

Regionalization and Globalization

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**ON THE QUESTION OF CIVILIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AS FUNDAMENTAL UNITY
OF MANKIND AND ENVIRONMENT**

Abstract

The threat to all living beings on the Earth is twofold: on the one hand – natural cataclysms (cosmos effects, climate changes, more frequent volcanic eruptions, tsunami, etc.); on the other – negative phenomena created artificially by the man himself (military conflicts, diseases, hunger, political, economic, social crises, etc.). All these negative phenomena make intellectual people think about the real danger threatening our planet. Theses on the theory of civilizational development as a fundamental unity of mankind and environment are being elaborated. Can people withstand these negative factors? Of course, they can if they unite around rational ideology and find an intellectual way of development.

Key words:

Developmental potential of the world civilization, intellectual way of development, natural cataclysms, negative phenomena artificially created by mankind, planet and civilization in danger, theory of society (state) and world development, united mankind.

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Introduction

The planet and civilization are in danger! The warnings of the scientists of the late XXth century ring threatening. To regret, they become more urgent with every year. These warnings have a double-sided character: on the one hand, cosmic effects and ripening antagonistic contradictions between the man and nature, on the other – contradictions inside the human being. That is, unfair re-distribution of surplus product creates serious crisis situations for an individual, a state and internationally.

The reports of many scientists on the future of civilization are rather troubled, and one may fall into pessimism hearing of the expected tragic destiny of the mankind. But the negative consequences, accumulated and sometimes piled-up in all spheres of political, production, socio-economic, ecological, and other interaction among the people on the planet, prove it.

Is there any way out of this situation? Yes, there is one! It should be found by the man, his wisdom and intelligence. It is the man who has created this situation on the planet in spite of his greatest intellectual potential. Thus, he should correct those negative mistakes that he has done in his development.

At the present time, the scientists all over the world face a very urgent and very acute problem – to find the theory of civilizational development and improvement in order to secure future life from cataclysms, or at least reduce them to minimum.

This science should appear in result of collective creative work of many institutes, leaders of states, parties and even simple but thinking people. In our opinion, it should be environics – the science that will deal with development and perfection of the society and the world [1].

1. What Threatens the Planet and the Civilization?

1.1. Cosmic and Natural Dangers

The planet of Earth during all its history has been always influenced by cosmic strangers that changed flora and fauna greatly and sometimes catastrophically. On the globe, there were systematic catastrophes, storms, draughts, destructions, sand-storms, water-spouts, landslips, pouring rains, hail, floods, typhoons, and other abnormal natural phenomena, dangerous for life and existence of people and all living beings. As some scientists say, the state of climate and the probability of epidemics, natural calamities, air-catastrophes, and wars

depend on the strength of interaction between the sun and the planet. That is, changes in weather and climate are recurrent (proved to be occurring every 24 years). The correction should be made taking into consideration the strength of interaction between the Earth and the bari-centre of the solar system (the centre of the mass of all solar system's objects that is constantly shifting because of the planets' movement. It is located at nearly one million kilometers off the Sun). It is the bari-centre that influences the atmospheric pressure in the northern and southern hemispheres. It also affects circulation of the atmospheric air and changes the weather irrespective of the season, thus influencing the health of people and animals. Besides, these natural cataclysms produce great economic losses estimated to be hundreds and thousands billions of US dollars.

The Russian professor Alexei Dmitriev, the ecological geology specialist, used the methods of logical and mathematical analysis to prove that the interactions between the Earth and the cosmos bring phenomena which are undesirable for the life on the planet. He insists that cosmos has greatly changed the atmosphere of the Earth and of the other planets of the solar system throughout last decades. The professor explains a set of growing dangerous trends on the Earth: thus, since 1975 volcanic eruptions increased by 500%; since 1973 earthquakes increased by 400%; natural calamities increased by 410%! This is deemed to be a response of the Earth to changes in cosmic conditions.

