

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
CENTER FOR CIVILIZATIONAL AND REGIONAL STUDIES

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"HIERARCHY AND POWER IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATIONS"

June 15 - 18, 2000, Moscow

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in co-operation with The Institute of Cultural Anthropology of the Russian State University for the Humanities is organizing in June 2000 International Conference "HIERARCHY AND POWER IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATIONS".

The Conference objective is to discuss the processes of the politogenesis in their regional and temporary variation. This discussion, in its turn, could and should promote the advancement of the understanding of the general trends and mechanisms of sociocultural evolution, the interrelation and interaction of social, cultural and political dimensions in the society, and further development of general methodology for anthropology, cultural studies, sociology, political science &c.

Until recently it was considered self-evident that just the formation of the state marked the end of the primitive epoch and alternatives to the state did not actually exist. All the stateless societies were considered pre-state ones, standing on the single evolutionary staircase squarely below the states. Nowadays postulates about the state as the only possible form of political and sociocultural organization of the post-primitive society, about a priori higher level of development of a state society in comparison with any non-state one do not seem so undeniable as a few years ago. It has become evident that the non-state societies are not necessarily less complex and efficient. The problem of existence of non-state but not primitive (i.e. principally non- and not prestate) societies, alternatives to the state as the allegedly inevitable post-primitive form of the sociopolitical organization deserves attention.

The example of alternatives to the state reveals that it is possible to achieve the same level of complexity allowing societies to solve similar problems, on essentially differing pathways of evolution which appeared simultaneously with human society and increased in quantity alongside with its social-and-cultural advancement. This fundamental alternativity of social evolution could be observed throughout the whole length of human history from non-egalitarian and egalitarian early primitive associations to the totalitarian and democratic polities of the 20th century and is already found in pre-human "egalitarian" or "despotic" primates groups.

The choice of an evolutionary direction which a society follows is to a considerable extent a result of its all-round adaptation to the environment, not only the natural but sociohistorical one as well. The "type of civili-

zational development" seems to be one of the key notions, capable to help to reveal essential backgrounds of societies and systems of them, civilizations.

The following two main sections will be held:

1) "Civilizational Models of the Complex Sociopolitical Organization". Convenors: Dr. Dmitri M. Bondarenko, Prof. Andrey V. Korotayev.

2) "Ethological Basis of Hierarchy and Power in Human Society". Convenor: Prof. Marina L. Butovskaya.

In addition to the two main sections, the following panels will be organized: Religion, Status and Leadership: Patterns of Influence in Islam and Christianity (Convenor: Prof. Andrey V. Korotayev), Power and Secresy (Convenor: Prof Victor V. Bocharov), Hierarchy and Power among the Nomads (Convenor: Dr. Nikolai N. Kradin), The Civil Society Formation and Political Culture (Convenor: Prof. Igor V. Sledzevski), Law, Knowledge and Power in (Post)colonial and (Post)socialist Anthropology (Convenors: Dr. Nikolai Abashin, Dr. Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov, Dr. Vladimir O. Bobrovnikov), Local Models of Politogenesis in the Pre-industrial World (Convenor: Dr. Dmitri M. Bondarenko).

Deadline for paper proposals: April 1, 1999.

If you would like to take part in the Conference, please, let us know your full name, title, institutional affiliation, full mail and e-mail addresses, and fax #.

As soon as we receive your abstract, we will send you the list of documents necessary for us in Moscow to support your visa application process in the Russian Consulate or Embassy in your country.

The registration fee (\$100 which includes the culture program, Conference book of abstracts, reception, coffee-breaks, &c.) payment, is to be paid on the spot. Accommodation (at the Russian State University for the Humanities Hall of Residence) is \$50/35 per night. Estimated meal and other daily expences are c. \$10.

Prof. Igor V. Sledzevski, the Conference Co-Convenor

Dr. Dmitri M. Bondarenko, the Conference Vice-Convenor

Mr. Dmitri D. Beliaev, Ms. Veronika V. Usachyova, the Conference Secretaries

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