

## POST-CAPITALIST FUTURE: HOPES AND CONCERNS

The Western modernism project, which had dominated the global scene for 300 years and was all-pervasive and unrivaled, is now entering the its final stage. The technogenic civilization, which was built on the achievements of fundamental science, has exhausted the capabilities of extensive development, and reached a critical phase at which it enters the stage of “malignant transformation.”<sup>1</sup> The inevitable arrival of a new civilizational paradigm is manifested in a broad spectrum of global crises – geopolitical, cultural, anthropological and ecological in nature (depletion of energy sources, climate change, growing violence, increasing risks of technogenic disasters, achievements of genetic engineering that put the human habitat and the biological nature of human beings at risk). All these developments result in the challenges to the model of progress applicable to the previous stage of technogenic development. The neoliberal model of capitalism, based on the principles of absolute freedom of entrepreneurship and maximizing profits at any cost, domineering financial speculation and consumerism as the preferred way of life, has contributed to destruction of all living things<sup>2</sup>. Growing global competition, increasing confrontation between the Western civilization and the Muslim world, fierce informational and hybrid warfare, exhaustion of non-renewable natural resources that fuel reproduction of the capitalist model – all these factors now present a threat to the very existence of humankind.

The global community is starting to understand the adverse effects of the capitalist model, which today stands in contradiction not only with the ethical base of world cultures but with the very aspiration of the humankind to survive. The leading scholars of the world today agree that the capitalism of today has been debilitated in the long term, even in the sense of its economic feasibility. Faced with social, economic, politi-

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1 Zhutikov, M.A. Taking Down the Civilization? \\Nash Sovremennik, 2009, No. 9, p. 213

2 Granin, Y. D. Clashes and Crises of Identities in the Globalized World. XVI International Likhachev Readings, May 19-21, 2016, St. Petersburg: SPHUTU, 2016. p. 387

cal, and geoclimatic catastrophes, the world today needs to dismantle the capitalist system and create a new one in its place. Its parameters, as of yet, are hard to predict.<sup>3</sup> The classical capitalism model, which constitutes the essence of the Western view of the civilization, has exhausted its adaptational potential. It no longer provides for proactive reflection on problems and no longer allows to develop transformation scenarios in accordance with key challenges of our time. As a result, the world has approached a “red line,” and the humankind now finds itself in transit to a new world order.

“The global transfer” of the civilization into the post-capitalist phase is related to the advancement of the *fourth industrial revolution* (which replaces the current third, informational revolution, which followed the agrarian and industrial revolutions of earlier eras). As a result, the humankind will inevitably transfer to the *Sixth Wave of Innovations*. The infrastructure of the new wave of innovations will be comprised of: total automation of production processes, increasing production effectiveness by many times and practically excluding human beings as workers; nanotechnologies which will create new technological chains for main types of industry; biotechnologies, which are based on achievements of molecular biology and genetic engineering; integrated high-speed transport systems. Rapidly growing expansion of cybernetic technologies (artificial intelligence, robot technologies, global information networks, additive 3D printers and cognitive technologies) will render comprehensive influences on the world as we know it today. A complex system of self-regulating production that reduces the area of human participation, modifies the main spheres of human activity and the key institutions of the modern society. The Cybernetic Revolution not only modifies significantly the institution of production and distribution but also leads to a revolution in the system of humanitarian (or anthropocentric) technologies. Already existing today are self-controlled systems of monitoring human behavior in the society and managing social processes. Smart technologies are getting more and more sophisticated, and their functional and

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3 Fursov, A. The End of an Epoch. [An Online Document] – Link: <http://www.razumei.ru/lib/article/1698>

communicative component is becoming more humanized (uses language, voice, gestures). Systems and analysis programs have been developed for managing large amounts of data. These modules are capable of not only analyzing the data but enter into independent interactive communication, created targeted specialized and personalized information.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution will inevitably transform the traditional capitalist model (with its greediness, relentless competition, the repressive character of relations with human beings, nature and culture) into a *post-capitalist system*. It signifies the beginning of the modern civilization's transfer to the new type of civilizational development, the contours of which are hardly visible today. "We are on the edge of a new evolutionary leap beyond the borders of capitalism."<sup>4</sup>

The new wave of innovations will radically change the structure of capitalist economy, deform its institutional base and destroy the "human factor" of business.

1. The energy system of the economy to come, which will have "zero reliance on hydrocarbons" and production technologies with "zero costs" will destroy the market infrastructure, deforming the traditional institutions of capitalist economy. The practice of measuring profits will be considerably changed as well: already today the information component of products is becoming more expensive than physical things of which they were made. The market is becoming "deeply uncapitalistic," with the cost of assets and the value of market exchange replacing the consumer value (usability of products and services). A dramatic increase in labor efficiency and elimination of traditional forms of competition will lower the importance of classical marketing strategies, making the marketing system useless in the long run. In essence, capitalism has been destroying the institution of private property, which has evolved over many centuries, and in the future is doomed to oblivion. The process of replacement of private property with

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4 Mason, P. The end of capitalism has already started. What's next? [An online document]. Link: <http://left.by/archives/6825>.

alternative models will inevitably lead to changes in morals, which had been based on principles of capitalist production and the corresponding way of life.

