

## **Challenges of Civilization in the Modern World**

Prof. Dr. Natalia Maslakova-Clauberg, , [International Association for Intercultural Dialogue and Geostrategic Studies](#)

The beginning of the XXI century was marked by global turbulence, which manifested itself in geopolitical confrontations, economic crises, military conflicts, migration crises, social upheavals, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, which, according to the figurative expression of French President Emmanuel Macron, was called "sanitary war". Nevertheless, a special place in these global turbulent processes is occupied by civilizational challenges, which are associated not only with basic institutions, but, above all, with the value systems of various states. These became the causes of the modern civilizational crisis, which has turned into one of the key problems of the modern world.

Even at the beginning of the twentieth century, scientists began to present contentedly gloomy predictions about the future of the world and, in particular, the fate of Europe. Thus, the book of the German philosopher Oswald Spengler "The Decline of Europe" (1922) has acquired great relevance, in which he presented a rather pessimistic forecast for Europe, which allegedly expects decline and destruction in the future, which will result from the appearance of new peoples and conquerors on its territory. After the end of World War II, scientific studies on the ethno-cultural division of civilizations began to appear in the United States and a number of Western European countries. In particular, the American political scientist and sociologist Samuel Phillips Huntington in his two famous works – "Clash of Civilizations" (1993) and "Clash of Civilizations and Transformation of the World Order" (1996), defended the idea that future wars will represent a war of cultures between countries. He also foreshadowed that Islamic extremism would become one of the threats to the whole world. Another American scientist Francis Fukuyama in his book "The End of History and the Last Man" (1992) argued that Western-style liberal democracy testifies to the completion of the socio-cultural evolution of mankind and the century of ideological confrontations. As a result, a new and final form of government will be determined.

Forecasts for the XXI century were somewhat optimistic, but the main emphasis was on the religious aspect. Thus, Andre Malraux, the French Minister of Culture in the government of Charles de Gaulle, said that "the XXI century will be religious or not at all."

All these forecasts, theories and concepts only foreshadowed a new era in which humanity will enter – globalization. Namely, globalization was supposed to complete the worldwide process of economic, political, cultural and religious

integration and unification. The goal of globalization is the formation of a unified global network market economy, the lowering of the state sovereignty of various countries, the formation of a new unified worldculture and morality, which ultimately should centralize and unify the whole world.

However, the events of the first half of the XXI century demonstrate a different situation. Today we are witnessing a "religious renaissance", first of all, Islam, which is becoming a significant factor in the countries of post-Christian Europe. Evidence of this is the migration crisis and the failed policy of multiculturalism in Europe, which failed to unify the religious norms of Islam with the principles of globalism. It is obvious that the "conflict of civilizations" is still ahead of us. The Islamic world does not recognize such principles of globalism as same-sex marriage, the LGBT movement, transgender options, the emergence of a third sex, the destruction of the institution of marriage, etc. And this means that the new emerging order will determine its values and enhance the role of national cultures and religions of states.