

Scientific news from Russia (the survey of investigations of ancient history 1989-1991)

Part 1: The Investigations of Greek History

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1989 year was been in Soviet Ancient historiography fruitful in sphere of prehistory. Here were published several fundamental investigations¹. At first it is necessary to name the capital monograph of director of Institut of Archaeology, the academician V. Alexeev, *Historical antropology and ethnogenesis*, Moscow, 1989 (in Russian). This monograph was been result of several years and fruitful activity of eminent soviet scholar unexpectedly died soon after the publication of his book. In monograph were investigated as the theoretical problems of historical antropology as historical-antropological study of concrete ethnogeneses.

The monograph consist of three principal parts. Part 1: Physical Antropology: the conntours of science, in wich were summed up the results and marked the perspectives of modern investigations, analysed the correlation of antropology with adjacent disciplina, in particular, with the human morphology, the genetics, the human ecology, also was discussed the importance of scientific legacy of great russian scholar N. Vavilov for historical anthropology.

2 part of monograph: «Theoretical problems of ethnogenetical reconstructions», here were analysed the general problems of etnogenesis, the difference between synchronous and diachronic comparisons of ethnographic phenomena, the meaning of ethographical tales, linguistic data and anthropological materials, the correlation between paleoanthropology and history. In 3 part: «Historical anthropological study of concret ethnogenetical situations» were studied the paleoanthropology of euro-asian steppes of scythian time, the problems of origin of some small nations of Caucasus,

¹ In present survey were considered only the published during 1989-1991 years monographic works. The journal articles were drawn as some exceptions.

in particular, the modern Balkar and Karachay and Oset peoples, also the most ancient Europeoid populations of Soviet Central Asia and their offsprings, antropological aspects of the study of indo-iranian problem, the origin some small peoples of Siberia (ancient Europeoid populations of Minusa Basin, Tashtik populations of the Khakasy and so on. In special and very interesting chapter were investigated the main morphological features of American Indians and the problem of first peopling of America.

Above mentioned structure of monograph reflects the logical transition from one structure level of antropology to other level, from fundamental problems of antropology to concrete probleme, where the antropology steps forward as the important historical discipline, meaning the valuable historical (not anthropological stritly speaking) information. The colossal materials of sources, very careful study of theoretical problems and skilled analyse of concrete ethnogeneses is doing this book the eminent achievement of soviet and russian historiography in general. The results of this work are very important for study the complicated complexes of first and second civilisations, including the ancient mediterranean civilisations, in particular, the new and difficult problems of ethnogenese of divers and numerous populations, nations, peoples and tribes of enormous world of ancient Mediterranean.

Chronologically more next to strictly Ancient History were been the investigations of the problems of origin and becoming of the first civilisation, including the ancient Mediterranean. In 1989 year the peculiar attention had attracted the problem of rise of Food-Production and its role in the development of Ancient Society. This interest was taken by several investigations of prof. V. Shnirelman published the monograph *The rise of Food-Production*, Moscow, 1990 (in Russian). But early in 1989 in the main organ of soviet specialists in sphere of Ancient History *Journal of Ancient History* (in Russian) was organised the discussion about problems «The Rise of Food-production and its Role in the development of Ancient Society». The discussion was opened by the generalised article of V. Shnirelman «Main Foci of Early Food-Production in the light of modern Advances». Using the modern archeological data the author develops N. Vavilov' theory of primary and secondary foci of cultivation and animal husbandry. Three stages are distinguished in the evolution of food production: A. maturing of preconditions for the development of early forms of food production; B. the emergence of food production as a secondary sector within a food-gathering economy; C. victory of food production and transition to a way of life based on cultivation and animal husbandry. The process under review varied in different areas of the world depending on the initial preconditions and factors, duration of the process, level of socialdevelopment of the societies concerned, and so on. In some areas a complex cultivation with animal husbandry economy took shape; in other only cultivation economies.

The author distinguished seven primary foci: 1. Near Eastern (9th-7th millennia B.C.); 2. South-east Asian (6th-3th millennia B.C.); 3. East Asia (6th-5th millennia B.C.); 4. Sahara-Sudanese (4th-3th millennia B.C.); 5. Guinea-Cameroun (4th-2th millennia B.C.); 6. Meso-American mountainous (9th-2nd millennia B.C.) and 7. Andean (6th-2nd millennia B.C.). In addition around 20 secondary foci, in wich elements of a food production economy were introduced from outside, can he distinguished.