According to the scientist's opinion, our solar system is shifting to another part of Galaxy – towards Hercules constellation. From mid-1950-s and at present, we have been and still are crossing the magneto-stripe galactic stream and pushing through accumulations of substances (ions of hydrogen, helium, hydroxyl, oxygen, etc.). Streams of magnetized plasma have started their movement into the solar system. The volume of substances in the space is growing. The inter-reaction of the Earth and the Sun became faster – the cloud of plasma substance reaches the Earth's orbit in less than 10 hours instead of 36-48 hours! The reason is that the solar system has plunged into a hydrogenous «bubble». This is confirmed by the researchers of NASA who published the data obtained from the Internet in June, 1999. The growth of hydrogen in inter-planet space and in the whole solar system means that the rate of planets' and Sun's substance and energy exchange with each other has increased sharply. Constant bringing of added energy and substance into the atmosphere of the Earth causes all the changes we observe around us, including global warming, eclipses and other phenomena. Our planet can even happen to change poles as Uranus and Neptune did it, which promises nothing good [2].

Some scientists consider that our planet enters a dangerous period in its history. This thought is expressed by a group of competent scientists on pages of the «International Herald Tribune». Among them are Bert Bolen – the founder of Intergovernmental Commission on Climate Change, Pole Krutsen – the 1995 Nobel laureate in chemistry, Will Staphen – director of the international programme «Geosphere – Biosphere», and Margo Wallstrom – the EU commissar on environment.

It is quite possible that exactly at this time the mankind may cross the line – maybe even not knowing of its existence – and launch irreversible changes.

Based on the ideas of academician V. Vernadsky, these scientists prove that our planet has been changing especially quickly during the last years. These changes are a natural life process, but during the last decades, the set of ecological factors is quite different from that of the last 500 thousands of years. The scope and the rate of changes provoked by the man are the most disturbing. These changes occur ten times quicker than do any natural changes that have been taking place during the last half a million of years.

The publications of some authors in the «International Herald Tribune» predict after 2050 the probability of regional climate changes (caused by swings in ocean currents), thawing of an ice cap of Greenland, and lifting of the sea level by six meters. They also consider that the Earth has come into the era of anthropocen – the geological era when people become a significant and even dominant ecological force. That is why the scientists call on the people to be careful, since natural systems easily transfer from one steady state into another.

«Global warming» is threatening with serious growth of infections in many countries. The average rise in temperature by mid-XXIst century is expected to be 3–4 grades. What does it lead to? For example, the thawing of eternal ice in West Siberia, Yakutia, along Artic coast, and on the North of the Russian European territory will damage water-supply and sewerage systems; thus, pathogens may be found in drinking water, which will cause outbreaks of cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis, dysentery, and other «water» diseases provoked by the simplest microorganisms.

Such infection as encephalitis may also spread because the territories covered by encephalitis ticks grow rapidly. Such «old new» diseases as Crimean fever will not go unnoticed as well. Special attention should be paid to «bird-flu», which might take spread with the returning passages of birds in spring. The mankind should be prepared not only for the bird-flu. Bacteria and viruses evolve much quicker than does the man; that is why harmless bacteria may acquire new characteristics, dangerous for the man.

The scientists raise the alarm: viral diseases are spreading rapidly and assuming ever threatening forms. Moreover, viruses behave themselves very aggressively; this is connected with violation of ecological balance in the nature, greater anthropogenous load on the environment. It is interesting how the scientists have been changing their opinions on the nature of viruses in the course of the last century. At first, viruses were considered to be harmful substances, later – a form of life. Today, viruses are assigned a special niche between animate and inanimate nature and considered as active (if not the main) participants in the evolution.

