato-economic theory of culture, the climatic demands of the environment and its economic well-being determine the formation of different socio-psychological characteristics of personality, including one of the socio-psychological foundations of corruption, ingroup favoritism.

Subparagraph **1.3.2 "Personal factors of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation"** discusses the main approaches to the study of individual values, Schwartz's theory of individual values and its refined version, as well as individual values as factors of corruption at the individual level, or the acceptability of corruption.

Directly in social and cross-cultural psychology interest in values and their organization originated in the second half of the XX century and was marked by the creation of such theories of value orientations as the theory of C. Kluckhohn and F. Strodbeck, M. Rokeach theory and the theory of Sh. Schwartz. To date, one of the most empirically researched theories of individual values is the theory of Sh. Schwartz.

According to Sh. Schwartz, "Individual values are motivational, supra-situational goals that serve as guiding principles in people's lives.

Schwartz's classical model is represented by a set of 10 individual values, or four higher-order values that form a motivational continuum based on the fundamental values of human existence.

Whereas Schwartz's refined model suggests "a division of the motivational continuum into 19 more conceptually distinct values with a more universal heuristic and predictive power," each defined in terms of its motivational purpose and existing in accordance with the conditions and functional requirements earlier laid down in the classical model.

Existing domestic research, based on Schwartz's classical theory of basic values, suggests the existence of a link between some individual values and corruption.

Paragraph 1.4 "**The author's approach to the study of corruption factors. Hypotheses of the study**" sets out the author's view of the research problem, justifies the choice of theoretical and methodological foundations of this research, and presents the hypotheses of the study.

Domestic and foreign studies of corruption, on the one hand, emphasize the importance of considering corruption as a complex socio-psychological phenomenon, which is caused by factors of different levels and, on the other hand, contain a methodological omission in the form of a lack of a systematic approach in the study of the issue of determination of corruption.

The systemic approach allows us to consider socio-psychological phenomena as complex phenomena. Thus, in this paper, the systemic approach is used to study systemic patterns of determination of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation, taking into account the factors of corruption at different levels of social interaction.

Based on the climato-economic theory and empirical research in the social sciences, the climatic demands of the regions of the Russian Federation and the level of their economic well-being are considered as macro-factors of corruption. At the

individual level, preference is given to the value orientations of the individual, considered in the framework of the refined theory of basic values of Schwartz.

In connection with the existing theoretical and empirical assumptions, which, in particular, are reflected in this paper, the following hypotheses were put forward:

Hypothesis 1: Regions' climatic demands positively relate to corruption at the regional level, and their economic well-being is a moderator of this relationship: when the economic well-being of regions is high, the correlation between corruption on their territory and their climatic demands weakens, when the economic well-being of regions is low, the positive correlation between corruption on their territory and their climatic demands increases.

Hypothesis 2: Individual values relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.1: Individual values of "Self-Enhancement" positively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.2: Individual values of "Openness to Change" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.3: Individual values of "Conservation" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 2.4: Individual values of "Self-Transcendence" negatively relate to the acceptability of corruption.

Hypothesis 3: Individual values more significantly relate to the acceptability of corruption than do climatic demands and the economic well-being of regions.

The second chapter "Empirical study of corruption factors in the regions of the Russian Federation", consisting of 5 paragraphs and 4 subparagraphs, is devoted to the methodological organization of 2 empirical research and the direct empirical study of the research problem.

Paragraph 2.1, **"Context of the Study: Rationale for the Selection of the Russian Federation"**, presents a description of the context of the study and the rationale for its selection.

The Russian Federation is a territorially large state, including 85 administrative units, or regions, representing oblasts and krajs with a dominant ethnic Russian

population, autonomous national districts, national republics with their own presidents, as well as cities of federal importance located in seven climatic zones and demonstrating a wide variability in economic specialization. This allows us to talk about the high ethnic, climatic and economic heterogeneity of many administrative units and consider Russia as a unique field for research in the framework of the climato-economic theory of culture and the refined theory of basic values of Schwartz.

Paragraph 2.2, "**Empirical Research Design**", discusses the goals and objectives of the study, describing the designs of the two empirical studies and their basic conceptual models.

The aim of this research is to identify the relationship between regional level factors (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual level factors (individual values of Russians) with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation. In order to achieve the goal, 2 empirical studies with a correlational design were implemented.

The first empirical study focuses on the relationship between the climatic and economic characteristics of the regions and corruption at the regional level. The basic conceptual model of the 1st empirical study is presented in Figure 1.

