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«Russia & World: Scientific Dialogue»

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FORWORD

Dear readers!

This issue of the magazine is devoted mainly to the problems of intercivilizational and interreligious dialogue. With the participation of the editors of our journal, a series of international scientific discussions were held in February – April 2024. During these discussions, interesting, extraordinary, and sometimes controversial positions were expressed. We believe it is important to introduce our readers to ideas that may become the basis for further research and discussion.

Relations between Russia and the West are interpreted in an article by Czech analyst J.Campbell and Austrian expert G.Gustenau. Considering the complex issues of the Northern Military District in Ukraine, the situation in the South Caucasus, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the authors say that the spread of outbreaks of the third world war cannot be allowed, they speak about overcoming bipolar ideological confrontation, about the values of the future world order, the principles of freedom, justice, information objectivity, respectful attitudes towards other cultures and religions, about the inadmissibility of discrimination on national, racial or religious grounds.

The connection between geopolitical goals and religion is discussed in the article by the Belarusian scientist A.V.Slesarev “The Concept of the Intermarium and the Confessional Issue: Geopolitical Challenges to Belarusian Orthodoxy in XX – early XXI century”. Using the example of the history of Belarusian Orthodoxy, the author shows how religious institutions and representatives of emigration can become instruments for the implementation of geopolitical strategies, in particular the Polish foreign policy doctrine of the Intermarium. The author concludes that an attempt is being made to build a “church Intermarium” and modern interpretations of this doctrine are directly related to the policy of the Patriarchate of Constantinople in relation to the East Slavic territories associated with the Kyiv Metropolis of the 15th–17th centuries. The article contains unique materials about the anti-Soviet activities of the Belarusian emigration, its contradictions and splits.

The topic of interreligious dialogue in the European part of the world is continued in the article by the Serbian scientist A.Prašćević. The author examines the role of the Serbian Orthodox Church in relations with Muslims over

the last century (1920–2020). The article shows mechanisms for resolving contradictions and conflicts, dialogue between Christians and Muslims in difficult periods for Serbia. The author concludes that representatives of the Orthodox Church made a significant contribution to interfaith reconciliation and coexistence, despite the fact that Orthodox Christians were victims of occupation regimes with which the Muslim political elite collaborated. Attempts to provoke a negative reaction from the Serbian Orthodox Church towards Muslims did not bring results, since the Church has always preached that Muslims are brothers to the Orthodox.

The general principles of interreligious dialogue in the post-Soviet space are discussed in an article by Russian scientists R.N.Lunkin and S.V.Melnik. The authors analyze the reasons for the increased interest in religious ethics in international relations and politics. In conditions of crises and conflicts, new types of social inequalities, societies turned to religion for sympathy, compassion and support. Religion has proven to be in demand for the implementation of sustainable development goals, corporate social responsibility, in the field of ecology and in the labor market. Religious diversity correlates with the emerging multipolarity of the world, in which everyone protects their sovereignty, traditions, and culture. The authors of the article examine the advantages and challenges of religion, highlight the features of post-Soviet religious and political identity, and consider the prospects for the development of ethno-confessional relations. The idea of holding a meeting of religious leaders of the Eurasian region is being expressed.

Religion is currently one of the factors in Russia's dialogue even with unfriendly countries. Russian scientist V.V.Voronov comes to this conclusion, considering the profiles of the divergence of communication processes between Latvia and Russia. The author argues that Latvians and Russians are divided not so much by ethnic characteristics or the specifics of culture and traditions, but by issues of political history. A negative attitude towards the Russian state and Russians is characteristic not of the population, but of the political elite of Latvia, whose behavior is determined by the interests of the countries of the Anglo-Saxon world. Divergence (divergence) in the development paths of historically similar societies that have been in the same civilizational space for centuries is characteristic of foreign policy communications, relations towards Russia and Russians, culture, and mass media. Containment of the divergence of communication processes, to a large extent, occurs due to religious and interreligious communications.

Axiological aspects in relations between Russia and the world, problems of transformation of traditional spiritual

and moral values in the current international context are considered in the article of the Russian scientist O.G.Karpovich. Comparing Russian and Western approaches to the value foundations of the world order, the author proves Russia's global leadership in preserving universal, spiritual and moral values. In the context of an aggressive attack by postmodern supporters on religion, family, marriage, and school, Russia's authority is growing as a defender of traditional values typical to the vast majority of the inhabitants of our planet.