This article became the subject of an interesting discussion the contributors to wich were the wellknow soviet scholars and our foreign colleagues, in particular, V. Alexeev (Moscow), *Micro-Foci, Foci and areas of influence in Plant-cultivation and Behavioural Prerequisites for animal Domestication*; Yu. Beryozkin (Leningrad), *The Formation of Agriculture: the View of an Americanist*; L. Kubbel (Moscow), *Foodproduction and political organisation*; Ye. Antonova (Moscow), *Concerning Certain Specific Features of World perception in the early Food-Production Epoch*; J. Peyros (Moscow), *Concerning the correlation of archaeology and linguistics in the Study of the Food-Production*; Yu. Militaryov (Moscow), *Additional observations about the origin of agriculture based on data of Proto-Afrasian (proto-Semito-Hamitic) linguistic reconstruction*; A.P. Francfort (Paris), *On proto-historical agriculture in central Asia and its historical interpretation*; M. Tosi (Rome) *The problem of domestication on the arabian coast* (all articles were published in *VDJ*, 1989, N 1).

The discussion had demonstrated the difference and complexity of transition to food-production, the variety of factors including the speed and intensity of proceses, their meaning, the many influences in divers regions of ancient world, wich was realised in last result in variety of social economi- cal and cultural structures as ancient as modern populations.

If in the discussion around the works of V. Shnirelman were arisen the problems of the transition to more ancient civilisations in the monograph of director of archaeology's Institut in Leningrad (nowadays San-Petersburg), prof. V. Masson *The first civilizations* (in Russian) analyses the itself process of becoming of the first civilisations. Formation of the first civilisations is considered as the epochal phenomenon that have been promoted on the proscenium of the Old and New World at the end of the primitive age. Combination of high produced and large-scale agriculture with specialized crafts were typical for the tecnological side of production. Both creation of elite subculture and the great number of cultural innovations allow stating that the cultural revolution took place in the ages where world the first civilizations were formed. Their type is strictly interpreted in a number of ancient cultures, each of them has its distinguished unrepeatable traits in the technological side of production in ideology, in social psychology, in a esthetical canons. In the book are characterized the formation of the first civilizations in divers regions of Old and New Worlds, in particular: in Mesopotamia, in Asia Minor, in Syria and Palestina, in Iran, in In-

dia, in China, in Mesoamerica and Peru. V. Masson, well-known soviet archeologist, had collected and analysed skilled the enormous new archeological materials and data.

Professor V. Sofronov the known investigator of bronze age of south-eastern Europe had published in 1983 the monograph *Problems of indo-european first mother land*, Orgionikidze, 1983 (in Russian). But after the publication of generalized work of V. Ivanov and T. Gamkrelidze *Indoeuropean language and the indoeuropeans* v. I-II, Tbilisi, 1984 (in Russian) where was formulated the new theory of indo-european community V. Sofronov had remade seriously his former conception and had issued in 1989 the new fundamental investigation *The indo-European primatest motherlands*, Gorki (nowadays Nigenij Novgorod) 1989 (in Russian). The result of this work is so interesting and paradoxal that let myself to characterize this investigation more detailedly. V. Sofronov is revising the several settled during 200 years studies of indo-european problem postulates.

Carefully analyzing the available data (mainly the archaeological data) the author had refused the conception of united static mother-land and had formulated the principal new conception of the existence of several mother-lands of Indo-european community, determined their chronology and temporal correlation and the archeological cultures-equivalents correspondings to stages of evolution of indoeuropean culture.

