

## THE ENCYCLOPEDIC CONTRIBUTION OF VLADIMIR IVANOVIĆ DOBRENKOV TO CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGY

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**Abstract.** *In this paper the author analyzes the contribution that V. I. Dobrenkov made to contemporary Russian sociology. The focus of his analysis is both the scientific-pedagogical work of Dobrenkov, and his organizational-cultural mission. The paper analyzes the encyclopedic contribution of Dobrenkov (as a part of his collaboration with A. Kravchev), in compiling the 15 volumes (with over 10000 pages of text) of Fundamental Sociology, which is a seminal work. In them they considered both the origin and development of sociology in the world and Russia, as well as the basic theories and methods, categories, problematic fields, the structure and dynamics of contemporary society. In addition, the paper offers an overview of the latest studies written by Dobrenkov on globalization in Russia, value-oriented sociology and the sociological education in Russia. Special attention was paid to the organizational work of Dobrenkov regarding the founding of a new Faculty of Sociology in modern Russia, as well as the renewal of the Russian sociological association where he now serves as president.*

**Key words:** *Russian sociology, V. I. Dobrenkov, fundamental sociology, value-oriented sociology.*

### INTRODUCTION:

#### THE RENEWAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGY

Peoples and their cultures sometimes function as springs and "bouncing balls". The more pressure you apply, the higher they bounce. That is the situation with the renewal of the Russian tradition in the field of culture and science, and thus sociology.

As it is well-known, under the conditions of the so-called real-socialism, the Bolshevik single party system, and the Marxist ideology, the national tradition in culture and science was terminated in Russia. Such was the case in social sciences and especially sociology. Namely, in Russia at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, sociology as a science was on the rise. Famous sociologists were at work: M. M.

Kovalevsky, N. I. Karev, N. K. Mihailovsky and P. A. Sorokin<sup>1</sup>. These authors enjoyed reputations in Europe and all over the world. They founded the first department of sociology (1908), and the first Russian sociological society (1916).

With the arrival of Stalin, partisanship and dogmatism began to develop in the social sciences. In this cultural-political context – the national sociological tradition in Russia was terminated. It was replaced by doctrinated Marxism.

With the implosion of socialism (1989) and the renewal of the civil society in modern Russia, the pluralization of life in all fields of social activities, including culture and science, was finalized. Thus, the first faculties of sociology opened in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Among the first to be founded was the *Faculty of Sociology* in Moscow as a part of the Moscow State University Lomonosov (1989). Its founder was *Vladimir Ivanovič Dobrenkov*, who along with G. Osipov and V. Yadov, is one of the most important modern Russian sociologists

I met Vladimir Ivanovič Dobrenkov in August, 1988 in Dubrovnik where I, as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Niš, was attending the conference *The Modern University*. Professor Dobrenkov was at the time the Vice Chancellor of the Lomonosov University. He is a man with a rich professional and political biography.

Born in 1939 he graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the MSU M. B. Lomonosov. He holds a PhD in philosophy and is a professor. He also founded and was the Dean of the first Faculty of Sociology of the MSU M. B. Lomonosov (1989). He is the chair of the history and sociology department; a member of the Russian academy of social sciences; the president of the Russian sociological association; the editor-in-chief of the *Sociology* journal. He is a specialist in the field of history and sociological theory, sociology and the philosophy of religion. He has authored more than 200 papers and over 30 books, textbooks and other studies. These include: *The modern protestant theological modernism* (1980); *Methodological issues on the research into religion* (1980), *Christian theology and the revolution* (1990); *Sociology* (2000); *Sociology of the young* (2001); *The history of sociology* (2003); *Fundamental sociology I-XV* (2003-2007) (co-authored with Kravchenko, Albert Ivanovich); *Military safety of Russia in the 21st century* (2010); *The development of sociological education in Russia* (2007); *Globalization and Russia* (2009) and *Value-oriented sociology* (2011). His books have received the most prestigious awards in Russia, and many have been translated into English, Portuguese and Chinese.

Here we give a review of some of Dobrenkov's studies which were pioneer works with encyclopedic significance for the development of contemporary Russian sociology.

