# In this Issue

Modern political science, comparative political studies, as well as all other scientific disciplines, is the result of a fairly long and complex civilizational, cultural, value, economic, social and historical development. During the successive change of different stages, specific paradigms of political science research were formed, bearing the imprint of the periods of development of political science that created them.

The main task of finding the optimal ratio of different political science paradigms, finding the possibility of their effective interaction is relevant primarily because the political science community has changed the idea of what the relationship between different understandings and descriptions of political reality should be in the system of comparative research of social sciences and humanities.

Political globalization, the logic of economic and technological convergence of states and regions of the world, not only geographically distant from each other, but also separated due to historical reasons, differences in cultural and political traditions, such as power, ideology, forms a universal pattern of interaction of heterogeneous principles, ideological tolerance, constructive cooperation.

The growing complexity of the tasks facing countries and ruling elites in the 21st century, the need to combine in political reality seemingly opposite and contradictory goals. This implies the strengthening of political and economic sovereignty and successful integration into the global economic space, maintaining their own political tradition and bringing political institutions in line with the model of political regimes. This, in turn, requires a level of political science reflection corresponding to this complexity, which can no longer remain within the limits of an alternative approach in the field of methodology, but, on the contrary, needs to move to a higher level associated with the achievement of an effective synthesis of the established research paradigms.

In modern political life, in the countries of the Eastern Partnership of the EU in particular, there are processes of such a degree of complexity that it precludes an exhaustive understanding of them on the basis of any one paradigm. An example is the slowdown in European integration and the democratization of political institutions in the context of military and political conflicts: a comparative study of this situation, issues of preventing war and maintaining peace within the framework of the institutional paradigm encounters difficulties due to the fundamental orientation of institutionalism to the study of informal and formal institutions. In this regard, there is a growing need for political science to revise its methodological, paradigmatic foundations and to find ways to implement this synthesis. On the other hand, the existing paradigms retain the ability and need for further theoretical development and, within their own limits, the potential for a productive solution of emerging theoretical and practical problems. There is also a need for liberation, purification of political science from obsolescent concepts and theories that are close to modernity and do not meet its challenges. All these considerations testify to the current relevance of methodological problems for political science in general and the problems of interaction of methodological paradigms in particular.

In 'Turkey as a transport hub: a vision strategy for integrating regional infrastructures and services', Hayk Gabrielyan analyzes the growing regional competition of Turkey in

the transport services market in the current realities, and also reveals new business conditions (globalization, sanctions, digitalization of the economy and logistics and etc.). The complexity and multidimensionality of the tasks facing the integration of regional infrastructure and services, the transformation of the external business environment determines the need to coordinate the economic interests of the participants in the logistics chain of cargo delivery, not only at the stage of the production process, but also when planning the direction of the company's development. In this regard, in order to maintain a competitive position, transport companies need to optimize the strategic planning process, which will ensure the adoption of sound management decisions. An analysis of approaches and tools for choosing strategic alternatives for the development of Turkey as a transport hub showed that at the moment transport companies prefer traditional tools that do not reflect industry specifics, which reduces the efficiency of the planning system. The foregoing determines the need to change the approach to strategic planning and the development of scientific and practical tools, taking into account the shift in emphasis towards meeting the interests of all business partners, including service consumers, which determines the relevance of the topic of this scientific study.

In his article 'Geopoliticization of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the Shadow of the Madrid Principles: A Look at the Past', Garik Poghosyan analyzes the difficulties of the process of resolving the ethnic and political conflict, based on the complexity of the conflict itself, its historical roots, the intransigence of the positions of the parties. However, international law itself creates a kind of conflict when it enshrines, on the one hand, the right of nations to self-determination, and, on the other, enshrines the recognition and respect for the territorial integrity of states. The competition of these norms leads to war, as well as to difficulties in resolving ethnic and political conflicts. In this regard, the problematic field of this article is determined by the following questions: 1) what are the historical and political origins of the ethnic and political conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh; 2) how effective is the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group in resolving this conflict; 3) how effective are the efforts of international governmental organizations in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the post-war situation from November 10, 2020.