According to linguistic data on three long periods in development of PIE (Proto indo-europeans) language the author shows three large areas of PIE habitation-»PIE homelands» and archaeological cultures located in these areas and in this time which corresponds to the different PIE language evolution stages. These three PIE cultural equivalents are genetically connected to each other. The early homeland is situated in Asia Minor in the South of Central Anatolia; Chatal Hüyük is regarded as the Early PIE culture —equivalent VII-VI mill. B.C. The Middle PIE homeland is located in Northern Balkans; the Vinca culture supposed to be an archaeological correspondence —to the Middle PIE culture (second half of V-IV mill. B.C.). The late PIE homeland was situated in the Central Europe, where at this time (IV- the beginning II mill. B.C.) had existed two archeological cultures —the Lengyel and the

Funnel Beaker culture (FBC), which were genetically connected. The dynamics of the PIE home-land development is expressed in a gradual spreading the PIE area from a small region —in Western Slovakia— to the so called continuum— from the Balkans to Scandinavia and from the Rhine to western Ukraine. FBC was found to arise on the base of Lengyel culture during its second stage in the middle of IV mill. B.C. and to develop parallel to the Lengyel till the PIE desintegration in the beginning II mill. B.C.

The author thinks that just Proto-Indo-europeans at the middle stage of PIE entity evolution (the Vinca culture) were the creators of the most

ancient civilisation. According to the author not Asia, but Europe was the cradle of the first civilization; not Sumerians and Egyptians but Indo-europeans were its creators and that means radical change in traditional views of modern linguistic and archaeological knowledge. Though one can trace some features of the earliest civilization in the Late PIE culture —the Lengyel and the FBC— the Late PIE culture is characterized by a definite regress. The writing system and some traditions of metallurgy fell into decay. The explanation of a such regress is that rather small groups of newcomers indo-europeans were adjusting to the new ethnic milieu.

The Indo-European colonization of Europe took place in the period of Holocene maximum of the arid climate in the IV-III mill. B.C. had a pernicious effect on agriculture and the whole system of life-support, threatening to stable harvests assisting the transition of PIE farmers to cattle-breeding and it caused the first long-distant migrations of PIE people to the East in grassy steppes or to the South where they could find the highlands rich with water. Migrations of the proto-Greeks together with other peoples —paleobalcanic languages speakers— caused the appearance of Early Helladic I: there are significant elements in the Early Helladic tradition which resulted from the cultural tradition of such the Central Europe cultures as the Lengyel, the FBC, the Boleraz-Baden, the Jordansmul. In his monograph the author underlines the tremendous contribution of the Indo-Europeans peoples to the development of the world civilization (productive economics, domestication of animals, invention of wheeled transport, creation of the most ancient writing system, discoveries in geography, trade and various contacts among the peoples etc.).

The some natural continuation of the above spoken works about the most ancient times was the study of history III-II mill. B.C. that is the bronze civilisation, the history of Crete and Achaean Greece. In this sphere at first it is possible to mark two monographs of prof. Ju. Andreev, namely: the monograph *The island settlements of Aegean world in bronze age*, Leningrad, 1989 (in Russian) and the book *The poetry of Myth and the prose of history*, Leningrad, 1990 (in Russian).

The essence of the first monograph in the complicated and discussed problem of the emergence of ancient urbanism, of origin of earlier forms of city and urban life which had been the basis of total ancient mediterranean civilisation. Ju. Andreev had collected very big archaeological data from all regions of the Aegean, including Crete, Balcanic Greece, but especially from the Cyclades. He had investigated in detail the character of discovered settlements and its transformation in urban structures. To his opinion, the beginning of process of urbanisation in the Aegean had risen to III mill. B.C. and had caused by the differentiation (the split) of homogeneous mass of neolithic villages, settlements with some primitive features of town, namely: the compact building, the elements of regular planning, the well-appointed house, sometimes the defensive buildings (the

elements of fortification) —for example Polyochni at Lemnos and Fermi at Lesbos. In the Middle and Late bronze ages the leading role in process of urbanization had become Crete, where was created the most ancient palace-civilization.

The palace-complex of Knossos, Mallia, Zakros, Festos with the adjacent quarters Ju. Andreev had determined as the proto-town. The analogic forms of proto—town were formed in Balcanic Greece in XIV-XIII cent. B.C. However side by side with these more developed urban structures had existed and more archaic structures, which it is possible to determine as quasi-urban or the real villages. The type of the aegean proto-town with palace-complex as the centre was connected very closely with palace-states of Crete and Archaean Greece and had shared its fate at the end II mill. B.C.