The civilizational approach to the study of international relations is presented in several articles by Russian scientists and scientists from Central Asian countries. Theoretical and methodological problems of studies of civilizations are analyzed in the article by the outstanding Russian scientist I.V.Sledzevsky “Conditions and Prospects of the Civilizations Dialogue in the Modern World: Symbiosis of Cultures (based on the History of the Central Asian Countries and their Interaction with Russia)” Considering the possibilities of a dialogue of civilizations in a global, trans-border cultural space, the author considers the communication-network approach and the concept of civilization as a network of broad communications to be promising, removing the attachment of civilizational communities to a territory or state and turning civilizations into open, inclusive, cultural and communication entities. From these positions, intercivilizational dialogue with Russia is viewed as a network of historical and modern interactions, and the Central Asian region is classified as a “civilization of encounters”, taking into account the long and successful symbiosis of different cultures and religions.

Post-Soviet civilizational transit in Central Asia is studied by Russian scientist R.S.Bobokhonov. The author analyzes how new ideological myths were formed on the basis of distorted ideas about history. In his opinion, civilizational transit in the countries of Central Asia takes place under strong state control of historical memory, under the influence of the ideology of state nationalism, which is manifested not only in political doctrines, but also in religious policy and scientific research. The article by R.S.Bobokhonov caused a discussion both in the editorial office of our journal and among reviewers, but it was recommended for publication, since the position of the scientist draws the attention of the scientific community to complex socio-cultural processes in the Central Asian region.

The views of famous Russian and Tajik scientists on intercivilizational dialogue in Central Asia are presented in the article by G.M.Maitdinova, V.I.Sazhin, A.M.Mamadazimov, A.E.Zagrebin. The authors of the article consider the Central Asian region as an intercivilizational hub where Persian and Hellenistic, Babylonian and Chinese, Indian and Mongolian, Arab and Turkic civilizations interacted and competed. The opinion is expressed that at the present stage, a dialogue of civilizations is possible on the basis of an understanding of the historical community of different peoples living in the region, their civilizational identity, based on traditional values. It is noted that the political culture of the Central Asian countries has developed its own democratic principles, which are not always identical to Western ones. Separately, the article discusses the need to rely on objective historical, ethnographic, archaeological data obtained during joint field expeditions of scientists from different countries. Scientists also drew attention to new platforms for intercivilizational dialogue with the participation of not only Russia and the post-Soviet countries of Central Asia, but also with the

participation of Afghanistan, Iran, China, and Pakistan.

We publish the articles on critical international issues: military-political cooperation with China, water shortages in a number of Central Asian countries, the oil crisis.

In the article “Prospects for the Integration of China and the CSTO”, Russian scientists S.V.Uyanaev and A.V.Bredikhin assess the prospects for cooperation in the field of countering the “three evils” and believe that the CSTO countries and China face similar challenges, therefore there is the possibility of situational connection China to the military operations of the CSTO. The authors come to the conclusion that the coordination of actions both of “CSTO + 1” and “CSTO + Shanghai Cooperation Organization” contributes to the prospects for interaction, which determines the possibility of the next stage in the development of the CSTO, including with the participation of Syria and the DPRK.

The article by the Russian scientist, famous expert A.M.Mustafabeyli examines the problem of water use in Central Asia in connection with the construction of the Afghan Kush-Tepa canal. The author talks about the shortage of water resources, the lack of fair access of people to safe water, sanitation services, and the inadequacy of technical and financial measures to create advanced systems for the use and conservation of water reserves. The author believes that these are global problems that cause the greatest damage to the states of the Global South, including Central Asia. The article analyzes the consequences of the construction of Kush-Tepa for the countries of Central Asia, and examines the positions of regional and extra-regional actors. It is noted that Central Asian countries in negotiations with Afghanistan insist on coordinating the mutual interests of the parties; Russia offers its services in solving problems related to the operation of the Kush-Tepa canal, and the United States is providing financial assistance to speed up the construction of the canal.

In the context of current Middle Eastern problems, the article by Russian scientist A.I.Yakovlev “The Oil Crisis of 1973: a Look after Half a Century” is interesting. The author draws attention to the reasons that prompted the Arab oil-exporting countries to use the “oil weapon” (the unresolved Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem) and to the crisis phenomena in the Western economy. Analyzing the consequences of the oil crisis, the author comes to the conclusion that the negative consequences for the West were short-term. In the long term, the crisis became a catalyst that accelerated structural and technological changes in the Western economy and in the global financial system. For the oil-producing countries of the Arab East, the oil crisis allowed them to increase the level of state income, create opportunities for accelerated socio-economic development, and increase the authority of these countries and OPEC in international relations.

Dear readers, I hope that the articles in this issue will arouse your interest and will be useful in your research. We thank our authors and look forward to new materials and scientific ideas for publication.

Sincerely,
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