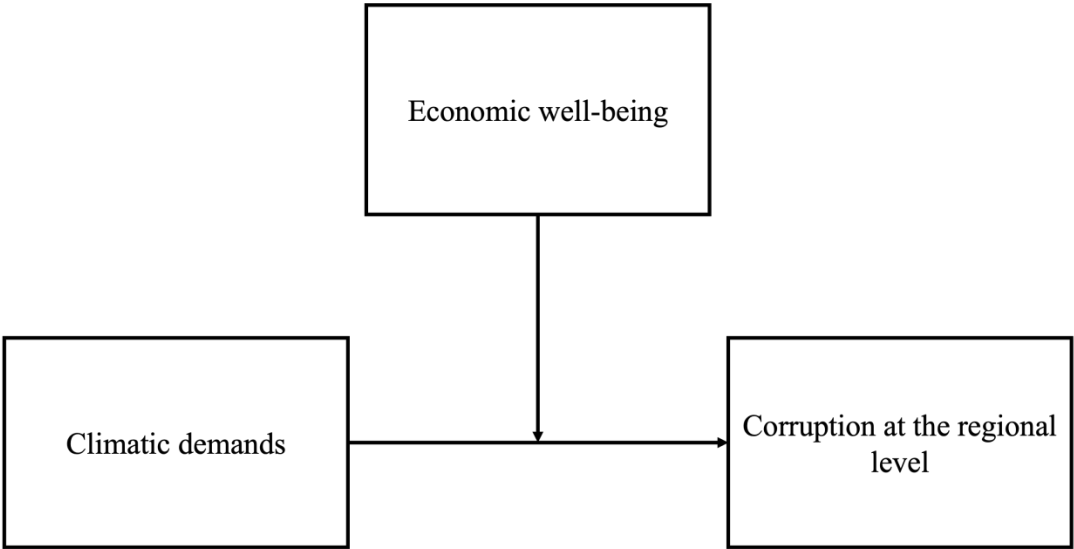


Figure 1 - Basic conceptual framework for the study of the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being with corruption at the regional level

The second empirical study is devoted to the study of the mutual determinism of corruption at the individual level, or the acceptability of corruption, by regional level factors (climatic and economic characteristics of the regions) and individual level factors (individual values of the population of the regions). The basic conceptual model of the 2nd empirical study is presented in Figure 2.

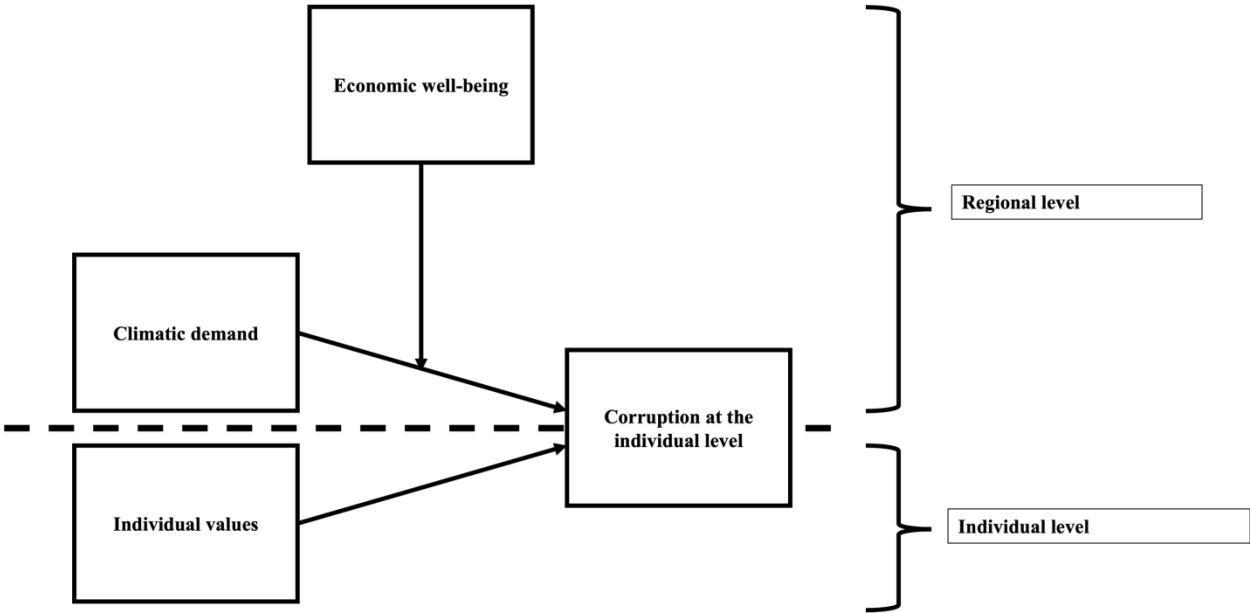


Figure 2 - Basic conceptual scheme of the study of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and individual values of their population with the acceptability of corruption in 15 regions of the Russian Federation