Other way of development of Aegean urbanisation is possible to see in urban structures at the Cyclades. Probably because of small territory of the islands, of important role of the sea in life and production of peoples at the Cyclades had not risen the Palace-Complexes and Palace-States. Here the main development had other space organisation of territory, where a decisive role had not the palace-complex, but compactly grouped *patricias villas* and the sanctuaries (rather remembering the classical *temenos*) with definite tendency to guaranting of communal security and well-appointing. From total known nowadays forms and types of Aegean proto-cuty, underlines Ju. Andreev, perhaps, just the island settlements in the most degree answer the idea about more ancient image of greek polis.

In second monograph *The poetry of Myth and the prose of history* Ju. Andreev analyzes specially the problem of correlation between the information about the real events, the traces of real historical facts and the poetic fantasy. In detail he analyzes the meaning of five cycles of mythological stories: the cretan cycle, the stories about Troian war, the myths of Odisseos and argonautes and the story about the loss of mysterious Atlantide. The author of monograph draws a rather pessimistic conclusion about the insignificance of real historical data in the myth, meta-phorically comparing real facts with several threads into the big carpet woven by the fancy of author, including the story about Troian war. However Ju. Andreev underlines that the role of Myth in scientific historical investigation is rather big. The Myth is our guide and guide-book just now, but not in search of ruins once perished of palace and citadels, but in more complicated and difficult voyage in the labyrinths of Ancient religious and philosophic systems, permitted to look in themselves hidden and misterious depths of spiritual life of ancient peoples.

Special investigation of Ju. Andreev was devoted to the interpretation of the myth about Dedale and his stay in Crete (*VDI*, 1989 N 3), *The Minoen Dedale* (in Russian). Here the author traces through detailed analyse of big archaeological and linguistical data, the transformation of the mi-

noen god the psygogetes, the transferor of soul from the world of alives in the world of the deads (very analogical latest Hermes) into the great architect and engineer, the builder of Labyrinth and the creator of first flying apparatus, fixed in classical greek mythology.

The continuation of the former works Iu. Andreev is the his investigation about «The Minoan matriarchy» published *VDI* 1992 N 2 (in Russian). The author proposes his comprehension of this peculiar historical phenomena in minoan civilisation. The high role of women in social and religious life of Crete Ju. Andreev explains as the defensive reaction of deeply archaic social system to very rapid development of society from the primitive condition in the civilization, wich was redoubled by the great earthquake shaken Crete in XVIII-XVII cent. B.C. In these conditions the women as the more conservative and traditionally thinking part of cretean society as keepers of hearth-home and the chtonic cults had played a part of the breaking strenght for the progressive going into the uncertain development. The strong influence of minoan women had permitted to controle the behaviour of their husbands and brothers, to restrain their excessive passion, the thirst of news and the inclination to adventures. Iu. Andreev inclines to consider the minoan culture and society in general as «raffinierte Primitivitat», determines some historical damaging of minoan culture in total.

In present survey it is proper to mention the common work A. Molchanov, V. Nerosnak and S. Sharypkin, *The remains of more ancient greek wrighting. An introduce to mycenology*. Moscow, 1988 (in Russian). This work generalizes the existing in soviet mycenology investigations. The book consist of three parts. I— Object of mycenology, its origin and development (A. Molchanov), II— The language of mycenean inscriptions of linear B (S. Sharypkin), III— Dictionary of main cretean-mycenean vocabulary (V. Neroznak) and also supplement «Minoan Language: the problems and facts» (A. Molchanov). This book is the generalization of results of proper investigations of themselves authors as the known specialists of mycenology but at the same time it is the textbook very useful for students.

Some interest of specialists had called the several publications prof. L. Klein. Else in 1986 year he had issued original investigation about the structure of Iliad «Ilion and Troia» (in Russian). However the problems of structural analyse Iliad very actively was studied by L. Klein in last years, in particular, he had published series of articles namely «Homeric titles of greeks and Ancient Orient» (in Russian) in the *Journal the Nations of Asia and Africa*, 1990 N 1, «Achaean songs of Iliad» (in Russian) in: *Folk-lore and ethnography. Problems of reconstruction of facts of the traditional culture*, Leningrad, 1990; Danaen «Iliads» (*VDJ*, 1990, N 1), «The most ancient songs of Iliad» (in Russian) (*VDJ*, 1992, N 2).

