# TABLE OF CONTENTS

_Acknowledgements_ IX
_Abbreviations and acronyms_ XI

1 **Introduction** 15
   1.1. The problem 15
   1.2. Existing works on the topic 16
   1.3. The approach 19
   1.4. Book structure 20

2 **Vulnerabilities of the Russian higher education system** 23
   2.1. Russian higher education system at a glance 23
   2.2. Some key trends of the post-Soviet period 27
   2.3. Influence of the environment 41
   2.4. Conclusion 46

3 **Corruption and cheating practices** 49
   3.1. Conceptualisations 49
   3.2. Corruption 53
   3.3. Cheating 67
   3.4. Consequences 77
   3.5. Conclusion 79

4 **Counteraction efforts** 81
   4.1. Strategies and best practices 81
   4.2. Official efforts 86
   4.3. Academic and student activism 93
   4.4. International impact 102
   4.5. Conclusion 107
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