
REVIEWS

SOCIOLOGY: LIFE, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION ***(bibliographic review)***

In the spring of 1832 the French philosopher Isidore Marie Auguste Francois Comte (1798-1857), in Paris in one of her lectures on positive philosophy, for the first time introduced the term "Sociology" into scientific use and defined its goals and objectives as an independent science for studying the development of society. 180 years later, sociology continues to live and develop in accordance with the realities of the present day.

Recently, the number of monographs, scientific works and festschrifts in sociology in the collection of the Information and Library Center of Tyumen State University has increased significantly. Among the latest acquisitions we can enumerate classics of sociological thought, works by contemporary domestic and foreign authors, and regional sociological studies.

Among the books of primary importance there is a fundamental work "A System of Sociology" by Pitirim Sorokin (1889-1968), who founded the Department of Sociology at Harvard University, and who was a president of the Sociological Association of the USA [1]. This book, written in 1920, became a classic work. According to Sorokin, "sociology has the overall and ultimate goal to explain the life, demeanor and destiny of individuals and nations. It is not "frozen" in pattern forms..." The validity of these words is hard to overestimate.

Among sociological studies of global importance we should distinguish the book "The Liberal Archipelago: A Theory of Diversity and Freedom" [2]. It belongs to the professor of the London School of Economics and native of Sri Lanka Chandran Kukathas. The author addresses a key problem of modern Western society, representing the co-existence of a multiplicity of heteropolar cultures.

It is worth paying attention to a translated monograph "Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy" [3] by Professor Ronald Inglehart, the head of the Laboratory for Comparative Social Research at the University of Michigan. As a creator of the theory of post-materialism, he examines the value imperatives of a modern society, their alterations from generation to generation.

A new monograph by Yevgeny Yasin, an academic supervisor at the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" and President of the "Liberalnaya Missiya" ("Liberal Mission") foundation "Will Democracy Settle Down in Russia?" [4], is dedicated to the experience of Russian modernization and reforms painful for the Russian society. The author analyzes the consequences of the transition to the market economy, reflects on measures that can halt a sharp differentiation in society, the division between the super rich and poor people, that can restore the principles of social justice.

Yevgeny Yasin also wrote a booklet "Scenarios for Russia in the Long-Term Period" [5]. The author characterizes modern Russian democracy as defective, which opens the way to authoritarianism.

A monograph "Case Studies" by Jean Toshchenko, a Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and editor-in-chief of the magazine "Sociology Management" [6], is devoted to the role of manager relationships in the structural part of "the worker-administration", the analysis of management styles in the sphere of production, culture and education. The author summarizes the study of such phenomena as social prediction and forecasting, social engineering and planning, social programming and social technologies.

A collaborative monograph "Education as a Factor in the Development of Intellectual Potential of Russia" [7] by Franz Sheregi, the director of the Center of Social Forecasting, and Vladimir Savinkov, is dedicated to sociological problems in the sphere of education. The authors assess the social potential of a national project "Education", and analyze the characteristics of traditional and supplementary education in various regions of Russia.

Sociology has not only a fundamental and theoretical character, but an applied one, too. In the latter context, a monograph entitled "Social Gerontology" [8] by Oksana Nor-Arevyan is of particular interest. According to the author of this book, "annually there is a tendency of growth in the number of elderly people in our country and around the world. In this regard, the features of life of this category of the population are the focus of professional sociologists". The "International classification of age" given by the author of this book is very interesting — from infancy to "early" elderly, at the age of 65, and "recognized" old age, when a person reaches 75 years. This new book is designed for a very wide range of readers: from students and teachers to social workers involved with elderly and aged people.

The Tyumen Region was not left without the attention of sociologists. A confirmation of this is the appearance in the collection of the Information Library Center of Tyumen State University of a festschrift under the title "Social and Cultural Dynamics. A Portrait of the Tyumen Region" [9] and a monograph "Modern Civil Society. Research Experience of Institutional Transformations" [10] by Artem Boyarskikh, which was published by the publishing house of the Tyumen State University. It is well known that the Tyumen Region is the largest in the area out of 83 subjects of the Russian Federation. On its territory there are 29 cities and 15,129 settlements, in which over a hundred nationalities live. Social processes in the Tyumen Region are characterized, on the one hand, by common characteristics, as in all Russia, but on the other hand, they have a strong specificity. Sociological studies in recent years show a positive dynamic of social processes in the region.

The above mentioned is just a small part of new sociological publications, but it is the most remarkable of what should not get lost in the vast sea of information.

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