Using all modern methodes of linguistic analyze, carefully comparing archaeological, historical and folklorical data including the hettite texts the author supposes that in the total text of *Iliad* it is possible to distinguish the

three groups namely: achaeen songs, danaen songs and argive songs. In his opinion these three parts demonstrate three main sources of *Iliad* and three authors for every these parts. Moreover the special investigation of achaeen part *Iliad* (in article «The most ancient songs of *Iliad*», *VDJ*, 1992, N 2) permits to draw a conclusion that itself achaeen part may to divide in two parts namely a. collecting-achaeen and b. Achill-achaeen songs. The special analyse demonstrates that the first group (just II-IV, VI-VII) is the most ancient from total text of *Iliad*. This group of collecting-achaeen songs probably is the remainder of more ancient epos arising to mycenean times and was included in text of *Iliad* in more late time.

The natural continuation of investigations of mycenean and homeric problems were several monographs about the archaic period of ancient Greek history. Here it is necessary to mark the monograph V. Jailenko *Archaic Greece and Near East* Moscow, 1990 (in Russian). Doctor V. Jailenko was the author of detailed essay about the archaic Greece in summary work *Ancient Greece*, Moscow, 1983 (in Russian). In new monograph, however, V. Jailenko studies the problem of the genesis of archaic society from other point of view, namely; from the point of interaction of forming archaic and Near-Eastern civilisations. The second feature of author's method is the special rigorism in the choice of his sources, and the emphasized rigidity of method's investigation. Establishing the peculiar fragmentary and complexity of sources about archaic Greece, the strong modernisation about these times by the authors IV cent. B.C. for example, Aristotle, not speaking about more late authors, V. Jailenko analyses mainly the sources authentic for IX-VII cent. B.C., namely: the archaeological complexies of this time, the information of Hesiod and the first lyrists (Archilochos, Solon, Tyrteas). Even the data of Theognis, which it's seem quite had included in archaic time, V. Jailenko do not uses, because in the corpus Theognis side by side with the authentic work of Theognis were included the text of more late time (V-IV cent. B.C.). By the peculiar manystratum and very big deformation of the data of *Iliad* and *Odyssey* V. Jailenko also excludes them out of sphere of his sources.

Limiting himself, like that, out of the possible deformations and reminiscences in detail analysed the selected data of sources the author investigates in I part of monograph the social-political instituts of early-archaic epoch. V. Jailenko begins the archaic epoch not from VIII century, but X century B.C. that is from the end of the dorien migrations. Just in this time was stabilized the population of Balcanic Greece, was confirmed the similar level of life, had begun the formation of aristocratic gentes, became stronger the independence of *oikos*, were established the foundations of urban life, was begun an eolic and ionic colonisation of western part of Minor Asia. Especially big transformations were took place in greek society just in VIII century B.C., wich had determined the total consequent peculiarity of *poleis* civilisation. Just about the end IX-beginning VIII cent. B.C.

had happened the «discovery» of East by the Greeks, the establishment of narrow ties with near eastern cultural world. These close ties had resulted to the loaning by the Greeks the many achievements of near-eastern civilisation in the sphere of technology, arts, religion, customs and language. The creative remaking of these achievement had been the power stimulus for becoming of the proper classical cultures.

From the point of view V. Jailenko the creative impulses got by Greeks from Near East had permitted to overcome that blind-alley way, on wich greek culture of the Dark Ages had posed, being based only on mycenean or dorean legacy and wich was realised in the materials of geometric style.

Out of other works of archaic greek history it is possible to name monograph I. Shtal *Epic legends of Ancient Greece: geratomachia. The experiment of typological and genre reconstruction*, Moscow, 1989 (in Russian) and the monograph A. Dovatur *Theognis and his time*, Leningrad, 1989. I. Shtal is known specialist of homeric epos in her monograph had the special investigation the story about the battle of pygmies with the cranes in *Geranomachia* as the historical source and tries to determine the degree of reality of the event represented in it. By the results of this analyse the author makes the paradoxal conclusion. It is turned out, that the pygmies of poem were the nation not legendary but real, to opinion of I. Shtal populating «the significant territory in the limits of ancient *oikumene* and probably beyond it», in particular, the terrirory of *Skythie* and even in next proximity to the Greece namely in Carie and Phrygia. According to I. Shtal, the pygmies had lived in regions till to VII cent. B.C. and in realty were fought with the cranes and were banished by the cranies from scythian and minor-asian territories. The real pygmies not were the such caricature monsters as they were represented in the epos and in the vase-painting, but were the rather normal peoples, only of small stature. The pygmies has had their myths and eposes reached to the greek authors and the transferred in form of analysed poem *Geranomachia* wich I. Shtal attributes, if not the same Homer, to his circle and she dates VII cent. B.C. And though the concept of I. Shtal had the criticism (the review M. Gasparov, *VDI*, 1991, N 2) the paradoxal conclusions of I. Shtal attracts the attention to her monograph.