In 'Political disinformation and hate speech on Facebook: the attitude of young Armenians towards modern cyber challenges', Viktorya Melkonyan comparatively analyzes the roles and specifics of disinformation and hate speech on social media in the contemporary political process. This is due, in particular, to the permanent development of the social networking system as a combination of the latest technologies, due to which they are turning into a key tool for transmitting information and influencing young people and large masses of people. Political information is found on Facebook and other social networks, on all available Internet resources and communication platforms. Thus, a huge number of Internet users become participants in political processes, and they are not always able to recognize themselves as such. As a result, new problems arise related to the circulation of political processes on the Internet, as well as questions about the possibilities of managing these processes. In the context of the growing role of politics in social networks, there is, in particular, the need to analyze the place, role and technologies of political manipulation as one of the important tools for shaping public opinion on the Internet, its influence on the consciousness and political activity of

participants in Internet communication. The relevance of the formation and application of political manipulation technologies on the Internet is also due to the rich experience of using them on Facebook and other social networks.

In the article 'Political science perceptions of post-soviet civic participation: reconciliation steps or an attempt at imitation?' Arnak Sargsyan examines the social and political changes in modern post-Soviet society, as a result of which democratic activity has received a new opportunity for development. Civil society organizations contribute to the emergence of new forms of civic engagement. In various spheres of public life, there is an increase in the involvement of citizens and social groups in solving urgent problems. One of the features of civic activity is the increasing use of the network principle for its organization. Network mobilization of the population in civil movements effectively influences the achievement of results and allows private initiatives to reach a new level. The network organization attracts by the presence of informal horizontal connections, openness, as well as the problems of movement. Many social movements are networked and often touch upon issues that concern the broad masses of the population. Such movements are formed in the field of human rights protection, education, ecology, political and social protest, and others.

In 'Rethinking the non-resilience of trade unions in Armenia: How to protect social rights and freedoms of workers?', Ashot Aleksanyan and Arusyak Aleksanyan analyze the mechanisms for protecting the labor rights of workers, changes in the social and economic structure of the Armenian society, as well as the reform of labor legislation associated with this. With the transition to market relations, trade union movements have weakened in Armenia, non-resilient trade unions have appeared and the number of violations of labor and social rights of workers has increased. At the same time, the construction of a welfare state is impossible without civiliarchic guarantees for the exercise of the labor rights of workers and forms of their protection. Since the beginning of the economic reforms, cases of violations by employers of the right of workers to associate have become more frequent. In some organizations, employers attempt to restrict or create a managed trade union that workers are forced to join under threat of dismissal. In this regard, the activity of trade unions as an organization of workers, designed to protect their rights and interests, is relevant. Social partnership in the sphere of labor acts as a mechanism for democratic coordination of the interests of workers, employers and public authorities, therefore, in addition to the Labor Code of Armenia, international obligations for the implementation of social partnership were adopted, in which the mechanism of civiliarchic regulation of labor relations is being developed. This mechanism is already being used in many enterprises and organizations, which made it possible to study and generalize certain practical experience necessary to analyze the effectiveness of this mechanism, and revealed problematic points in the current Armenian legislation on social dialogue and partnership.

In 'On the issues of social movements in Armenia: Civic influence or a step towards democratization?' Olga Azatyan analyzes the features of political transformations in the context of the transition to a democratic structure of the Armenian society, which is of scientific and practical importance. The formal proclamation of democratic freedoms and principles in the Armenian political life has not yet led to the real strength of democratic institutions, the strengthening of legal guarantees and norms, both at the

social, government, cultural and economic levels. Therefore, there is a need for a political science study of this situation, to identify its qualitative features, in a comparative scientific analysis of the Armenian and European ways of democratization. In the future, this research can contribute to the effective development of civic consciousness, the democratization of society, the strengthening of the legislative power, and, ultimately, to the civiliarchic realization of the rights and freedoms of citizens. The study of the democratization experience of European countries is relevant not only because of the special position of civil society organizations and movements in Armenia, but also in connection with the importance of using the experience of establishing democracy in European countries, that is, for a comparative study of similar systemic, structural and cultural features.