Paragraph 2.3 "Research Methods and Procedure" describes the research methods, research procedure, sample and empirical base of the study, as well as features of the mathematical and statistical procedure of quantitative data analysis.

The 2 empirical studies used the method of analysis of information resources containing statistical data on a number of indicators and the method of socio-psychological survey as the main method of research, respectively. Based on the data obtained from the method of analysis of information resources, the index of corruption, the index of climatic demands and the index of economic well-being in 85 regions of the Russian Federation were calculated. The socio-psychological survey included a modified version of A. Kubiak's method of assessing the acceptability of corruption. Kubiak (Kubiak, 2001; Tatarko, Mironova, 2015), an refined value questionnaire by Schwartz (PVQ-R) (Schwartz et al., 2012), and a number of questions concerning the

socio-demographic characteristics of research participants (for example, gender, age, education, income).

The socio-psychological survey was conducted on the online platforms Anketolog.ru and 1ka. Respondents received an information letter with an invitation to participate in the study via email services and social networks. The invitation letter contained information about the initiator of the research, the purposes of the research, the request to participate in the research, the confidentiality of the information obtained in the framework of the research, the expected time spent on the survey (~30 minutes) and the remuneration for completing the survey in the amount of 40 rubles.

After agreeing to participate, the respondent had to undergo a selection process, which consisted in the respondent's compliance with two conditions. According to the first condition, the respondent's region of residence must belong to one of the regions selected as the target region for the 2nd empirical study. According to the second condition, the respondent must have lived in the region for the last 15-20 years. Thus, a multistage stratified data collection strategy was applied in the study.

The first empirical study is based on the analysis of statistical data on 85 regions of Russia, which allows us to distinguish them from each other by the level of climatic demands, economic well-being and the level of corruption. A region was taken as the unit of analysis.

For the 2nd empirical study, the population of 15 regions was selected according to the level of economic well-being of the regions and their belonging to the climatic zone.

The study sample included a total of 1,380 respondents (of whom 34.7% were male), with ages ranging from 18 to 72 (mean age $M=39.06$, $\sigma=11.079$). About 64% of the respondents had a college degree. For 2021, 90.9% of respondents have an income above the established subsistence minimum.

Statistical software package SPSS 22.0 and plug-in PROCESS version 3.3 were used to process the data obtained from the 2 empirical studies.

In order to study the relationship between climatic and economic characteristics of the regions and corruption at the regional level, the following types of analysis were

used: correlation, regression, moderation analysis, as well as the Johnson-Neiman procedure.

To study the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and the individual values of their population with the acceptability of corruption, a multilevel analysis was used and, accordingly, 4 multilevel models for determining the acceptability of corruption at the individual level were built, taking into account variables at the regional level (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and at the individual level (individual values belonging to one of the blocks of higher-order values), as well as control variables at the individual level (gender, age, educational level and income level).

Paragraph 2.4. **"The study of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and corruption at the regional level"**, consisting of 2 subparagraphs, presents the results of the 1st empirical study on the study of the relationship between climatic-economic characteristics of 85 regions and corruption at the regional level, and a discussion of the results obtained on the basis of the 1st empirical study.

Subparagraph 2.4.1 **"Results of the study of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and corruption at the regional level"** contains the results of mathematical and statistical analysis of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and corruption at the regional level.

The results of the 1st empirical study allow us to assert that the first general hypothesis that climatic demands are positively related to corruption at the regional level, and the economic well-being of the regions is a moderator of this relationship has been confirmed. According to the results of the study, the connection between climatic demands and corruption at the regional level is only evident when the level of economic well-being of the regions is taken into account. Thus, when the economic well-being of the regions is high, there is a negative correlation between the climatic demands of the regions and corruption in them, while at its low level this relationship has a positive character. However, it is worth noting that due to the low economic well-being of

Russia as a whole, we do not observe significant differences in the level of corruption at the regional level between conditionally "rich" and "poor" regions with high climatic demands.

