

CHANGES IN THE SPIRITUAL FIELD OF SOCIETY: CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE PROCESSES

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the issue of constructive and destructive trends in the spiritual sphere of society and their impact on the spiritual sphere of society. In the second half of the 20th century and the first quarter of the new century, a scientific discussion related to the causes and consequences of the emergence of many constructive processes in the spiritual sphere of the modern society was presented.

Keywords: spiritual sphere of society, tendency, constructive processes, destructive processes, spiritual production, spirituality, spiritual knowledge, moral indifference.

Constructive and destructive processes that took place in various fields changed the attitude of society members to economic, political and social reality. People began to imagine the essence of socio-economic and political processes in a different way, they began to evaluate them differently. Such changes in the human spiritual world legitimately led to a radical renewal of the spiritual sphere of society. The process of meaning production in modern society, the character of forms of social consciousness, the nature of social psychology, and the ideological situation are changing dramatically. As in all areas, these updates show a number of constructive and destructive aspects, processes, situations.

First of all, it should be noted that in the second half of the 20th century and the first quarter of the new century, many constructive processes took place in the spiritual sphere of modern society. These processes are characterized by their diversity, of course. In particular, during the next half century:

- the quality of spiritual production has changed; in particular, today this process is carried out on the basis of completely new norms, principles, and resources. The process of creating knowledge, ideas, theories, doctrines, and values has improved both technically and technologically. As a result, the process of spiritual production literally became a factor that develops various spheres of society's life and fully satisfies people's spiritual needs;
- forms of social consciousness are rich; in particular, new and new political, legal, ethical, aesthetic, religious, scientific, philosophical and other ideas, knowledge, ideas, theories, doctrines, values of social importance were created. The extent of the influence of these knowledges and imaginations on social existence is extremely widened;
- social psychology is rationalized; in particular, the amount of knowledge, customs, and traditions based on reason and logic in its content is increasing, and the share of mystical and irrational elements is decreasing. True, this process is happening in different societies at different rates and scales. But it is necessary to recognize that the place of the mystical worldview is replaced by a rational worldview as one of the most debilitating trends of today;
- ideological pluralism has emerged; in particular, when thinking in a global context, human society is freed from the dominance of a single ideology. The areas under the rule of a single

ideology are decreasing more and more, moreover, alternative ideas and ideologies can be seen forming in these areas as well. Such ideological pluralism should be accepted as an achievement of human society without a doubt.

At the moment, instead of constructive processes, destructive processes are taking place in the spiritual sphere of modern society. The most important of such processes is related to the commercialization of spiritual production. It is known that commerce means "trade and trade mediation activities, participation in the sale of goods and services or assistance in the sale"[1]. It is a special and important form of economic activity, because it ensures the balance of demand and supply in the market, focuses on meeting the needs of the population. Business has a number of unique features. In particular, the object of commerce is related to the sale and purchase of products. It includes processes related to the sale and delivery of products, their storage, preparation for sale. The main purpose of trade is profit [2].

We do not make theoretical considerations about the characteristics and purpose of commerce in vain. The fact is that, as a result of the development of the market economy, commercial characteristics began to appear in the process of spiritual production. In particular, first of all, attention is paid to the production of knowledge and ideas, doctrines and theories that exist today and serve to satisfy them. Second, the products of spiritual culture, such as works of art, films, cartoons, pictures, shows, articles, etc., have become objects that can be bought and sold like material goods. Thirdly, the institutions that were supposed to perform the functions of preserving, promoting and passing on the artifacts of spiritual culture to future generations have become service organizations. Fourthly, the process of spiritual production also includes stages related to the sale and delivery of products specific to material production, their storage, and preparation for sale. Fifth, the main goal of spiritual production has become related to earning income.