In his article 'Between Fear and Fascination: The Soviet Union in the Modern Age', Jörg Baberowski comparatively analyzes such phenomena that in our time are still a constant subject of consideration in the United States, in European and post-Soviet countries, and even within the EU, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN Security Council. From the moment of the collapse of the Russian Empire, the end of the October Revolution, the end of the First and Second World Wars, and up to the present time, there are still questions on the agenda of how to build a policy in relation to the hotbeds of tension, whether they should be appeased and what should be the limits of such appeasement. For a long time, these problems were solved in different ways. Sharp discussions on the topic of appeasement expediency, both in previous decades and at the present moment, inevitably accompany the process of resolving conflict situations in the post-Soviet, European and international arena. The subject of the article is the formation of political and philosophical discourse, considering new conceptual approaches to the scientific consideration of political history. The author's attention is also focused on the reconstruction of the struggle of hostile social groups and their leaders, considering the processes of the formation of revolutionary and the consolidation of social groups, as well as on the manifestations of the revolutionary struggle and the actions of the authorities to suppress them. The scientific significance of studying the problem is enhanced by the need for a systematic assessment of the events related to the revolutions of 1917, the collapse of the socialist system in the Soviet Union and the established ideological pluralism, which allows the author to review many events of the pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet times.

In 'Freedom and Happiness: Does freedom make people happy?' Simon Clarke analyzes the interrelated factors of freedom and happiness, that is, one of the most significant in the history of world philosophy. In the history of political philosophy, the concept of freedom tells us that almost every philosopher, thinker and even political figure has defined it. The different interpretation of the concept of 'freedom' is one of the main differences in the author's philosophical concepts, philosophical currents, directions of thought and schools. The problem of freedom in the modern world affects the life of every person; freedom is what every person now deals with, without even suspecting it or denying it. The problem of freedom has become one of the most topical topics for discussion due to global changes, and the consequences of which still affect all aspects of human life. This article allows the reader to understand the transformation of utopian discourse in a historical perspective and compare these changes with the

change of vector from utopian to dystopian. In addition, the historical method allows us to single out the English utopian tradition from the world tradition and analyze its formation, development and transformation, taking into account genre and contextual features in a historical perspective. The axiological approach allowed the author to determine the place of freedom in the hierarchy of values of utopia and dystopia and to reflect on the difference in utopian and dystopian approaches to understanding the ideals of society.

In this volume of the journal there are three reviews of books in which the authors focus on the dominant trends in cultural, civilizational, economic, social and political transformations in the context of the search for a sustainable development model. In the era of globalization, the transformation of political systems and regimes of different countries is becoming increasingly associated with the formation of a multipolar world. Naturally, it is also of interest to discuss the dynamics of innovative development, which is increasingly demanding the relevant political regimes of polyarchy and civiliarchy as new phenomena of 'smart power' and 'soft power'. A significant place is given to the analysis of a socially oriented approach to management, which makes it possible to expand the managerial tools for influencing transformation processes using the resources of CSOs, social and human capital, the importance of which increases in connection with the transition to an innovative type of development.

These book reviews are for everyone who is interested in the problems of social and political transformation in the OSCE countries, the consequences of the ongoing reforms in the Caucasus region, as well as new technologies for maintaining the dynamic balance of the political system of European countries, building constructive interaction between public authorities, political parties and CSOs in the context of populism, ethnic and territorial contradictions in Europe.

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