More traditional and quiet character has the conception of one patriarch of soviet science of Antiquity the late professor of Leningrad (now Saint-Petersbourg's) university Aristide Dovatur (1897-1982) by title *Theognis and his time*, Leningrad, 1990 (in Russian). The monograph of A. Dovatur is the most complete investigation of works of such complicated author as Theognis. The detailed study of corpus Theognis permits to make the conclusion: the corpus belongs really to poet Theognis, the life of poet was dated about 550-490 (480). The contents of elegies reflects really the inside life in Megara (there is the special chapter about it), but from the extremely subjective positions. These positions were determined as very con-

servative, strictly aristocratic. Theognis did not want to approve the participation in government not only the demos, but even the uppers of demos, so to speak the new elite in distinction from the author of Pseudo-Xenophon *politeia*. The important conclusion of A. Dovatur, that the data of elegies do not permit to state about reality of citizen war in Megara and the participation of Theognis in it. The data having in other sources about citizen conflicts in Megara belong to other times, but not to time of Theognis. In supplement of monograph is there the translation of the first, the main book of Theognis corpus, which just is considered as the model of aristocratic moral in pagan antiquity.

Else one discussed problem in archaic Greece was studied in monograph L. Shmud *Pythagoras and his school*, Leningrad, 1990 (in Russian). As it is well known, the Pythagorean question is very complicated and mysterious and practically do not exist the common balance of positions. L. Shmud proposes his conception of pythagorean problem. In monograph were investigated the biography of Pythagoras, the character of Pythagorean school, the interrelations between the professor and school. The main attention of author is concentrated on the analyse of scientific studies of Pythagoras and Pythagoreans, in particular, by mathematics, acoustics, harmony, astronomy, medicine and biology. In this analyze L. Shmud determines the correlation of mythological legacy and the eastern (especially babylonean) influences and the investment of Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans in genesis of greek science. Specially the author studies the philosophic basis of pythagorean science. He states that the scientific studies of the Pythagorean had not arisen from greek mythology and the same science was not the successive rationalization of greek myths. From author's point of view in IV cent. B.C. the rationalistic ideas basing on the practic experiences and empiric notion were confirmed in place of the former mythological notions, but did not grown up out of them. Just so it is necessary to perceive the revolutionary role of scientific studies of Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans. And if in their judgements and the theses were included the some elements of the traditional and mythological notions this does not confirm the thesis that the total contests of pythagorean science and philosophy follows from tradition and mythology. Other important conclusion of monograph: the pythagorean school was specific religious community of private type without some cult and it is not hinder the scientific studies but on the contrary had created the religious motivation to them. In soviet literature the monograph of Shmud is more complete investigation of complicated and discussed pythagorean question. The book of professor E. Frolov *The torch of Prometheus. The essays of ancient social thought*, Leningrad, 1991 (in Russian), analyses the origin and development of greek social thought (mainly the political thought) from homeric times till to Aristotle. The monograph consist of two parts. In I part is studied the genesis of political ideology VIII-V cent. B.C. that is in the times of formation and prosperity of

sovereign polises. In II part is investigated the social thought in the period of crises of independent polises ending by the establishment of macedonian hegemony in Greece.

The main achievement of greek social thought of VIII-V cent. B.C. E. Frolov states in the creation of rational doctrine of the state and law. The author traces the stages of this doctrine from the separate opinions of Homer through several ideas of Hesiod and early lyrics, through the first sociological generalization of Heraclitos, separate formulation of political theory of Herodotos to the more systematic and deep notions of Thucydides. Some completion the conception of the state and law had received in the works of sophists, which had studied the such important aspects of social life as the origin of state and law (the theory of social treaty), the division of powers by the nature and by the law, the conception of natural law, and so on.

