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## REVIEWS

### *SOCIOLOGY AS A SCIENCE AND SOCIAL CAPITAL (A BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEW)*

Modern sociology is a rapidly changing branch of science, for its object, the society, is a highly changeable entity. Proof of this statement is a wide range of new national and international monographs which replenish the funds of the Information and Library Center of Tyumen State University every year.

One of the newly published monographs is written by the well-known sociologist E. Vnuk-Lipinsky, Director of the Institute of Political Studies of Polish Academy of Sciences. He entitled his book "Sociology of public life" [1] and dedicated it to the study of radical social changes in the modern world, which, in his opinion, are determined neither by political parties and their leaders, nor by the statesmen, but by the hidden currents of social life, politically indifferent by nature, by household energy and by informal social microstructures ...

Social changes in Russia attract attention of many scientists. In this regard, two more new monographs deserve special attention. The first one is the book entitled "Political modernization of the state system in Russia: urgency, directions, costs and risks" [2] by I. Busygina and M. Filippov, Professors of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, winners of a number of national and international awards. The monograph discusses the prospects of reforming Russian state power which still remains authoritarian and therefore negatively perceived in the world. The second book, called "Scenario-based forecasting of the political situation in Russia" [3], was written by Y. Blagoveshchensky, Professor of Moscow State University, M. Krechetova, Associate Professor of the Higher School of Economics, and by G. Saratov, President of the Fund for Applied Political Studies "Information for Democracy" (INDEM). Their monograph is based on the consistent application of the method of scenario-based forecasting. The authors give a detailed mathematical grounding of this method and provide short- and medium-term forecasts of the Russian society development. Both monographs were issued by the publishing company "Liberal'naya Moskva".

It is known that the problem of "social capital" was first raised by Karl Marx, who claimed that "social relations can be viewed as commodities [...]". Modern analysis of this phenomenon was conducted in the collective monograph "Social capital in entrepreneurial organizations" [4] written by the Tyumen sociologists A. Tarasova, V. Davydenko and G. Romashkina. The authors of this book expound on the concept of "trust vs mistrust", analyze the development of social networks and describe the norms of pro-social behavior in modern society. Not only do the authors

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trace historical development and transformation of sociological terminology since its introduction into scientific discourse by P. Bourdieu, J. Coleman, and R. Putnam, but they also analyze the current state of social networks, focusing on relations between people of different social groups.

The social structure of Russian society is a very complex phenomenon studied by various sciences: sociology, history and politology. An example of this is the monograph “The Russian village in the context of urbanization in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries” [5] written by L. Mazur and published by Ural Federal University. It analyzes the dramatic processes of destruction of the Russian peasant commune and the development of new urban settlements based on different norms and ways of life.

Comparative study of contemporary socio-economic processes on the Russian periphery is the subject of the fundamental monograph “Socio-economic development of regions: innovative receptivity and implementation efficiency indicators” written by N. Baksha [6]. Based on extensive empirical data included in the annex of the book, this monograph is of great interest to all social scientists.

The results of sociological research are widely used in many spheres of public life. G. Smekhova’s work “Fundamentals of Applied Sociology” is devoted to practical aspects of sociological knowledge [7].

The monograph “Economic behavior of subjects of the mortgage market” by V. Davydenko and S. Danilov [8] can be considered a concrete example of application of sociological methods to the assessment of the current state of society. The authors analyze how social status, social conditions and differences in regional housing programs influence people’s mortgage activity. The interdependence of the three components mentioned above is vital since the mortgage loan system largely depends on the socio-economic well-being and self-sufficiency of different social groups.

Sociology is closely linked to philosophy. The interrelation of these disciplines is the subject of the book “The development of philosophy and sociology at Ural State University in the 1940s – 1970s” written by M.N. Rutkevich, Professor of Ural Federal University [9]. Small in size, but very rich in content, this book contains not only the author’s memoirs, but also his students’ opinions on the foundation of the Ural philosophical and sociological school, which enjoys a well-deserved recognition in Russia and abroad.

Of relations between dreams and real opportunities in Russian society tells the solid collective monograph “What the Russians Dream About” [10], published in Moscow by the publishing company “Ves’ Mir”. It dwells on Russian citizens’ dreams and hopes for a better future, which was more characteristic of the previous generations of the Russians and which is so much dreamt about today – in the 21st century...

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