Subparagraph **2.4.2 "Discussion of the results of the study of climatic demands of regions and their economic well-being with corruption at the regional level"** reveals the content of the relationship of climatic demands of regions and their economic well-being with corruption at the regional level.

The first general hypothesis that the climatic demands of the regions are positively related to corruption at the regional level, and the economic well-being of the regions is a moderator of this relationship has been partially confirmed.

According to the results of the study, the relationship between climatic demands and corruption at the regional level is manifested only when the level of economic well-being of the regions is taken into account. Thus, when the economic well-being of the regions is high, there is a negative relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and corruption in them, while at its low level this relationship has a positive character.

On the one hand, the results of the study were obtained in accordance with the logic of the climato-economic theory of culture. For example, in Russia, the climatic demands of the regions are positively related to corruption on their territory, that is, in regions with higher climatic demands its level is higher. At the same time, economic well-being is a negative moderator of the positive relationship between the climatic demands of the regions and corruption at the regional level. The results show that when the economic well-being of regions increases, the negative effect of regional climatic demands tends to zero, i.e. in Russia the level of economic well-being of regions is potentially able to compensate for the influence of high climatic demands on the formation of corruption.

On the other hand, the study has yielded new results that can enrich the climato-economic theory of culture. According to the climato-economic theory of culture, rich regions with temperate climates should have lower levels of corruption than poor regions with similar climates. Whereas in harsh climates the gap between these

indicators can only increase. While in poorer regions high climatic demands will increase corruption in them, in richer regions, where the harsh environment is a challenge, but there are resources to cope with the challenge, corruption will decrease.

However, as the results of the study show, the initially observed gap in the level of corruption between poor and rich regions begins to narrow and becomes almost the same with high climatic demands, which may be due to the initially high level of economic inequality in Russia, due to which most people do not have a very high standard of living. In general, the combination of high climatic demands in regions with their relative poverty makes life more difficult for people and thus increases their level of suffering (Poon, Chen, De Wall, 2013; Kouchaki, Desai, 2015). People unconsciously seek justice in this way and compensate for their suffering.

Some cross-cultural studies also show that in the mind of a Russian person, for example, the categories of "truth" or "justice," on the one hand, correlate with such a category as "law," but, on the other hand, are separated and are not one thing, as it happens in the mind of a representative of Western civilization (Znakov, 1993). Russian people often perceive laws as unjust and breaking them can be morally justified because it restores justice (Znakov, 1993). Therefore, corruption as a way of compensating for imperfect laws may be quite justified in human consciousness from the moral point of view. In this case, the availability of material resources may not deter corruption, but be "fuel" for it.

In general, a significant share of the population demonstrates a high degree of interest in using corrupt mechanisms to solve private issues. At the household level, a bribe is often seen as the "price" of resolving a conflict in a situation of choice between the value of the life success of loved ones and the value of living right and acting according to the law/conscience (Popova, 2019).

At the same time, the acceptability of corruption is linked to the individual values that guide people's behavior and are responsible for their decisions.

For example, Russians have strongly expressed values of "Power" (Lebedeva, Tatarko, 2018), which are positively related to the acceptability of corruption (Tatarko, Mironova, 2016), and weakly expressed values of "Universalism" (Tatarko, Mironova,

2016), which are negatively related to the acceptability of corruption (Lebedeva, Tatarko, 2018). Thus, in Russia, where there is a negative correlation between climate demands and corruption in wealthy regions, corruption is supported by the basic values of its population and reinforced by high economic prosperity. Whereas low climatic demands create conditions in which the population tends to realize material resources not by committing illegal acts, but in order to compensate for high climatic demands. Therefore, a change in values is essential for reducing corruption (Mansilla, 2003; Welzel, Inglehart, Klingemann, 2003).

Paragraph 2.5 **"Study of the relationship between the climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and the individual values of their population with corruption at the individual level"**, consisting of 2 subparagraphs, presents the results of the 2nd empirical study devoted to the study of the mutual determination of the acceptability of corruption by factors of the regional level (climatic and economic characteristics of the regions) and factors of the individual level (value orientations of the population of the regions), and discussion of the results obtained from the 2nd empirical study.

Subparagraph 2.5.1 **"The results of the study of the relationship of climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and value orientations of their population with corruption at the individual level"** contains the results of mathematical and statistical analysis of the relationship of climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and value orientations of their population with the acceptability of corruption.

