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GLOBALIZATION AND INTERACTION OF CIVILIZATIONS

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Foreword

THE AXIAL PROBLEM OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Each historical period has its axial problem, stating the main contradiction of such period. Such a challenge for the second half of the 20th century was a confrontation between two world systems, which nearly ended in a fire of a nuclear war. In the first half of the 21st century against the background of increasing globalization and establishing - through a series of crises - post-industrial society the interaction of civilizations of the fourth generation becomes the axial problem. The future of all humanity, its fate depends on the solution of this problem.

Not by chance the challenges of globalization and interaction of civilizations, to prevent their self-destructive clash, settlement of local conflicts between civilizations have attracted close attention of scientists and the public, caused a wave of publications. The United Nations declared 2001 the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. In November 2001, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution on "Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations." However, in the approaches to these problems are still many unclear and contradictory, a common concept and long-term strategy have not yet been developed.

The author of this book has set a challenging goal - to offer his vision of the content and solution prospects for this axial problem of the 21st century. Following the characteristics of complex and contradictory trends of globalization he examines the key problems of interaction between civilizations in six aspects: demographic, natural and ecological, technological, economic, geo-political and socio-cultural. In terms of these aspects there are considered scenarios for the future of Russia and the Eurasian civilization undergoing a painful crisis of deep transformation. The main idea of the book: the growing threat of the clash of civilizations is suicidal for humanity, not having for its self-preservation and development of other way-out, except the development of a strategy and mechanisms for dialogue, cooperation and partnership among civilizations and nations.

A separate chapter sets forth the author's concept on ensuring global sustainable development for account of deductions from the world rent, anti-rent and quasi-rent that was discussed at the roundtable meeting of the Civil Forum of the world summit on sustainable development in Johannesburg (August 2002).

The methodology proposed in this book is based on a new paradigm of social science, the foundations of which were laid by Pitirim Sorokin and Nikolai Kondratieff, Vladimir Vernadsky and Alexander Chizhevskiy, Alexander Bogdanov and Nikolai Berdyaev, Joseph Schumpeter and Fernand Braudel, Arnold Toynbee and Alvin Toffler. Their ideas were developed in the modern school of Russian cyclicism and in the recently published works of a number of foreign researchers. The outlines of the future society, prospects and ways to solve the axial problem of the 21st century are gradually taking shape from a confrontation of opinions and synthesis of new trends of social development.

The author did not aim to do final conclusions, unambiguous recommendations. It was important to identify and put forward for discussion the key contradictions of globalization and

the interaction of civilizations that as a result of deliberations and discussions to find effective solutions to non-standard issues that have arisen before humanity experienced a shock of the sudden transformation of the world.

The book offered to the readers is one of the works of the Pitirim Sorokin-Nikolai Kondratieff Institute established in 1999. The first edition of the book appeared in 2001, and it was fast sold. The book was significantly revised and enlarged for the second edition subject to new ideas and statistical matters: the outputs of discussions of the issues and outlooks for dialogue among civilizations at the 4th International Kondratieff Conference “Dialogue and Interaction of Civilizations of the East and the West: Alternatives for the 21st Century” (Moscow, May 2001), Russian-Iranian International Symposium “Dialogue of Civilizations: Historical Experience and Prospects for the 21st Century” (Moscow, February 2002), at other international conferences, it is partly updated the statistical database, it is included a few new sections on the rent sources of for global sustainable development, the phenomenon of depopulation, the fate of civilization and models of globalization, dynamics of the system of values, integralism as the core of the paradigm of social science in the 21st century.

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