2. The change of the technological paradigm will come with the changes in forms and flows of financing. The investment strategies traditional for capitalist model will be replaced with new forms of joint “popular” investments, which will allow to lower economic dependence on state finances that had been the foundation of the golden age of the former technological wave.<sup>5</sup>

3. The expansion of information technologies that provides for the transition into the post-capitalist era will stimulate the process of forming the “joint-use economics,” alternative to capitalist economics, that denies the logic of the traditional capitalist market. The parallel world of “joint use economy” will become an alternative to the Sixth wave of innovation, that promises to reduce considerably the space of human participation in the production process. The new sources and resources of post-capitalist wealth (the currency of post-capitalism) will be ownership of information, which does not belong to anyone; free time, free things and network activities of the population, and peer-to-peer computer networks, in which all the participants will be equal. Network interaction will generate a new type of welfare, which will be founded on issues beyond the classical production and the market.

The transfer of the modern civilization to its post-capitalist phase will be inevitably accompanied with dubious consequences.

1. The new model of economy, which will dramatically decrease human participation in the process, will change the human role in public production. The Sixth wave of innovation will rid human beings not only of their producer status but of the consumer status as well – in its present understanding. The human civilization will move

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<sup>5</sup> Perez, K. Technological revolutions and financial capital: Dynamics of bubbles and periods of prosperity. / Trans. from English. – Moscow: Delo, 2011, p. 49

into the trans-modern epoch, incompatible with the world of today, the time of the so-called singular transfer of reality, into a different post-human state<sup>6</sup>.

2. The technological revolution in main spheres of production will inevitably destroy the current social structure of the society due to large-scale unemployment and considerable narrowing of the middle class, which will get dissolved in the crowds of “state dependents” who will be surviving on fixed state base payments, which will guarantee decent living conditions without any obligations or requirements, independent of whether someone will be employed or not. As labor will move away from the center of human activity, and human beings will become fully free of any such obligations, their life strategies will change dramatically and lead to social unrest in the future.<sup>7</sup> The new model of the civilization based on the Sixth wave of innovations will squeeze out the traditional mechanisms of solidarity and mutual assistance, give up on traditional basic values and moral principles that regulate the life of the society.

3. A side effect of the cybernetic revolution will be the intellectual degradation of most people – saving technologies, on the one hand, will squeeze large numbers of unskilled workers from the world market, and, on the other hand, make the system of large-scale vocational education irrational and excessive. A very narrow segment of highly qualified specialists will be left to service the production sector.

Russia has every chance to take a leading role in the post-capitalist world. Firstly, this is due to the fact that Russians are genetically repulsed by the greedy and anti-humane spirit of capitalism. Capitalism that was born of the European civilization was not so much an “economic” as a “cultural fact.” The capitalist model required a signifi-

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<sup>6</sup> Kutyrev V.A. Let's Give Everything to Machines!... Us Included? //Global World: Systemic Changes, Challenges and Contours of the Future: 17th International Likhachev Scientific Conference, May 18-20, 2017. – St. Petersburg: SPbUHSS, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> This future may become a significant factor in consolidated global protests in the future. On the one hand, millions of people will get to understand that they were sold a dream which is unrealistic. And they respond with anger and move back to national forms of capitalism, which will tear the world to pieces. On the other hand, after creating “millions of networked people, information-based capitalism has triggered the engine of historic changes: an educated and networked human being” (Paul Mason).

cant revision of the basic notions of Christian anthropology. The deeply rooted contradiction between the Western civilization and Russian culture is obvious: Ever since the Renaissance European culture has been shifting towards a pagan version of anthropology, affirming strength, power, wealth, pleasure, autonomy, and success as top priorities in life. The worldview matrix of the Russian civilization is diametrically opposite to that of capitalism. It has traditionally relied on a thoroughly non-capitalist value system: social justice here serves as the single most important condition for social solidarity; other factors include universalism and supra-ethnic identity; passionate service and the desire for universal unity. Secondly, Russia is capable of becoming one of the leading economies of the world due to the global character of the *fourth industrial revolution*, which changes the composition of leading companies, countries and regions, assuring competitiveness of countries capable of overtaking others along the trajectory of the new wave of innovations, and invest in the components of production at earlier stages of its development. And, conversely, due to non-linearity of the process of distribution of new technologies, those who are late to join the process will have to pay more and more with every passing year to gain access, which will be closed as the new wave of innovation reaches the phase of maturity.”<sup>8</sup> The key condition for Russia’s transfer to the “economy of leadership” in the current situation is the ideology of fast innovative development, which can activate the nation’s efforts and guarantee consolidated participation of all socially responsible classes of the society in this process.

Russia today is at the stage of crisis: the bifurcation point that may lead to either the country’s demise or a chance at survival, transformation (from the Ancient Greek *κρίσις* – solution, a turning point). The crisis situation is extremely sensitive to constructive ideas and creativity, it is ready to require innovative projects that will guarantee an economic breakthrough. The extreme instability of the system in this situation will lower the significance of impact and increase the role of concentrated and targeted “injec-

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<sup>8</sup>Glazyev, S. Which innovations will guarantee proactive development of Russian economy. [An Online Document]. Link: <https://izborsk-club.ru/14936>.

tion,” which will transfer the system into a new quality. This injection in our circumstances will need to focus on the human capital of Russia; investing into and protecting the human capital will be not only a major task but also a “rescue mission of the state and all progressive forces in the society.”