Another dangerous phenomenon is worthy of mention – global darkening. If the fact of global warming is unquestioned today, global darkening is the least studied phenomenon, even in the ecology-related circles. The research con-

ducted by scientists on different continents confirms that there is one more problem to expect – the deficit of sunlight. This issue has given rise to different opinions. The British newspaper «The Guardian» informs that during the last years, the volume of sunlight that reaches the Earth has reduced by 20%. The scientists in the USA have ascertained that, in the period from late-1950s to early 1990s, the volume of sunlight reaching the Earth has decreased by 10%. In such regions as Asia, United States and Europe, the sunlight has reduced be even more. In Hong-Kong, it became darker by 37%. The loss of sunlight over the territory of the former USSR made 20%. The reason for this new disaster is the indefatigable human activity connected with environmental remaking [2]. People only begin to learn about a true scale of this disturbing phenomenon. Doctor Hancen remarks, «The research data gathered from 100 weather-stations located all over the world testify that the volume of soot in the atmosphere is twice as large as it was expected earlier». The solar eclipse is fraught with many negative phenomena being dangerous for all living beings on the Earth.

1.2. Dangers Coming from Political, Economic, Social, and Other Types of Human Activity

As long ago as in 1904, the academician Vladimir Vernadsky said that the time would come when the man would assume responsibility for the future fate of the biosphere. We think that this time has already come, on the verge of two millennia. And the first task faced by the civilization is to measure the marginal load on the nature that is allowed to the man.

It means that the man should not overstep the limits that can cause bifurcations in the parameters of biosphere, which can entail unpredicted changes in environmental characteristics. As a result, there can emerge such a biosphere that there will be no place for the man [3].

Undoubtedly, these problems cannot be reduced to economics only. The situation is much more complicated, and it turns into the problem of development of all types of activities (political, economic, social, etc.). In fact, in having no theory of development of social systems (states and the world), the world civilization found itself in a serious crisis.

The main «handmade» problems of the humanity include:

- threat of death of civilization in the fire of a great thermo-nuclear war;
- antagonistic contradictions between the man and the nature. The man, having forgotten that he is a part of nature and having «armed» himself with technical progress, is trying to rule over it. It may lead to a serious ecological catastrophe, i.e. to devastated living space and destruction of noble environmental beauty inside the man;

- overpopulation, uneven in different parts of the Earth. High population density causes aggressiveness of individuals, lack of agricultural lands and food, makes people search for protection from excessive social contacts;
- human egoisation. Egoism is manifested in family and production relations, in relations between enterprises, industries, and even countries.
- spiritual impoverishment, decline in personal and state morality, non-observance of law and human rights in many countries. It is reflected in growth of crime, national and political terrorism, and destructive spread of alcoholism and drug addiction;
- accelerated rate of human vital activity. The rate of all human interactions has increased by several hundred times. It may be compared with the speed of movement: at the end of XIXth century it made 30-40 kilometres per hour (horse running); today, it is 2000 kilometres per hour and more. Under such speed of life, and when the human goal is not clear, even small interruptions in state mechanisms cause negative consequences. Besides, such an accelerated rate of development leads to the effect of man's racing with himself. Thus, the intensified technical development has ruinous results; thirst for enrichment and competition makes people blind to see true values and does not leave them time to engage in thinking, which is the true human activity;
- evolutionary crises caused by the activity of unequal systems – biological and social organisms.

Having enumerated all these negative factors and having realized who has done this, the question arises whether this living being (the man) has the reason. Can Homo Sapiens really lead the humanity to such a threatening situation? It turns out that he can. But it is not guilt, it is a problem. The problem is that he didn't know what he was doing. One may agree with the scientists confirming that modern progress can solve many problems. Of course, technical progress implies great intellectual possibilities, but it is not enough to solve the problems. The progress in science itself and technology will not be of benefit if there is no common scientific theory about world development. This theory has to formulate the law of reformation of production, economic systems, states and the world in general as an indivisible organism.

Of course, to solve global problems, not only the fundamental science and scientific theory are needed, but also a coordinating centre that could manage and realize all the programmes. The United Nations Organization (UNO) should become this centre as it is considered today as practically the world's government.

2. Globalization Is the Dictates of Time

Globalization determines the present of the world development. New technology and trade relations bring together international trade processes. Progressive movement of civilization inevitably leads to interstate integration processes.

M. Waters defines globalization as a social process during which geographical borders are obliterated, and the population realizes it. Globalization also implies spreading of the Western development model all over the planet, which theoretically leads to one-pole (universal and ideal) world order [4].