The time of end V and the beginning of IV cent. B.C. was been the turning point. The sovereign polis had entered in the confusion and this crises was been the strong stimulus for the development of social thought, which had tried to propose the solution of ill social problems. E. Frolov attaches the big importance in its development the activity of Socrates. Socrates was the first thinker who had proposed to resolve the complicated social problems not from point of view of community but just from point of view of interests of person. The athenian thinker had seen the

single way for the renovation of ill greek society in the intimate transformation and the perfection of person.

The IV cent. B.C. the greek social thought under the influence of Socrates and his school had proposed several theoretical conceptions of transformation of society (in particular by Plato and Aristotle). In the opinion of E. Frolov the proposed models of social transformation, including some socialist conceptions, were based on the rich philosophical and theoretical ground and were actual not only for their times but also for more late times till to roman and even the modern times. Very interesting conclusion of the monograph in the some proximity between the some theses of Socrates and the more late philosophy of stoicism and even of early christianity.

One out of directions of social thought in IV cent. B.C. was the emergence of utopian projects of the creation of happy society in comedies Aristophanes, in works of Xenophontos, of Plato and Aristotle.

However if in the book of E. Frolov the analyze of utopian thought is limited only IV cent. B.C. in the monograph of V. Gutorov, *Ancient Social Utopia*, Leningrad, 1989 (in Russian) the investigations of utopian conceptions was conducted in the full volume including the hellenistic and roman epochs.

The many problems of coexistence of two great political power of V cent. B.C. — Peloponnesian League and Athenian Empire were the object

of monograph V. Stroetzky *The Polis and Empire in Classical Greece*, Nizhny Novgorod, 1991 (in Russian). Prof. V. Stroetzky investigates the origin, the formation and the concrete history of the resistance of these powers in the period *pentekotaetie*, that is from 480 to 431 years B.C. The author distinguishes three stages of this history: 1) 478-462; 2) 462-445; 3) 445-431 B.C. The main feature of this work is this investigation of foreign policy of Sparta and Athens together with the evolution of inside structure as spartan as athenian societies.

In the monograph is traced the origin of tendencies to the unification between greek polises, realized in two main forms: 1) in form of Peloponnesian League and 2) in form united Athenian Empire. V. Stroetzky had demonstrated that in Spartan League had been confirming the conservative-oligarchic orientation and the traditions of polis ideology, but in Athenian Empire with more high level of integration upto the creation of united state had been confirming the radical-democratic elements with empire political ideas.

Fierce fighting of these political doctrines had conducted to the most destructive war —Peloponnesian war in wich this opposition had the highest manifestation. At the same time Peloponnesian war had demonstrated that the polis organisation was enough stable and on the contrary the time of existance of the centralized territorial unions of type Athenian Empire does not come.

The history of hellenistic period was the object of studies of several monograph. Among them the important place has the collective monograph published by the group of the known soviet specialists, *The Hellenism. The Economy, the Politics, the Culture*, Moscow, 1990 (in Russian). In the book there is some generalization of the results in the investigations of hellenistic civilization in soviet historiography 1980 years. The structure of this work in following: *Hellenism: to the discussions about essence* (the author —G. Koshelenco); *The historical ground of hellenism* (E. Frolov); *The ideological preparation of Hellenism* (V. Isaeva); *Alexander Macedonian and the genesis of Hellenism* (L. Marinovich); *Greece in hellenistic period* (G. Koshelenco); *Hellenistic Rodos* (Ju. Gorlov); *Delos II cent. B.C.* (O. Lopukhova); *Olbia and Bosporus in hellenistic period* (V. Jalenko); *The formation of territorial Khersonesian state* (Ju. Vinogradov and A. Shcheglov). In the monograph the hellenistic history was investigated in two direction: on one side, the authors study the same notion «Hellenism», the essence of «Hellenism» as the universal notion but on other side by the examples of concrete hellenistic societies (Balcanic Greece, Rodos, Delos, Bosporus, Khersonesos) had defined the concrete forms of interaction and syntese of the economical, social, political and cultural structures of classical Greece and ancient Orient, included in united hellenistic *oikumene*.

