

Breakdown of integrity and wholeness

This article will focus on the concept of corruption and the concepts of integrity and wholeness inherently associated with it.

Corruption represents a breakdown in integrity. According to Rose-Ackerman integrity implies "honesty, probity, uprightness, moral soundness, moral stature, principle, character, virtue, purity". Antonyms of integrity are "deceit, venality, corruption" (Shepherd).

The Latin for "integrity" is in-terger, meaning "what is not touched, taken away from, or interfered with" (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy). In-terger can therefore be interpreted as "wholeness".

Consequently, "integrity" should be a central concept in any root definition of corruption, because it represents consistency in "actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations and outcome" (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy).

NORMS AND STANDARDS

Corruption is the antithesis or opposite of integrity (Spies), because a breakdown of integrity means a systemic breakdown.

This systemic contamination not only affects the cohesion of, and symbiosis within, a social system, but it is also a direct attack on the norms and standards that drive the cohesion and symbiosis of a society as a whole. The purpose of corruption is not to destroy



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a system vulnerable to corruption, because if such a system does not exist, corrupt beneficiaries are, or can be negatively affected. Beneficiaries can depend on a corrupt system and will resist its complete destruction. The purpose of corruption is mainly to break down the integrity or wholeness of a system, in order for a relatively small number of beneficiaries to benefit at the expense of the public at large.

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