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МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
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ИНФОРМАЦИЯ О НАУЧНОЙ ЖИЗНИ

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EURO-ASIA: THE CULTURAL INHERITANCE OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS:

Retrospective analysis of the work proceeded to prepare and arrange the 1st Conference (January 25–28 1999, Novosibirsk, Akademgorodok, Novosibirsk State University – NSU)

1.1. The purpose and aims of the project

The idea of this Conference was driven by a non-formal creative team of the humanities scholars (historians, philologists, philosophers) graduated mostly from NSU and those united around the social organization «Siberia – Science: the 21st century» on the basis of common world outlook and cooperative methodological principles. The initiative was backed by The Humanities Chair, NSU alongside with the Chairs of Philosophy, History of Russia, The Humanities' Research Laboratory and Institute of Archeology & Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Science.

The conference was meant by the organizers to be the most important constituent part of the whole complex of the activities aimed to contribute to further development of the research works in the sphere of the humanities studies, first of all, in Siberia, to stimulate creativity of the universities' associations and to establish both regular and resultative contacts between the isolated scientific efforts.

It was planned by the Conference organizers not only to offer fundamental discussions on Euro-Asia as a geographical body and bio-scientific concept but also to pay a tribute to one of the brilliant humanities' school of our country, «Euro-Asian» movement (20–30-s of the 20th century).

Its outstanding representatives N. Trubetskoy, P. Savitsky, G. Vernandsky, N. Alekseyev, L. Karsavin, P. Suvchinsky, G. Florovsky, P. Bitsilli, F. Stepun and others have attracted attention of the world community to the necessity of more careful studies of different cultures from the point of view of their environmentality («place and development»), they criticized severely Euro-centrists' standpoint (Europe-wide chauvinism), revised the role of Turkic nations in the history of Russia and Euro-Asia (Chingiz-khan inheritance), have laid the foundations of the Russian geopolitics («continent of Euro-Asia») and geopolitical approach to historical matters. They rejected both «left» and «right» ways of the development of Russia bearing in mind the «third one» that would comprise all the cultural and historical traditions of all folks and nationalities inhabiting the country.

N. Berdiayev as the only serious humanities school amidst Russian emigrants believed Euro-Asiaism for its representatives had a unified methodology, institution and periodicals. It was in 70–80-s that L. Gumilyov called himself «the last of Euro-Asiaist». He was personally acquainted to P. Savitsky who had left a most fundamental inheritance still waiting for its disciples and interpreters.

1.2. Conference proceedings: Trends and contents

The following subjects were outlined to be the basis trends of the proceedings in the 1st Conference: archeology, history, philology, mythology, religious studies, ethnology, cultural studies, philosophy, and geopolitics. The Conference was initiated in honor of the 40th anniversary of NSU that deserves essential discussions evaluating the contribution made by the scientists from Novosibirsk into the humanities studies as well as about the traditions and prospects for their further development in Siberia. The work of the Conference was carried out in six sections: «Ideology and Euro-Asian traditions», «Archeological cultures of Euro-Asia», «Linguistic and poetic images of Euro-Asia», «History of Euro-Asia and Siberia», «Euro-Asian geopolitics: theory and practice», «Philosophy and Cultural Studies of Euro-Asia». One of the distinguishing features of the Confer-

ence was the fact that all the sections worked not simultaneously but in a succession that gave all the participants equal opportunities to attend any.

The circle of the participants was big enough representing all levels of the learned world: students, post-graduates, professors and academicians. There were announced about 100 reports to be heard at the Conference from various cities all over Russia and other countries.

In fact, only 62 had been discussed during four days of the Conference work. There were able to come and take an active part in the work 17 participants from another cities: Milan (Italy), Kemerovo, Abakan, Kysyl, Biysk, Ulan-Ude, Vladivostok, and Tyumen. Unfortunately, for the lack of financial support quite a number of scholars from Petrozavodsk, Magadan, St Petersburg could not come for the Conference.

The participants interpreted both the «Euro-Asia» concept and the essence of Euro-Asian methodology in different ways, anyhow, they all had something bigger in common, the desire to deeply understand the essence of the events that are happening in the world and especially in Russia at the very end of the 20th century and that were conditioned not only by the existence and activity of certain political forces and politicians but, first of all, by some common logics in history and by the ties and relations built up between the countries and the nations. The point was that the lecturers refused from any stereotypes existing in social studies and the humanities, denied a vulgar euro-centrist paradigm, the one that everybody have been fed up with. They all were unanimous in the creative approach for solving the problems facing.

There was an idea distinctly pronounces throughout the Conference that the world is an integral unity owing to all the distinguishing and complementary traits of its constituent parts that make the world the whole. But the wholeness doesn't mean the absence of anything particular. The success of separately taken countries and regions is always relative, and rapid economic and technical progress is, as a rule, followed by noticeable degradation of morality. The history often provides examples of a paradox: dramatic reckon for the leadership. In this context, the national strategy of development is of particular importance, since it prevents thoughtless imitation of alien experience whatever attractive it is. Taking into account geographical, anthropological, linguistic, psychological, cultural and other peculiarities of Russia and all the nations it is formed of, it can be safely said that its further development and its creative Russian idea will be emphasized by Euro-Asiaism, the ideology that goes back to a historically certain intellectual movement in the 20-s of the 20th century.

All the lecturers were unanimous in pointing out that there exist a tremendous intellectual potential of Euro-Asian methodology with its really humanistic pathos and its adequacy to the appraisal aims of the patriotic-minded intelligentsia. Practically all the participants were convinced that Euro-Asiaism is not the world's past but its future.

The main result of the Conference can be considered to be an approval of the hypothesis of the Conference initiators that in Russia, in Siberia namely, there does exist a wide-spread neo-Euro-Asian movement, that has a tremendous creative potential and comes to be popular with the population, whereas Euro-Asiaism itself can grow into all-Russian national idea, distinguishing from both Europe-centrism and Europe-centrist ideology, being severely imposed to the world community by the certain political forces. Albeit the movement appears to be widely spread and quite popular with the people of science and culture it does need an essential moral and material support and organizational framework.

1.3. The main outcome of the proceedings of the Conference

1.1. The works of the Euro-Asiaists were brought into view, as well as Euro-Asian ideology and methodology as possible grounds for renovation of the humanities and carrying out the social changes entailed.

1.2. There was defined a circle of potential participants of Euro-Asian movement in Siberia and other territories of Russia, as well as outside its bounds. The working connections were established.

1.3. At the final meeting all participants unanimously agreed on holding the Conference on a regular basis, at least, once in a two-years period.

1.4. In the course of the following year the organizational committee has prepared, within a social assignment, and published two volumes of the materials referred.

1.5. The materials were dispatched to a number of big libraries, institutions of higher education and universities in Russia and abroad.

1.6. There was given an impetus to Euro-Asiaist actions in Novosibirsk and adjoining cities (publishing the scientific materials, preparation and defending theses on Euro-Asian subjects in Novosibirsk, Barnaul and Kemerovo, Euro-Asian Conference in March, 2001 in Abakan etc.).

1.7. The materials produced and the ideas pronounced throughout the Conference have been actively used for quite a number of scientific projects of Siberian scientists and in lecturing the humanities in NSU and other institutions of higher education.