The political history of Balcanic hellenistic Greece, in particular enough popular and very discussed problem of ancient federation was the object

of the investigation in two monographs S. Sisov, *Achaean League. The history of ancient greek federal state (281-221 B.C.)*, Moscow, 1989 (in Russian) and *Federal state of hellenistic period. Aetolian League*, Nizny Novgorod, 1990 (in Russian). In these works were traced not only the origin, formation, existence and the dismissal of two the biggest unions of hellenistic Greece but was investigated the more general problem of the essence and fate of greek federalism in general. Author supposes that the integration of polises and its inclusion in the territorial unions were the inevitable consequences of crises of city-state structures. However if in hellenistic Orient the such union of polises was realized under monarchic power, in Balcanic Greece the integration of city-states had the form of republican federation. The federal tendencies —underlines author— was the very important event in political life of Greece III cent. B.C. The stable existence of Achaean and Aetolian Leagues in III cent. B.C. was been the realization and successful balance of opposite principles —the tendencies to sovereignty of city-state and to their unification in the disturbing situations III cent. B.C. This found compromise of such contrary political tendencies in form of federal union was been the achievement of political thought of Greece and in future in roman and modern times had received more deep investigation and realisation.

The history and culture of eastern hellenistic regions were consacrated two monographs S. Novikov, *Southern-western Iran in ancient time*, Moscow, 1989 (in Russian) and J. Pichikjan, *The culture of Bactria. Achaemenid and hellenistic periods*, Moscow, 1991 (in Russian). S. Novikov studies the history of southern-western Iran during 5 centuries (from 331 B.C. to 224 A.D.) including: the character of ancient writing tradition, the urban structure, social-economic relations and the classical slavery in the cities and in *chora*, the features of political evolution, the villages and settlements. The special attention attaches the interaction of greek and local elements in divers spheres of life, the contacts of settled population and the nomads. Analyzing the history of south-western Iran during five centuries, author had defined two periods: hellenistic (Seleucid) and posthellenistic (Parthian). In Seleucid period it is possible to observe the combination of greek and local elements in social-economical relations and political instituts, but in parthian times the role of greek elements in these spheres was been very little. The other situation was traced in sphere of culture and ideology. To the opinion's author in sphere of culture in seleucid time the combination of greek and local elements had not become because the greek polises had resisted to this combination. And only after destruction of greek polises in parthian times is begun the real combination of synthesing of greek and local elements in divers spheres of culture.

The fundamental monograph of J. Pichikjan is studied the history and culture of one out of misterious region of central Asia-Bactria (till now was used the specific term «bactrian mirage»).

Collected by author enough big data of new sources permits to reconstruct the real picture of bactrian society and culture, the character of interactions of Bactria with western Iran and eastern Mediterranean, to reveal the peculiarity of development Bactria in achemenid and hellenistic periods. The main attention of author had referred to the analyze of discussed problem and interpretation of three big discoveries: Amu-Daria treasure, the temple Ox at Thakhti Sangin (south Tadgikistan) and the ruins of greek city Aj Khanum (nothern Afganistan). The study had demonstrated that in culture of achemenid and hellenistic Bactria had existed the stable succession and even the intentional copying of achemenid traditions in hellenistic time as in the political organisation as in architecture. The state organisation of Bactria was the diminished copy of political organisation of Achemenid empire. The extreme centralization of power had determined the peculiar features of its culture: the proclaiming, the canoning, the standart symbolism, and the elitarity. All these features were reproduced in the eminent cultural monuments of hellenistic Bactria.

Owing to study of new data Bactria was been the very interesting and enough investigated region in the enormous territory of hellenistic Orient. Nowadays it is possible to state that former «greek-bactrian mirage» had dissipated. The stimulus for development of hellenistic arts and culture were: the forced organisation of greek domination, the founding of new polises and fortresses, the regular contacts with greek cities of eastern Mediterranean, the greek colonisation of Bactria.

The formation of architectural and artistic eastern-hellenistic *koine* on the enormous territory of central Asia stimulated the development of arts and the prosperity of local school. In III-II cent. B.C. the ethnic, religious and cultural traditions of Greeks and Bactrians had mixed in the united and peculiar greek-bactrian phenomenon.

In next two essays is supposed to do the survey of soviet investigations: 1) in sphere of ancient Roman history; 2) in sphere of ancient history of Eastern and Nothern Coasts of Black.

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