As part of the multilevel analysis, 4 models of determination of the acceptability of corruption at the individual level were built, taking into account variables at the regional level (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and at the individual level (individual values belonging to one of the blocks of values of higher order), as well as control variables at the individual level (gender, age, education level and income level).

The results of the 2nd empirical study showed that among the socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants only their age and income level are

statistically significant factors of corruption acceptability and have a negative and positive relationship, respectively. However, taking into account the values of the block "Self-Enhancement", "Openness to changes" and "Conservation", age ceases to be a statistically significant factor of corruption acceptability.

The lack of a statistically significant correlation between the climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and the acceptability of corruption is common to all the models.

In terms of values, acceptability of corruption has a positive correlation with values "Power – Dominance", "Power – Resources", "Stimulation", "Hedonism", and "Conformity – Interpersonal»; a negative relation with such values as "Achievement", "Face", "Self-Direction – Thoughts", "Security – Societal", "Conformity – Rules", "Humility", "Universalism – Nature", "Universalism – Concern"; and null relation with such values as "Self-Direction – Action", "Security – Personal", "Tradition", "Universalism – Tolerance", "Benevolence – Caring", "Benevolence – Dependability".

Subparagraph 2.5.2 "Discussion of the results of the study of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and individual values orientations of their population and corruption at the individual level" reveals the content of the relationship between climatic demands of the regions, their economic well-being and individual values of their population and the acceptability of corruption.

The results of the 2nd empirical study on the positive correlation between corruption acceptability and such values as "Power - Dominance", "Power - Resources", "Stimulation", "Hedonism", and "Conformity - Interpersonal" allow us to confirm the 2nd general hypothesis that individual values contribute to corruption acceptability at the individual level.

Partial hypotheses, put forward in the framework of the 2nd empirical study, found partial confirmation in the results of the study. For example, of the values in the "Self-Enhancement" block, only "Power" values are positively related to the acceptability of corruption (hypothesis 2.1). Of the values of the "Openness to Change" block, there is a negative correlation only in the case of "Self-Direction - Thoughts"

(hypothesis 2.2); of the values of the "Conservation" block - "Security - Societal", "Conformism - Rules", "Humility" (hypothesis 2.3); of the values of the "Self-Transcendence" block - "Universalism - Nature" and "Universalism - Concern" (hypothesis 2.4).

The absence of a statistically significant relationship between climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being and corruption at the individual level allows us to argue that the acceptability of corruption is determined exclusively by the value orientations of Russians, while climatic requirements of the regions and their economic well-being do not play a significant role. This confirms the 3rd hypothesis about the prevailing role of value orientations of Russians in shaping the acceptability of corruption in comparison with the role of climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being.

Paragraph **2.6 "General discussion of the results of the study of factors of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation"** reveals the content of the study of factors of corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation.

The purpose of this study was to identify the relationship between regional level factors (climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being) and individual level factors (individual values of Russians) with corruption in the regions of the Russian Federation.

To achieve this goal, we conducted two correlational studies: (1) a study of the relationship between climatic and economic characteristics of regions and corruption at the regional level, and (2) a study of the mutual determinism of corruption at the individual level, or the acceptability of corruption, by regional level factors (climatic and economic characteristics of regions) and individual level factors (value orientations of the population of regions).

The first general hypothesis that climatic demands are positively related to the level of corruption, and the economic well-being of the regions is a moderator of this relationship was partially confirmed.

The second general hypothesis that individual values contribute to the acceptability of corrupt behavior at the individual level, and a number of private

hypotheses containing theoretically sound assumptions about the links between this type of behavior and specific value orientations of Russians, also found confirmation in the results of the study.

The third general hypothesis about the predominant role of value orientations of Russians in the formation of corruption at the individual level, or the acceptability of corruption, compared to the role of climatic demands of the regions and their economic well-being, was also confirmed.

According to the results of the study the following conclusion can be made: at the regional level corruption is related to the climatic demands of the regions and depends on the level of their economic well-being, while at the individual level corruption is related to the value orientations of the individual, the relationship with which is realized through one of the four mechanisms of corruption implementation, namely through the close connection between the corresponding values of the individual its needs and motives, potentially formed in the process of socialization of the individual.

Each chapter has a description of the main **conclusions**.

The “**Conclusion**” shows the conclusions and results of the results, describes the prospects for further research on this topic.

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