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REVIEW OF *SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND AGENTS UNDER GLOBALIZATION: EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN TENDENCIES*, EDITED BY NINA SLANEVSKAYA, ASTERION, ST. PETERSBURG 2008.

The structure-agency relation is, perhaps, one of the most important theoretical issues showing our concern over the limits of human agency. It is also a fruitful epistemological approach allowing researchers to understand better the interaction between active agents and constraining or enabling structural forces within the recurring patterns of behaviour which form new systems superseding the old ones. Such new tendencies need a thorough examination and study.

This collection of articles contributed by the authors from Russia, France and Poland reveals different perspectives and ways of thinking which can be valuable for getting a deeper insight into the processes of globalization. The articles deal with different aspects of social life and present a wide range of problems connected with globalization in Russia, France, Poland and other European countries.

The book was initiated by the Russian research group CEDIMES-St.Petersburg within the French international research network of the CEDIMES Institute.

This book contains 11 articles written by authors from Russia, France and Poland.

The first article *Globalization, Uncertainty and Decision Making: Cognition Also Matters* has been written by Bernard Cadet. In this paper the author confirms that the term globalization is usually employed to denote a recent trend of standardization and the homogenization of economic policies in market economy but it is also connected, though to a lesser degree, with the designation of recent cultural and social practices spreading throughout the world. The term is often applied to various policies (in production, commerce, management, culture, etc) worked out by an organization (usually by a transnational company) which acts in the complex context of economic competition and instability. A current practice of decision making is to collect information from several sources, to think in terms of system and organization, and then to globalize all that data in order to lessen the risk of mistakes and inappropriate choices. In this paper the author's intention is to explore the relationship that exists between uncertainty, decision making and globalization within the framework of cognitive science.

The second article *Globalization and Synergistic Philosophy of History* has been written by Vladimir Bransky and Svyatoslav Pozharsky.

The synergistic philosophy of history consists of three parts which answer three main questions: how, in general, self-organization takes place (phenomenology of

self-organization), why it takes place (essenceology of self-organization) and where it eventually leads (eschatology of self-organization). As the basic concept social synergetics is a dissipative structure which can exist only if there is a constant exchange of some substance, energy and information between the structure and environment. *Phenomenology* of self-organization can be reduced to two alternative processes: hierarchization and de-hierarchization. In this paper the authors construct a *Synergistic Model of Global Progress (SMGP)* on the basics of the conception of synergistic historicism.

The third article *Moral Agency under Globalization has been* written by Nina Slanevskaya.

The increased intensity of international relations nowadays demands common understanding of this world, or in other words, working out common moral criteria for the formation of a global society. Such cosmopolitan moral values need philosophical foundations and scientific proof based on empirical finding which is necessary for the validation of scientific discoveries in the scientific community. In this paper N.Slanevskaya suggests a *philosophical foundation based on Kant's moral principles*. As far as science validation is concerned, she suggests *the finding of cognitive neuroscience related to innate moral thinking*.

The fourth article has been written by Ali Smida. In the article *Public Decision Maker's Pathologies and Remedies of a Prospective Approach*, the author examines the references of the public decision making in France, diagnoses certain types of pathological behaviour of a public decision maker which seems to be connected with these references, and finally, proposes as a possible remedy some attitude leading to a prospective approach.

The fifth paper *Globalization: What is Going on in Practice and How it is Explained Theoretically* has been written by Gerard Lafay. In the first part of this article the author examines how enterprises have made globalization work. In the second part the author considers theories offering an explanation for this phenomenon. In the conclusion G. Lafay confirms that in the field of economy nothing is more dangerous than confining liberalism to the only possible thought which, in this case, would take the relay baton from Marxist dogmatism. According to Lafay, now we should more appreciate the guarding principle of liberalism which is pushing up to the new development of economic theory.

The sixth article has been written by Leon Olszewski. In the article *Central Europe in the Globalized World of the 21st Century* the author presents changes in the economy of Eastern and Central Europe Countries in the second part of the 20th century. At the beginning of the 21st century the CEECs face new challenges for economic and social development. Under globalization they are only partially able to decide on their future as a whole. The extensive reform of their economic systems takes place in very difficult circumstances of dynamically changing global economy. In conclusion L. Olszewski confirms that the membership in the EU is a good chance for CEECs to develop their economies.

The seventh article *Global Hierarchy and Centralization of the Economy of Russia* has been written by Dmitry Miropolsky.

The Russian economy has always tended to centralization. D. Miropolsky constructs a Double Sector Structural Model (DSSM) and he uses this model for studying the economic centralization of Russia. In this paper the author considers the possibilities of solving Russia's dilemma of centralization-decentralization in the globalization market economy.

The eighth paper *Deviance in Russia under Globalization* has been written by Yakov Gilinsky.

The paper analyzes deviant phenomena in Russia such as criminality, alcoholism, narcotism, human trafficking, terrorism and suicide influenced by global processes. The aim of this paper is to show the interdependence between deviance and the process of globalization and also the globalization of certain deviant phenomena and to draw attention to the inadequate social management of such phenomena. In conclusion it reveals that the process of globalization has the greatest effect upon such types of deviance as organized crime, drug addiction, terrorism and human trafficking. The strategy of internationalization of social control has become the response to the globalization of deviant phenomena.

The ninth paper *Russia's Human Resources in Science in the Context of Globalization* has been written by Nelly Didenko and Andrei Petrpvsky.

For the last 10 years there have been great changes in the human resources of Russia science. In this paper changes in the scientific potential and intellectual capital of Russia's scientific community are analyzed in the context of globalization, in particular, the dynamics of the intellectual human capital of Russia in science for the last ten years. Russia is slowly becoming a member of the international scientific community via international programmes, grants, reception of foreign scientists, business trips and so on. The very criteria of the quality of research and the evaluation of a scientific research organization in Russia have changed due to the interaction with foreign colleagues.

The tenth paper *Transborder Cooperation in Modern Russia as a Result of Globalization Challenges* has been written by Nickolay Mezhevich.

This paper consists of four parts and considers the following questions :

- the borders of nation-states under globalization,
- Russian and European regionalism: common and particular,
- external factors in the regional development of Russia,
- transborder cooperation and the new borders of Russia.

The increasing tendency of interdependence of domestic and external policies is accompanied by the integration of the economies of neighbouring countries. The observed increase of permeability of borders and the sharp growth and intensity of the volumes of capital, information services and human resources flow make transborder cooperation an issue of current relevance.

The eleventh article *The Main Principles and Directions of Reforms in the Electrical Power Industry in Russia and Other Countries of the World* has been written by Sergei Alexandrov.

This paper systemizes the main premises, principles and contents of the reforms in the electrical power industry in Russia through the prism of earlier reforms in the monopolistic sectors of Western economies. The paper begins with a presentation of the main factors of change in the market of electrical power industry as a former natural monopoly and considers the possibilities for the introduction of differentiated state regulation. The second part of the paper develops the analysis of the three above-mentioned directions of state policy for creating a restructuring model. Finally the conclusion sums up the basic features of the reformation process in electrical power industry.

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In conclusion, I would like to say that the reviewed book provides a valuable comparative study of the structure-agency relation under globalization, in particular, in Russia, France, Poland and other European countries and as such it can be fully recommended for specialists of social life, teachers and students of this research area.