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## Black Money Extra Credit Paper

Black money goes over the very real and prevalent problem of bribery in international business. Bribery is difficult to define and prosecute, because it involves breaking the laws of your home country (or a country in which your corporation does business) by offering some type of compensation to the true stakeholders of a resource in exchange for something favorable. In essence, bribery is like trading financial capital for social capital, realizing that there are very few stakeholders in many of even the largest of decisions, whether they be corporation to corporation or government to government. Because of this, it's often cheaper to "invest" in bribery, as paying a single individual with control over the terms of a contract 100K-1M can often save the company ten's or even hundreds of millions of dollars, or begin business relationships that result in long term business.

Bribery is difficult to define as well, because many of us consider certain types of bribery "more ok" and other types "more clearcut". For example, when most of us would think of clearcut bribery, we'd think of a shipping company bribing a customs agent with a small sum of their money (maybe a quarter of what they make in a year) in non-explicit exchange for an expedition or overlooking of the containers that company ships in. Contrary to this, we may not necessarily think of something as bribery if the facts of the case were different; consider a situation in which you sell yachts to high-net-worth individuals. Spending lavish amounts on accommodations, dining, and services are often times the only way to keep the attention of these large net worth individuals, and can almost be thought of as the barrier to entry for networking with the ultra-upper class.

The harms of bribery affect others in often subtle ways, making it less likely for those who bear the burden of bribery (in corporations the shareholders and in governments, the people themselves and their tax resources). We often tend to think of the world as a grouping of governments, each with their own legal systems and the ability to police and regulate the companies that do business within their borders. However, bribery shows us that governments are merely people who have been entrusted with power by those of their nations, and these individuals take advantage of their position to put their self interests above those of those in their respective countries. Companies, governments, etc can often be bent into submission with a few key players, and because of this bribery has been and will likely remain a relevant and serious issue in years to come. The thought process of “everyone does it” and “in some places, its impossible to do business WITHOUT bribery” have lead to the law of business being the only law of the land. I believe Aurther Jensen may have stated it best, “*You are an old man who thinks in terms of nations and peoples. There are no nations. There are no peoples. There are no Russians. There are no Arabs. There are no third worlds. There is no West. There is only one holistic system of systems, one vast and immane, interwoven, interacting, multivariate, multinational dominion of dollars. Petro-dollars, electro-dollars, multi-dollars, reichmarks, rins, rubles, pounds, and shekels. It is the international system of currency which determines the totality of life on this planet. That is the natural order of things today. That is the atomic and subatomic and galactic structure of things today! And YOU have meddled with the primal forces of nature, and YOU... WILL... ATONE! Am I getting through to you, Mr. Beale? You get up on your little twenty-one inch screen and howl about America and democracy. There is no America. There is no democracy. There is only IBM, and ITT, and AT&T, and DuPont, Dow, Union Carbide, and Exxon. Those are the nations of the world today. What do you think the Russians*

*talk about in their councils of state, Karl Marx? They get out their linear programming charts, statistical decision theories, minimax solutions, and compute the price-cost probabilities of their transactions and investments, just like we do. We no longer live in a world of nations and ideologies, Mr. Beale. The world is a college of corporations, inexorably determined by the immutable bylaws of business. The world is a business, Mr. Beale. It has been since man crawled out of the slime”*