#### THE ENCYCLOPEDIA IMPORTANCE OF THE 15 VOLUMES OF *FUNDAMENTAL SOCIOLOGY*<sup>2</sup>

*Vladimir Ivanovich Dobrenkov* is an individual with a strong creative energy and high organizational skills. For his professional and organizational skills he was awarded some of the highest awards given by the Moscow State University (2001); he was awarded the

<sup>1</sup> For more details on the history of the development of sociology in Russia please see: V. A. Jadov *Sociology in Russia*, (Moskva, 1996); A. J. Kravčenko *The history of sociology* (Moskva, 2006); Z. T. Golenkova & N. P. Narbut *The history of sociological thought in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe* (Moskva, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> V. I. Dobrenkov with A. Kravchev, *Fundamental sociology, 2003-2007*, INFRA-M, Moskva.

*Družba naroda* medal (1980); the *Krsno znamenje* medal (1986) and the *Pocheta* medal (1999). In addition, his textbooks and studies have been awarded by the Russian sociological association. Nevertheless, the name V. I. Dobrenkov most will recognize: by his being the founder of the first Faculty of Sociology in the new Russia; by the encyclopedic work *Fundamental Sociology*; by the renewal of the work of the Russian sociological association and by the renewal of Russian conservatism and the redefinition of its significance for the modernization of contemporary Russian society.

In only four years (2003-2007) Vladimir Ivanovich Dobrenkov (as the co-author of Krovčenko, Albert Ivanovič) published 15 volumes of his studies in the field of general sociology entitled *Fundamental Sociology*, which represents a unique encyclopedia of sociological knowledge. Based on its structure, this encyclopedic study contains the following volumes: I *Theory and methodology* (2003); II *Empirical and applied sociology*; III *Methodology and research technique*; IV *Society: statics and dynamics*; V *Social structure*; VI *Social deformations*; VII *Man, the individual and the personality*; VIII *Socialization and education*; IX *The ages of man's life*; X *Gender, the family, kinship*; XI *Culture and religion*; XII *Economy and labor*; XIII *Organization and management*; XIV *Government, the state, bureaucracy*; XV *Stratification and mobility* (2007). What follows is a short review of the structure/content of this monumental study.

In the first volume of *Fundamental Sociology* – entitled *Theory and methodology*, on 905 pages, the authors tackle the following questions:

1. The nature of sociological knowledge;
2. The organization of sociological knowledge;
3. The structure of theoretical knowledge in sociology;
4. Sociological science and education, the characteristics of institutionalization.

At the end of the study there is a glossary and an extensive list of references both in Russian and in other languages.

In the second volume of *Fundamental Sociology* entitled *Empirical and applied sociology* (2004) on 985 pages, the following methodological units were covered:

1. Theory and methodology;
2. The history of sociological research;
3. The development of applied sociology;
4. Statistics and sociology;
5. The scientific infrastructure of sociology.

In addition, the book includes a chrestomathy of passages from classic works in sociology, extensive literature written in various languages, as well as a glossary.

In the third volume of *Fundamental Sociology*, *Methodology and research techniques* (2004), on 930 pages, the following problems were addressed:

1. The program of sociological research;
2. Descriptive methods;
3. A sociological questionnaire;
4. Non-descriptive methods.

In the fourth volume of *Fundamental Sociology*, *Society, statics and dynamics*, on 1107 pages of text, the following questions were discussed:

1. The evolution of man and society;
2. Historical types of society;
3. Sociological theories of society;
4. The structures and models of society;

5. Global processes;
6. Russia and the Russian society.

In the fifth volume of *Fundamental Sociology*, Social structure, on 1095 pages the authors discuss the following questions:

1. Social fields and social structure;
2. Social structure;
3. The city, the country, the household.

In the sixth volume of *Fundamental Sociology*, Social deformations, the authors, on 1073 pages, cover the following questions:

1. Social deconstructions;
2. War and armies;
3. Transgressions and punishment.

In the seventh volume of *Fundamental Sociology*, Man, the individual and the personality, the authors on 750 pages of text discuss the following questions:

1. Theory and methodology;
2. The internal world of the human;
3. Knowledge and opinion;
4. Man and the social environment.