Commercialization of spiritual production is causing dangerous trends in science, education, literature and art. For example, in the science of all countries, the desire to finance scientific research that can bring income and be applied to material production is noticeable. However, science should perform not only the function of a productive force, but also the functions of raising people's outlook, spreading enlightenment, describing objects in the world, and predicting the future [3]. The commercialization of science, the concentration of attention on inventions and discoveries that can bring duplicate income does not leave room for the performance of these functions. The same can be said about the processes taking place in art. Today, the value of a work of art is determined by its marketability. Only a film, work, show, etc., which has covered the expenses and brought significant income, is considered valuable and important. The idea of the work, its plot, and its educational and educational value were overshadowed by the profit. As a result, the work of art is unable to fulfill its main function - the task of forming people's aesthetic feelings and taste.

Interestingly, the process of commercialization is also covering the field of religion. "According to the official point of view of the church, any religious service in the synagogue should be performed free of charge, no one should be forced to pay for it. But practice shows that in fact no service is provided free of charge in temples, churches have official price lists for various religious services. Some churches place their commercial points (shops) outside the synagogue, while in others, the sale of goods and services is carried out directly in the synagogue" [4; 121].

The commercialization of the spiritual production process caused the second destructive process - the slowing down of the development of spiritual knowledge. V.G. Torosyan and N.E. Drobyazkolar's article reveals the nature, structure and development characteristics of spiritual knowledge especially vividly. Experts recall that the concepts of "otium" and "negotium" were in circulation in antiquity. They claim that "negotium" includes any type of economic activity, while "otium" consists of activities that serve the spiritual growth of a person, not production-related activities. These types include, for example, reading, music, philosophy, poetry, mathematics, astronomy. Knowledge of these areas served to describe society and human existence, to determine the causes and consequences of events and processes in society, as well as to ensure the formation of a person as a person and his spiritual growth. This spiritual knowledge, which includes intellectuality, aesthetics and morality, is described as the central factor that forms a free citizen [5; 188]. Until the second half of the last century, they even served as a source for determining the social status of a person.

But from the second half of the 20th century, the situation began to change radically. As we noted, the settlement of the foundations of the market economy increased attention to the creation of knowledge of practical importance, capable of generating income in the short term. As a result, the spiritual knowledge that serves to form a person's worldview has remained in the shadows. The volume of allocations for research projects that serve to form practical knowledge has increased, and funding for research in social and humanitarian sciences that create spiritual knowledge has steadily decreased. It can also be seen from the composition of the countries' investments in the development of science. For example, according to official data, 118 billion dollars were allocated for scientific research in the USA in 2019. In the same year, 322 billion dollars were spent on science in China. According to data provided by Eurostat, the European Union allocated 306 billion euros for these purposes in 2019. And in Russia, expenses for scientific research amounted to 6 billion dollars[6]. It is noteworthy that only a small percentage of these allocations was used to finance social and humanitarian sciences, creators of spiritual knowledge. For example, in Russia in 2007, 2.3% of the funds allocated for research and development funding were allocated to social sciences and 1.3% to humanities[7;227]. This indicator has not changed significantly in the following years. A similar situation can be seen in other countries. Disproportionate financial provision, the priority of income principle in the distribution of funds has led to a slowdown in the development of social and humanitarian sciences and the development of spiritual knowledge in a situation where technical sciences are developing rapidly. This is one of the main reasons why in the following years, the doctrines and theories of global significance did not appear in the field of social and humanitarian sciences.

To sum up, in the 21st century, many constructive processes took place in the spiritual sphere of human society. At the moment, instead of constructive processes, destructive processes are taking place in this area. The most important of such processes are related to the commercialization of spiritual production, the slowing down of the development of spiritual knowledge, the formation of an environment of moral indifference, the emergence of an environment of ideological indifference, the spread of destructive ideas, and the tendency of the spread of disinformation. These spiritual-destructive processes disconnect the process of spiritual production from the needs of society, weaken the process of production of socially

important knowledge and ideas, reduce the level of awareness of new knowledge and ideas of society members, form wrong public opinion, and cause negative changes in people's spiritual needs.

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