It is possible to discuss the ways and mechanisms of globalized development, but there is no alternative to forming an integral global civilization. It is the given thing that can not be ignored. It is necessary to do everything to take a deserved place in a globalized world, to find an optimal rhythm and mode of adaptation of national economy to regularities of the world development. That is, every state striving for integration should join in without any errors and failures, inevitable in the absence of deep and well thought-out analysis of the reality we live in [5].

Under the world's integration processes, the problem is to create a global system for distributing benefits, a system that could take into account the balanced interests of different states. Otherwise, there will be an increase in threats of natural, technogenous, humanitarian catastrophes, interethnic and inter-confessional opposition, trade wars, and other conflict situations.

The practical experience shows that only the states competitive on the world market enjoy the advantages of globalization and, thus, provide better standards of life to their citizens. That is why the problem of globalization takes first place under globalization. This problem needs not only economic measures taken, but also humanitarian, political, economic, social, and technological ones.

Globalization demands from the countries striving for integration to organize their political, economic, social, ecological, cultural, ideological, and other processes so that to form a united system corresponding to the recognized international standards. The world community will not accept those states that do not fulfil the requirements of integration. The states must be aware of finding themselves on the «road side» of the world community, as they will be threatened by reduced rates of economic development, technological stagnation and poverty.

In many countries globalization raises the question of economic reforms, change of commodity production structure, achieving competitiveness both on the domestic and foreign markets. At the same time, when pursuing the innovative economic policy, the states should create favourable conditions for establishing national powerful companies able to compete in the global economic en-

vironment. It permits to adapt to priority directions of the world economic development in order to use all advantages of the international trade system.

It should be noted that mankind has not formed the world order in terms of globalization. There are still the countries in different parts of the world that are limited by unions and groups according to their regional interests. It is obvious that we will achieve full integration in development of all states not as soon.

Under globalization, export and import activities intensify. Financial and banking services acquire new quality and they are changing. Their work is simplified; the control over cash flow is strengthened by credit and investment risks reduction. However, globalization sharpens the problems of corruption and business criminalization. Global liberalization of economic activity creates favourable conditions not only for legal business, but illegal business as well. It demands drastic measures to struggle against crime and corruption in financial sphere.

Globalization of economic and social activities causes the urgent necessity to introduce such principles of political organization of the society as rule-of-law, transparency in making governmental decisions, and equal access to information, active attraction of civil institutes to determining the priorities of social development and control over these processes.

3. Unification of the World's Intellectual Potential Is the Way to Save the Mankind

To unite in order to survive, – this can become the definition of the future development of the world civilization. It was always so in communities of people and animals. When the threat of death or extreme situation appeared, people united in groups, communities, and nations. Together they became stronger, smarter, and found the way of survival; they won wars and accelerated the developmental process. Unification is the future of the mankind, its perspective and hope; there is no another alternative. The question is how to unite, what principles, ideas of unification are there, and what its rational base is.

Many scientists, government leaders and policy-makers were engaged in the work connected with the idea of unification. «Mankind is one breath, one warm-blooded creature. When one is in pain – all suffer. One dies and all are dead. Away with the mankind – dust, long live the mankind-organism... Let be the mankind, not simple men». Andrei Platonov wrote these words in 1921.

This sincere and passionate appeal of the revolutionary romantic A. Platonov reproduces almost word for word one of the most important thoughts of the philosopher and theologian Vladimir Soloviev, «...we should consider the mankind as a whole, as a great collective creature or a social organism, the alive

members of which are different nations. From this point of view it is obvious that not one nation can live by itself, through itself and for itself, but the life of every nation is only a certain part in the whole life of the mankind» [6]. There is one more expression by scientist and doctor N. Amosov, «The nature gave us three programs: 'for ourselves', 'for generation', 'for species'. In other words, for yourself, for the family, for all people».

They all – N. Amosov, V. Soloviev and A. Platonov – expressed in different words the one and the same tempting and fatal idea of the historiosophy – the idea of predestined unity of all humanity and true close unity of the people scattered all over the world in one great friendly universal family, the ideas of granting the ontological status to the mankind as a systemic whole.

