

SOCIOLOGY - СОЦИОЛОГИЯ

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ON THE HISTORY OF THE EMERGENCE OF THE THEORY OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

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Introduction. Information is the only resource that does not decrease in the course of the evolution of human society, but constantly increases. Information has always existed. However, since the second half of the twentieth century, with the development of computing technology, communications and telecommunications, its role has increased significantly. The formation of an information society is taking place. All this contributes to the active study of information processes. The category of «information» began to be used in many sciences, both natural and humanitarian, allowed us to take a new look at the provisions of a particular theory.

Currently, there are many theories formulated by sociologists, philosophers, economists and cultural scientists in an attempt to explain the state of modern society. Some believe that humanity has entered a new era, where the leading role belongs to knowledge, information and scientific progress. Others prefer to associate the current stage of social development with the previous ones, calling modern society post-industrial, post-capitalist, postmodern or post-modern, depending on the field of activity of the scientist and his affiliation with a particular philosophical movement.

Despite the fact that all thinkers agree that the second half of the twentieth century is characterized by an unprecedented growth in information volumes and the intensification of information exchange, few substantiate the characteristic properties of the new era, limiting themselves to a superficial description of the causes and possible consequences.

There are a number of classifications formed by different researchers at different times in an attempt to organize information theories that have the greatest sociological significance. At the same time, it is through their comprehension that knowledge of modern reality occurs and the opportunity opens up to predict the development of mass society in the coming years. This determines the relevance of the analysis of both the theories themselves with the identification of their common basis, and the most common types of classifications.

Key words: *Information; theories of information society; informatization; classification of information theories, postmodernism, industrial civilization.*

As is known, various approaches to the typology of societies have developed in sociology. Historically, if we take into account the classical stage of development of sociology, we can talk about several criteria, including formational, political and, finally, civilizational. Formational and political criteria, which are based, respectively, on the development of a formation based on a certain mode of production, and the transformation of the political regime, are essentially one-sided. The civilizational criterion, which takes into account both the social, economic, and political and spiritual contexts of the development of society, represents a new integration stage of scientific understanding of society. This criterion allows us to talk about such social structures as agrarian, industrial, post-industrial and informational.

The growth of technologization and the transfer of priority from the industrial to the scientific sector led to the outlines of a new social order being outlined. The ideological and theoretical prerequisites for the transition to an information society were also formed. It should be noted that the ideas of an information society themselves originate in the theory of post-industrialism, which largely determined the interest of researchers in individual aspects of the impact of scientific and technological progress on society, which contributed to the emergence of a wide range of concepts, including the concept of an information society. In this regard, it is necessary to mention the works of the American sociologist and futurologist E. Toffler, in particular «Future Shock» (1970), «The Third Wave» (1980), etc. An important place in his works is occupied by the so-called concept of three waves. The theory of the leisure class of the famous Western sociologist and philosopher T. Veblen was also of no small importance. Also, the ideas of D. Bell, formulated by him in the work «The Coming Post-Industrial Society», exerted a significant ideological and theoretical influence on the formation of the foundations of the theory of the information society. Thus, at the end of the 20th century, the necessary prerequisites for the formation of the theory of the information society were gradually formed.

In the 60s of the 20th century, the term «information society» was introduced into scientific circulation in the USA by F. Machlup and in Japan by T. Umesao, who were studying the dynamics of the development of knowledge-intensive industries, although some researchers attribute the origin of this term to Professor Yu. Hayashi of the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

In the middle of the 20th century, changes occurred in the social structure of society. These changes were caused by the evolution of industrial society into post-industrial society, which became the defining social form of the 20th century in the USA, Japan and Western Europe. The development potential of post-industrial society is determined by the volumes of information and

knowledge that it has. It is knowledge that is the axis around which new technologies, economic growth and new stratification of society are built. Increased technologization and the shift in priority from the industrial to the scientific sector of production led to sociologists talking about the emergence of a new society. Thus, in the 70s of the twentieth century, the concept of the information society was born.

The emergence of a new society as a result of scientific and technological progress is proven by the following. In the theory of post-industrial society, there is a position on three societies, according to which pre-industrial society is based on the interaction of man with nature, industrial society - man with the nature subordinated to them, and post-industrial society on the interaction between people.

