

**THE NEED FOR A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO THE  
STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY**

**Abstract:** This article discusses the need for a philosophical approach to the study of social development. The author analyzes the main factors of social development.

**Key words:** society, development, the human factor, science, technique

Society is a dynamic, constantly evolving system. The development of society is influenced by many factors, among them it is customary to single out the objective factors of the development of society, those that do not directly depend on the will and conscious activity of people and social groups, and the subjective factors of the development of society, depending on the will, interest and conscious activity of a person and various social groups.

The most important objective factor in the development of society is nature. So, the most ancient civilizations arose on the banks of the great rivers (they are called “river civilizations”). However, the natural factor can contribute to death. A vivid example of the influence of the natural factor on the development and death of civilizations is the Minoan civilization, the flourishing of which was facilitated by more favorable natural conditions, and the death was accelerated by a volcanic eruption.

The natural factor gives impetus to the technological factor - in favorable conditions of the tropics, hunting and gathering satisfy basic human needs, but changing conditions lead to the need to search for new technologies - ways to meet human needs. Agriculture, cattle breeding, handicraft, trade appear. New forms of life support require the complication of the organization of society, the improvement of culture. Some scientists attribute the emergence of states to the need for massive irrigation works, for example, in the Nile Valley.

The technological factor can contribute to the rapid development of society, demographic growth, due to which there are more opportunities for subjective factors to manifest themselves. The main subjective factors in the development of society are the masses, social groups and historical figures. All factors can contribute to both the progress and regression of society.

In modern sociology, historical progress is associated with the process of modernization, i.e., the transition from a traditional society to an industrial one, and then to a post-industrial one.

Based on the foregoing, we can say that the main criterion for progress is the degree of freedom that society provides to the individual for the maximum development of its capabilities. However, moving forward does not exclude return movements, regression. Thus, the development of labor tools, high labor productivity are obvious evidence of progress, but they have given rise to global environmental and raw material problems. The conveniences of city life are accompanied by numerous "diseases of urbanization". Progress is inconsistent. The inconsistency of progress lies in the fact that progress in one area of public life may be accompanied by, or even be the cause of, regression in another area of public life.

Regression is the idea of such a development of society, when it becomes less complex, developed, cultural than it was.

From Weber's point of view, the source and driving force behind the development of society is the Protestant ethic: a person must work to become God's chosen one for salvation.

There are many definitions of the term "society". In a narrow sense, society can be understood as a certain group of people united for communication and joint performance of any activity, as well as a specific stage in the historical development of a people or country. In a broad sense, society is a part of the material world isolated from nature, but closely connected with it, which

consists of individuals with will and consciousness, and includes ways of interacting people and forms of their unification.

In philosophical science, society is characterized as a dynamic self-developing system, i.e., such a system that is capable of seriously changing, at the same time retaining its essence and qualitative certainty. The system is defined as a complex of interacting elements. In turn, an element is some further indecomposable component of the system that is directly involved in its creation.

To analyze complex systems, like the one that society represents, scientists have developed the concept of "subsystem". Subsystems are called "intermediate" complexes, more complex than the elements, but less complex than the system itself.

It is customary to consider the spheres of public life as subsystems of society, which are usually divided into four:

The economic sphere is in many respects defining in relation to other spheres. It includes industrial and agricultural production, the relationship of people in the production process, the exchange of products of production activity, their distribution.

The social sphere includes layers and classes, class relations, nations and national relations, the family, family and domestic relations, educational institutions, medical care, and leisure.

The political sphere of the life of society includes state power, political parties, relations of people associated with the use of power to realize the interests of certain social groups.

The spiritual sphere covers science, morality, religion, art, scientific institutions, religious organizations, cultural institutions, and the corresponding activities of people.

So, we have identified four main areas of modern society. They are closely related and influence each other. For example, if the country's economy

does not fulfill its tasks, does not provide the population with a sufficient amount of goods and services, does not expand the number of jobs, then the standard of living drops sharply, there is not enough money to pay salaries and pensions, unemployment appears, and crime grows. In other words, success in one, economic, area affects well-being in another, social. The economy also influences politics. When the economic reforms in Russia in the early 1990s led to a sharp stratification of the population, i.e. the emergence of very rich people at one extreme and very poor people at the other, political parties oriented towards communist ideology became more active.

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