In volume eight of *Fundamental Sociology*, Socialization and education, the authors on 1025 pages of text consider the following questions:

1. The agents, functions and types of socialization;
2. Education and upbringing;
3. Social effectiveness.

In volume nine of *Fundamental Sociology*, The stages/ages in human life, on 1093 pages we find the following:

1. Theory and methodology;
2. Offspring;
3. Children and adults;
4. Adults and the young;
5. The elderly.

Volume ten of *Fundamental Sociology* is dedicated to Gender, family and kinship and in it the authors on 1097 pages consider the following questions:

1. Gender: men and women;
2. The institution of marriage: statics and dynamics;
3. The change in the family in the altered world;
4. Kinship and genealogy.

Volume eleven of *Fundamental Sociology* is dedicated to the topic of Culture and religion in which the authors on over 1000 pages discuss the basic theories and concepts of culture and religion and the basic problematic fields of contemporary sociology of culture and sociology of religion.

In volume twelve of *Fundamental Sociology*, Economics and labor, the authors on 1141 pages discuss the following questions:

1. Theory and methodology;
2. Work and production;
3. The market, employment and unemployment;
4. The economic sphere of society.

In volume thirteen of *Fundamental Sociology*, Organization and management, the authors on 927 pages consider the following questions:

1. The history of management;
2. Theory and methodology;
3. Organizational structure;
4. Organizational culture and dynamics.

In volume fourteen of *Fundamental Sociology* Government, the state and bureaucracy, the authors consider the questions:

1. The political life of society;
2. Social hierarchy and government;
3. The state order;
4. Bureaucracy and humanity.

In volume fifteen *Fundamental Sociology*, Stratification and mobility, the authors on 1029 pages discuss the following questions:

1. Theory and methodology;
2. Historical types of stratification;
3. The class system;
4. Mobility and migration.

In these fifteen volumes on systematic general sociology the authors outlined the basics of this theory, the concepts and categories of contemporary sociology, as well as processed the basic problematic fields which sociology deals with today. They have done so in a professional way, with an extensive knowledge of sociological literature, both the classics and more modern researchers. Each book in the end is neatly equipped with an overview of the basic terms/concepts which are related to the material included in the book. We might be right in saying that Dobrenkov and Kravchenko have performed a pioneer-encyclopedic task in modern Russian sociology, and thus made a great and seminal contribution not only to science but also the education of a new generation of professional sociologists in Russia. Their team work speaks of the fact that great deeds can be realized not only through individual scientific innovation but also through a cooperative production of a great number of researchers.

Nevertheless, in addition to this seminal contribution to contemporary Russian sociology, Vladimir Ivanovich Dobrenkov is also known to the Russian academic public for his other numerous studies. Here we will name just a few.

In the study *The development of sociological education in Russia* (2007) V. I. Dobrenkov gave a detailed overview of the institutional development of sociology and the education of sociologists in Russia: starting from a view of the sociological national tradition to the modern age. In this study the specific nature of the work being done at departments, faculties and institutes of sociology is emphasized; as is the publishing function, as well as the organization and activities of the Russian sociological association.

In the study *Globalization and Russia* (2010) V. I. Dobrenkov processes the phenomenon of globalization and the place of Russia in the global age. The author, with a vast knowledge of western literature (Wallerstein, Giddens, Beck) considers the complex and contradictory process of globalization, indicating the differences which it creates in the countries located at the center of world events and those on the periphery. The author especially focuses on the position of Russia under the conditions of globalization and its efforts to, for the purpose of preserving national culture and identity, take part in the processes of modernization and contemporary development. The author points out: Rus-

sia, with modernization of technology and the inclusion in global processes must preserve its national identity and build an autonomous model/strategy for a multipolar world.

In his latest study *Value-oriented sociology* (2011) Dobrenkov considers the problematic fields of post-classical methodology in modern sociology. In it he outlines the essential tendencies of value-oriented sociology in the central and peripheral parts of the world; especially problematizing the question of the syntheses in sociology under the conditions of globalization and the liberalization of modern social relationships. The author considers the problems of "capital" and peripheral sociology; devastating historical megatrends (globalization, neoliberalism, multiculturalism), as well as the possibility of building a synthesis between philosophy, science and religion; sociology and religion; orthodoxy and conservatism. A special chapter in the book is dedicated to the question of national ideas and strategies in modern Russia, which the author sees as a renewal of political conservatism – which he would like to reaffirm: orthodoxy as spirituality, the state and nation as the basis for the development and active opposition to neoliberal globalism.

