

Contents

Introduction

The global civilisation in the global ecosystem. Old-new state functions 13

PART ONE

UNITY IN PLURALITY. THE GLOBAL CIVILISATION – PROBLEMS OF THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH STRATEGY

Chapter 1. Reflection about the human society as an integrating system 35

- 1.1. The notion of a dynamic whole – nature, economy, state, culture as a social life structure 35
- 1.2. The ecological perspective: the natural environment of the global civilisation 45
- 1.3. The economic perspective: adaptation to ecosystem through labour and technology 52
- 1.4. The political science perspective: the nation state and global governance 62
- 1.5. The cultural perspective: confrontations or meetings of local civilisations 72

Chapter 2. Transdisciplinary strategy of researching the global civilisation – historicisation of social sciences 77

- 2.1. A dispute about the sources of the historical dynamics: between structural determination and subjective creativity..... 77
- 2.2. Theoretical inspirations for the transdisciplinary strategy – neoclassicism 87
- 2.3. A structure of knowledge about the global system – the concept of parallel and polycentric evolution 102
- 2.4. Research questions and hypotheses: indicators of civilisational convergence in the past five millenniums 105

PART TWO

NEOLITHIC TRANSFORMATION – ORIGIN OF AGRARIAN CIVILISATIONS

Chapter 3. One species – many populations. Great intercontinental migrations.... 123

- 3.1. Standing up on one's feet. The Miocene crisis – anthropogenesis 123
- 3.2. The pressure of the Pleistocene ice age – the anatomically modern humans..... 127
- 3.3. In search of food niches: great intercontinental migrations 133

Chapter 4. In the beginning was the spelt. The Neolithic revolution – the origin of the state	141
4.1. Centres of agricultural civilisations.....	141
4.2. Separated brethren. Pre-Columbian civilisations: Valdivia and the Olmecs.....	147
4.3. A farmer in the treadmill. The Malthusian trap of agrarian civilisations ..	155
Chapter 5. Middle East Civilisations – the origin of “internationality” (3–1.5 thousand–5th c. BC)	158

PART THREE

EAST-WEST SYSTEM WITHOUT A HEGEMON: CONVERGENCE OF AGRARIAN CIVILISATIONS

Chapter 6. Agrarian civilisations in the East-West system: East Pole	167
6.1. China as the homeland of inventions prior to the industrial revolution	168
6.2. India: the Indian Ocean as the axis of the Old World system	176
6.3. Civilisations in the region of Indochina and the Malay Archipelago: between China and India. East Asian economy–world.....	180
Chapter 7. West pole – the role of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea branch	184
7.1. Greece.....	184
7.2. Phoenicia	186
7.3. Imperium Romanum	187
7.4. Eastern Roman Empire	189
Chapter 8. Intermediaries – peoples of the Eurasian Steppe and Arabs. Meetings of civilisations in the Eurasian Steppe	191
8.1. A steppe motorway. The historic role of the peoples of the Eurasian Steppe – Silk Roads.....	191
8.2. The Arabian bridge of the world – a new intermediary in the East–West relations	199
8.3. The African tip – proto-states on the edge of the desert and the damp forest	201
8.4. The apogee of the intercivilisational exchange of the Old World.....	206

PART FOUR

EMERGENCE OF THE GLOBAL MARKET – OVERCOMING THE BARRIER OF OCEANS BY PEOPLE, FAUNA, FLORA AND PATHOGENS

Chapter 9. Turning point – domestication of oceans. Causes of the “great divergence”	213
9.1. The balance in the trade between the West and the East – iron instead of gold	213
9.2. Sources of the European dominance. A dispute about the causes of the “great divergence”	220

Chapter 10. In the name of God and profit. A new centre: the European trade and colonial expansion in the 16th-18th centuries.....	229
Chapter 11. International biological exchange: flora, fauna and pathogens.....	240

PART FIVE

ECONOMY–WORLD: INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM AND NATION STATE
IN THE INTERNALISATION PHASE (THE 19TH–20TH C.)

Chapter 12. Great transformation – new opportunities in the game with the nature and with the human <i>ergodynamis</i>	251
12.1. Machines and humans in the service of accumulation. A model explanation of the industrial revolution in England.....	251
12.2. The phenomenon of the crisis modernisation of Japan.....	268
12.3. Roads and dead ends in the dependent development: comparative advantage versus unequal exchange	273
12.4. Against the stream: growth without development – nationalised economy.....	278
Chapter 13. Long 20th century? Structural crises of the market society – the state steering the new order	285
13.1. Crisis regulations: in search of accumulation sources.....	285
13.2. The structural crisis 1873–1886. From colonialism to dominance: the world according to gods of arms.....	291
13.3. The Great Depression of the 1930s – the age of the laudable <i>welfare state</i> capitalism.....	306
13.4. Neoliberal globalisation in response to the stagflation of the 1970s. <i>Reaganomics and casino capitalism</i>	317
13.5. The miracle of financial engineering – the loan pyramid. The invisible hand of the market in the taxable person’s pocket.....	339
13.6. Against the stream: Chinese and South American developmental states: between the state and the market	348

PART SIX

HUMANITY IN BLUE FIX. ECOSYSTEM, ECONOMY AND POLITICS
IN THE CIVILISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 14. Meadows’ trap of the industrial society. Theoretical bases of the new order and its evolution forecast.....	355
14.1. Sustainable development economy as a theoretical basis of the new order.....	355
14.2. Heuristics of the future. Historical generalisations about crises as a basis for the forecast of <i>World New Deal</i>	368
Chapter 15. Climatic wars. Inefficiency in the economy – nature relations: protection of the global ecosystem	376
15.1. Destroying ecosystems, species and landscape diversity.....	376

15.2. Global warming.....	380
15.3. Green lungs of the Earth – protection of equatorial forests	384
15.4. Desertification – loss of arable land.....	388
15.5. Shortage of fresh water	391
15.6. The global strategy of departing from the economy based on hydrocarbons – the problem with energy and raw materials	393
15.7. The problem with high-protein diet in the evolutionary and ecological perspective. The end of the concept of living as using?	396
Chapter 16. States facing the injustice of the neoliberal order. Troubles with surplus – global protectionism of labour and human community	401
16.1. Food wars. Millennium goals – poor barns of the South. Overpopulation, roads and dead ends of modernisation.....	403
16.2. Old-new class wars. Arithmetics of profit or arithmetics of social needs. Structural unemployment and radical tax evolution	421
Chapter 17. Between the power of voice and the power of money. The political stage as a part of the neoliberal order	445
17.1. Popculturalisation of politics. Crisis of parliamentary democracy.....	445
17.2. Mechanisms of making the state dependent on business	452
17.3. Another crisis regulation. The return of states: <i>World New Deal?</i>	461
Instead of a conclusion.....	475
18 theses about the origin, evolution and prospects of the global civilisation.....	475
Bibliography	483
Abstract.....	503