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### Financial Crime & The Influence of Business Culture

America is a country that differs strongly from other nations that are currently recognized around the world. Not only is it exceptionally young, but historically, The United States has had a weight that few nations have had on the world, regardless of age. One of reason being the framework of American identity being built off a rebellion that was, in part, influenced by the need for financial protection against the tyranny of “taxation without representation”. This groundwork resulted in an aggressive business climate that fosters a “workaholic” mindset with the purpose of accruing an unlimited potential of capital. It is not uncommon that victims of this vicious environment resort to extreme, sometimes deceitful, practices. The question does not, however, lie in whether financial crimes take place, where, how, or even why, but rather, what the connection is between business culture and the volume or severity of financial crimes.

It is important to establish a baseline idea of a “financial crime” due to the widespread nature of impact and severity. It will be assumed that a “financial crime” encompasses any action in which currency was acquired by illegal or unacceptable financial practices. This does not necessarily include crimes that resulted in a loss of capital. The distinction is important to note the difference between what is considered a “financial crime” or any illegal activity in which property was damaged or stolen resulting in one or more parties losing money. In *Customs, Mores and Culture in Determining the Scope of Law and Financial Crime Control – Relevance of Savigny and Lord Denning’s Analysis*. (1) The author structures their argument

chronologically, first defining financial crime or anything as “illegal” as that which breaks moral law rather than any written law due to the preliminary state of law. Followed by a stage of strict enforcement of law after it is codified, then a stage in which moral law is infused with written law to better fit the needs of society. Finally, a legislature determines the extent to which moral law should influence what is written and enforced. This deep dive into the financial crime gives a clear view of law and it’s relationship with culture.

Once an idea of definition of financial crime is established, it is appropriate to introduce the idea of corruption. *The supply-side of corruption: a review of scenario, causes and prevention measure* (2) discusses corruption and the causes of financial crimes, while also identifying how corporations might go about trying to avoid financial crime. These are critical to understand how and why a financial crime might take place. While not new information, it points to the underlying issues that result in financial crime.

*Determinants of Corruption in Developing Countries: Case of Tunisia* (3) documents and examines the specific case of cultural determinants of financial crime in Tunisia. Specifically, what factors of culture are most likely to produce financial crime? Zouaoui, Arab, and Alamri discuss economic, political, and sociocultural factors as well as establish metrics such as CPI to determine and analyze corruption.

*Corruption in Latin America: how politicians and corporations steal from citizens.* (4) Is another example of corruption, however, the authors examine this case from the perspective of how specifically perpetrators are stealing from the public. This just gives another point of view to the root causes of corruption and crime, explaining the connection between this form of financial crime and corporate/political culture in Latin America.

To decide the impact of business culture on financial crime, one must first step back and define the borders of financial crime, what elements of culture influence corruption, and finally, analyze many cases of financial crimes in different environments to get a holistic view of the impact that culture has on the volume and severity of financial crime. Then one can assess the influence that culture has on financial crime and apply that knowledge to the case of American business culture.