The author believes that Russia should not mimic the west (he believes that the process of liberalization, which is planned in the west, is not inevitable for Russian society), and thus Russia should follow its own process of national conservative ideology, revitalizing and reorganizing (on the inside) its social, state and national strengths. Naturally, actively cooperating with the world, but also guarding and realizing its own geostrategic interests in this modern day and age.

By reading this book you will notice the extent of the knowledge of the author on the development of sociology in the world and of global megatrends, but also his patriotic attentiveness towards the Russian idea - political conservatism.

I must say: that in Russia, after the plague of Yeltsin's neoliberals who with their reforms brought chaos and plundered the country, the natural reaction was a road to stabilization, which came with Putin's team. Nevertheless, bearing in mind the deep oligarchy of Russian political capitalism, I am not convinced that in the long run this concept of political conservatism/conservative modernization can be sustained. Sooner or later, Russia – its developmental forces, will find a way towards some form of social-democratic development.

Other questions for discussion surface – such as: the relationship between sociology and religion? Sociology has, as it is well-known, emerged as an expression of the spirit of rationalism/enlightenment – as a critique of religion. As A. Touraine says "a society is not the gift of the gods or the leaders", but is the expression of the system of action of people/social groups – in the self-production of society.

The modern "cry" for religion is an expression of the crisis and confusion in which the world/especially the countries in transition find themselves: in the desire to stop the chaos. At the same time we call upon religion/orthodoxy most often to functionalize in the service of the sociology of order, or is this the return to the pre-Christian forms of consciousness and community and the attempt to find salvation in them?

Contemporary sociology is at a crossroads. Two tendencies have emerged within it. One is towards retraditionalization (a return towards ethnography) and the second towards aristocracy (the research only into the "higher levels of society" – that is, the elite of the so-called "official society").

Contemporary sociology must overcome these contradictory tendencies either in the form of restoration in the fields of social life of pre-modern communities or in the form of its reduction to the political sociology of national ruling elites in the modern day and age.

It must expand and deepen its own sociological optics. Namely, contemporary sociology must be liberated from the national territorial trap – to expand and redefine its subject matter to the world global society/the world of postnational constellations – humanity "as the future which is already on its way". And thus in the new unity "of the highest order" study the global, national, regional and local concepts of the "connected" world society. Naturally, all this today is a condition for sociology not to be marginalized or "swallowed" by globology, as a transdisciplinary science in a system of contemporary knowledge, instead it should by guarding its professional identity, develop interdisciplinary cooperation with it and other sciences. Precisely by opening itself up to new forms of knowledge, can it pave the way for scientific progress and help in its own affirmation.

The work of Vladimir Ivanovich Dobrenkov is an exemplary "energy coach" in contemporary Russian sociology. His contribution to sociology is not only theoretical, based on scientific-research work, but organizational-institutional and his mission in many ways is pioneer and culturally emancipatory.

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## ENCIKLOPEDIJSKI DOPRINOS VLADIMIRA IVANOVIČA DOBRENKOVA SAVREMENOJ RUSKOJ SOCIOLOGIJI

Ljubiša Mitrović

*Autor u radu razmatra doprinos V.I. Dobrenkova savremenoj ruskoj sociologiji. U fokusu njegove analize nalazi se kako naučno-pedagoški rad Dobrenkova, tako i njegova organizaciono-kulturna misija. U radu se analizira enciklopedijski doprinos Dobrenkova (u koautorstvu sa A. Kravčevim), u izradi 15 tomova (sa preko 10000 stranica teksta) u formi Fundamentalne sociologije, koji imaju kapitalnu vrednost. U njima se razmatraju kako istorija nastanka i razvoja svetske i ruske sociologije, tako i osnovne teorije i metode, kategorije, problemska polja, struktura i dinamika savremenog društva. Takođe, dat je pregled najnovijih studija Dobrenkova o globalizaciji u Rusiji, vrednosno orijentisanog sociologiji i sociološkom obrazovanju u Rusiji. Posebno je obrađen organizatorski rad Dobrenkova na osnivanju novog Sociološkog fakulteta u savremenoj Rusiji, kao i obnovi rada ruske sociološke asocijacije čiji je predsednik.*

Ključne reči: *Ruska sociologija, V. I. Dobrenkov, fundamentalna sociologija, vrednosno-orijentisana sociologija.*