E. Toffler presents the history of the development and emergence of a new society in the form of three waves, each of which is replaced by scientific and technological progress. The first wave created an agricultural civilization, which covered such countries as China, India, Greece, Rome and others. Despite the fact that all these civilizations had their own path of development and society, they had common features of development. The basis of life, culture, family organization, politics and economics is the land. Each community produced only what it needed, therefore, the economy of this period was decentralized. There was a division of labor. The structure of society consisted of castes and classes: nobility, clergy, warriors, helots, slaves or serfs. Everywhere power was strictly authoritarian. Information theory could not but influence jurisprudence, including the theory of law. The term «information» was introduced into legal science in the late 60s in connection with attempts to apply the achievements of cybernetics and information technology to analyze information and legal processes. The study of legal information as one of its varieties, the first attempts to define the essence of the concept of «legal information» were undertaken in the late 60s of the last century. Later, other

works began to appear, revealing the specifics of law as an information carrier, the features of legal information, computer and information law. The widespread use of the term «information» in jurisprudence allowed A.B. Vengerov to talk about the information approach to law.

Thus, information and everything connected with it has a wide and expanding range of impact on public life. We believe that the increasing importance of the right to access information is largely due to the fact that it is considered one of the most important political and personal rights of a person and citizen. Three hundred years ago, a new stage began, the «second wave» of the development of society, which changed the way of «life of millions». Researchers call the change of stages an explosion or shock wave, «which went around the entire earth, destroying ancient societies and giving birth to a completely new civilization.» E. Toffler considers the «shock wave» to be the industrial revolution. The result of the second wave was the emergence of an «industrial civilization», which, according to the researcher, did not last long, «for almost simultaneously with its victory, a new - the third - «wave» began to roll over the world, bringing with it new institutions, relationships, values»

T. Stonier in his study of the new society, which arose due to a change in the form of management, says the following: «Just as in the time of Smith, the center of gravity of the economy began to shift from agriculture to industry, so today it is shifting from industry to information. And just as in the late 18th - early 19th centuries a post-agrarian economy was formed, so today the technologically advanced sectors of global society are moving to the stage of a post-industrial economy» . W. Dysard studies the formation of the information society and also adheres to a three-stage history of development: «The United States is the first country to have made a three-stage transition from an agrarian society to an industrial one and from it to a society that is difficult to even define unambiguously; only one of its characteristics from a whole range of possibilities is clear: the main type of its economic

activity is increasingly becoming the production, storage and distribution of information.» Another periodization of the historical development of society was proposed by G. Kahn. He divides the stages of development by the way man interacts with nature. The first stage, which created modern civilization, began 10 thousand years ago and lasted 8 thousand years. The researcher calls this stage the agricultural revolution, which dramatically changed the living conditions of man. This stage is characterized by low economic growth and the absence of commodity abundance. G. Kahn calls the second «Great Transition», this stage began 400 years ago and exists to this day. The author divided this stage into three phases. «The phase of the industrial revolution, then the phase of the super-industrial (technological) world economy, and then the phase of the post-industrial world economy and world community.» The author sees the reasons for the emergence of the last phase, «post-industrial» or «the final moment of the era of the Great Transition», in the decline in interest in industrial and agricultural activities, while there was no decrease in the need for goods. All this led to a decrease in the rate of economic growth, and as a consequence to the emergence of «new non-economic types of activity and interests.» In the 70s, the same D. Bell, Z. Brzezinski and other sociologists tried to find a more correct description of a society in which industrial means of production were finally supplanted by science-intensive technologies, and knowledge became the determining factor in development and system-forming features of modern society. According to a number of researchers, such societies were advanced countries such as the United States and Japan, which entered the post-industrial period in the 50s of the twentieth century, and by the 70s had moved on to a new stage of their development. Australian economist K. Clark described such societies as information and service societies.

To designate this society, sociologists, political scientists, and economists used different terms. For example, J. Galbraith calls it a new industrial society, J.-F. Lyotard - «postmodern»,