This idea, as well as other great but fatal plans, is not new, and it is an international one. Long ago, all people lived in one united uni-lingual family and then they were punished because of varieties. But the day will come when the sin will be expiated and the people having different political convictions and confessing different religious beliefs will not only establish strong relations, but will feel themselves as one whole and will combine their forces in the name of common cause. This idea was expressed by ancient Greeks, Eastern wise men, and European medieval thinkers.

The idea of united people begins to ring with greater force in the XXth century, in the atmosphere of revolutionary storms and scientific-technical discoveries. This motive was the most pressing, of course, in Russia. It was heard from N. Fedorov, K. Tsiolkovsky, V. Vernadsky, A. Chizhevsky, M. Prishvin. «The man has understood», wrote V. I. Vernadsky, «that he is a citizen of the planet and he can and may think and act in a new aspect, not only in the aspect of an individual, family or generation of the state and their unions, but in the planet aspect as well» [7].

Striving for unity with other communities (not always on equal basis) runs throughout the whole history of mankind. Even the communities which urged toward social and cultural separation from the world ethnic environment and ran into nationalistic extremes, and those which were looking for the way for self-saving isolation from external world, earlier or later had to change their strategy and exchange products with other communities, and to establish integration links with them.

The practical interaction of nations in economic and political spheres was increasing with every century; birth and growth of global problems, global not only in scope but in «scale of subject» able to solve them, oriented the people towards the idea that it is possible to survive and go further only in the united world. The thinking people considered that uniting efforts on the planet scale, changing the «mankind-dust» into «mankind-organism» was possible only on a unique material platform giving rise to typical conditions for social existence.

At the present time, one more idea is arising, that like a dream of integrated mankind captivated many sensible historiosophers of the XIX–XXth centuries and was deeply rooted in the world cultures. This is the idea of informa-

tional and civilizational unification of the world. According to it, the mankind rising from one «stage» to another in the process of historical evolution, reaches in the end some state of formation and civilization common for all people, and acquires an «adequate» material basis for universal existence.

The idea of socio-economic progress that should be crowned by the golden age of united people in the united world was rather a conceptual image specific of Utopian doctrine-writers on the way to solving the fundamental problems of human existence. This idea may be formulated as following: to be «saved», it is necessary to unite, and it's possible only due to uniform social world, united world civilization that should be designed and then created [8].

The development of the present world tends to internationalization. The mankind should unite in the face of global problems. Interstate economic relations, foreign economic and political activities all over the world, communication nets and ecological crises unite the fortunes of many states into one universal fortune.

The world community is striving for integration. Thousands of satellites send wireless signals to all continents. Tens of thousands of trans-national companies surrounded the planet by a dense trade-transport net throwing new machines, opera and variety music, videocameras and chocolate on the markets of many countries. The financial capitals of the world are linked with each other by one information exchange system, transactions for billions of dollars are made in seconds.

The world of the XXIst century is changing. The borders are altering, new states are formed, powerful military, political and economic blocs are created, transnational corporations begin to play an important role. That is, the world is changing for globalization rapidly. But to regret, it is done by the method of trial and error.

Today, there is no clear idea of political arrangement of the world, the socio-economic model of perspective development of the civilization is not developed, there is no convincing theory of states development as social systems, there is no clear vision of the future at all. What form of democracy (or another form) will the states and the world community choose on the blue planet populated by over six billion people? What will be the rules and forms of the society which will help to manage economic, food and ecological problems? These questions should be studied theoretically and practically.

The European model of civilization was beyond competition from the point of view of dynamism and success. But will it do for the future arrangement of the world? Many scientists consider that a new model of the world civilization development is needed. It is evident that the world intellectual elite should suggest the new, third way for the development of the mankind.

Conclusions

Being fully aware of the danger threatening the planet and the civilization, the people on the Earth should unite in the face of future natural, technogenous and other cataclysms. The task facing the present and future generations is not only to promote the unification of people and to build a globalized world, but to develop a scientific theory on the basis of which a new civilization of planetary universe will be formed.

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