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Autore	Golunov Sergey
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Nota di contenuto	TABLE OF CONTENTS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS; 1 INTRODUCTION; 1.1. The problem; 1.2. Existing works on the topic; 1.3. The approach; 1.4. Book structure; 2 VULNERABILITIES OF THE RUSSIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM; 2.1. Russian higher education system at a glance; 2.2. Some key system trends of the post-Soviet period; 2.3. Influence of environment; 2.4. Conclusion; 3 CORRUPTION AND CHEATING PRACTICES; 3.1. Conceptualisations; 3.2. Corruption; 3.3. Cheating; 3.4. Consequences; 3.5. Conclusion; 4 COUNTERACTION EFFORTS; 4.1. Strategies and best practices; 4.2. Official efforts 4.3. Academic and student activism4.4. International impact; 4.5.

Conclusion; 5 CONCLUSIONS; 5.1. Roots and relative importance of malpractices; 5.2. Damage from malpractice; 5.3. Efficiency of counteraction measures; 5.4. Recommendations; INDEX

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## Sommario/riassunto

This book offers a long overdue account of the wide range of corruption and cheating practices in Russian higher education, including bribery, financial fraud, clientelism, plagiarism, exam cheating, and much more. Sergei Golunov ruthlessly uncovers the recent social trends that have created a favourable ground for such malpractices and evaluates the efficiency of measures taken against corruption and fraud by various actors. Although corruption and cheating are so wide-spread in most Russian universities that the real value of their diplomas is very questionable, these problems are prioritized neither by higher education managers nor by foreign actors such as partner universities, participants of the Bologna process, or the authors of global university rankings.

"In his latest book [Sergei Golunov] provides a very detailed analysis of the dramatic situation at Russian universities. [...] Why is corruption in Russian higher education so endemic and what can be done about it? The author describes some official efforts - including reforms involving public punishment such as the arrest of university rectors - and suggests some new remedies, including (online) social activism. [...] this book is very well done."

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