Z. Brzezinski - «technotronic civilization», E. Toffler - «the third wave or superindustrial society», P. Drucker - «knowledge society», M. Poniatowski - «scientific society», D. Martin - «telematic society». Subsequently, a more common term was established in science - information society, which was first expressed by the American economist F. Machlup in his work «Production and Application of Knowledge in the USA». However, this study was purely economic, and only after the study of Japanese sociologists, the term «information society» entered scientific circulation, and has its own definition as a society in which the process of computerization gives people access to reliable sources of information, relieves them of routine work, and ensures a high level of automation of production. Along with the introduction of the term, Y. Masuda develops theoretical ideas in his work «Post-industrial society as an information society». The researcher believes that the basis of the new society will be computer technology with its fundamental function to replace or enhance human mental labor. The information revolution will quickly turn into a new productive force and will make possible the mass production of cognitive, systematized information, technology and knowledge. The leading branch of the economy will be intellectual production. Z. Brzezinski in the study «Between Two Ages» characterizes the information society and says that in the new conditions, culture, psychology, social life and the economy are formed under the influence of technology and electronics, especially computers and communications. The production process is no longer the main decisive factor in changes influencing morals, social structure and values of society. According to Z. Brzezinski, in such a society, under the influence of the technetronic revolution, traditional ties in the family and between generations are collapsing, public life is fragmented, despite the growing trends towards global integration. This contributes to the collapse of old beliefs associated with national and ideological communities of people and forms a new global vision of the world.

Researcher A. Touraine believes that the main changes in the new society will occur in the economic sense. The telecommunications revolution will lead to the transformation of investment and management policy. In the information society, «investments are made at a different level than in an industrial society, that is, in the production of means of production. The organization of labor affects only the relations of workers with each other, and therefore the level at which production operates. Post-industrial society operates more globally at the management level, that is, in the production mechanism as a whole. This action takes two main forms. Firstly, these are innovations, that is, the ability to produce new products, in particular, as a result of investments in science and technology; secondly, the management itself, that is, the ability to use complex information and communication systems.

It is important to recognize that a post-industrial society is one in which all elements of the economic system are affected by the actions of society itself. These actions do not always take the form of a conscious will embodied in an individual or even a group of people. That is why such a society must be called a programmable society, a designation that clearly indicates its capacity to create models of management of production, organization, distribution and consumption; therefore, such a society does not appear at the operational level as a result of natural laws or specific cultural characteristics, but rather as a result of production, through the action of society on itself, through its own systems of social action.»

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АМИРАН БЕРДЗЕНИШВИЛИ

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К ВОПРОСУ ИСТОРИИ ВОЗНИКНОВЕНИЯ ТЕОРИИ ИНФОРМАЦИОННОГО ОБЩЕСТВА

Резюме

Информация - это единственный ресурс, который в ходе эволюции человеческого общества не уменьшается, а постоянно увеличивается. Информация существовала всегда. Однако со второй половины XX века с развитием средств вычислительной техники, связи и телекоммуникации ее роль значительно возросла. Происходит становление информационного общества. Все это способствует активному изучению информационных процессов. Категория «информация» стала использоваться во многих науках как естественного, так и гуманитарного профиля, позволила по-новому взглянуть на положения той или иной теории.

В настоящее время существует множество теорий, сформулированных социологами, философами, экономистами и культурологами в попытке объяснить состояние современного общества. Одни считают, что человечество вступило в новую эпоху, где ведущая роль принадлежит знанию, информации и научному прогрессу. Другие предпочитают связывать нынешний этап общественного развития с предыдущими, называя современный социум постиндустриальным, посткапиталистическим, постмодернистским или постсовременным, в зависимости от сферы деятельности ученого и его принадлежности к тому или иному философскому течению.

Несмотря на то, что все мыслители сходятся во мнении, что вторая половина XX века характеризуется беспрецедентным ростом объемов информации и интенсификацией информационного обмена, мало кто обосновывает характерные свойства новой эпохи, ограничиваясь поверхностным описанием причин и возможных следствий.

Существует ряд классификаций, сформированных разными исследователями в разное время в попытке упорядочить информационные теории, имеющие наибольшее социологическое значение. В то же время именно через их осмысление происходит познание современной реальности и открывается возможность прогнозировать развитие массового общества в ближайшие годы. Это обуславливает актуальность анализа как самих теорий с выявлением их общего основания, так и наиболее распространенных типов классификаций.

Таким образом, в 70-80-е гг. термин информационное общество окончательно вошел в научный оборот. Данный термин характеризует общество с новым укладом социальной, политической, экономической и других сфер жизни. В таком обществе на первый план выходят наукоемкое производство, информационная и коммуникационная индустрия. Основой капитал предыдущих обществ - люди и предметы труда - вытесняются наукой и информационно-коммуникационными технологиями.

В заключении следует сказать, что понятие «информационное общество» прочно вошло в жизнь многих стран. Характерным для информационного общества является возрастание значимости информации, прав на доступ к ней, с одной стороны, и на защиту конфиденциальной информации - с другой