

PHILOSOPHIC ANTICIPATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN COSMISTS

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Abstract. Ever since the times of Leonardo da Vinci, Sirano de Bergerac, Jules Verne, the interest in the cosmic expanses has continuously grown; first dreams, then anticipations, thereupon philosophical and scientific conceptions, have been developing especially in the second half of the 19th and during the 20th centuries. These achievements constituted the foundation of the great transformations of the conditions of human life worldwide, but they aroused reflexions on big planetary hazards. While the achievements of the West are more or less known, those of the Russian cosmists, due to the concurrence of circumstances, have only lately become the object of wider debates, for the part of the important documentation was, for various reasons was inaccessible to researchers or was only partially known.

The syntagm "Russian cosmists" stands for the numerous thinkers of very different expressions: philosophers, scientists, theologians-modernists. The Russian cosmism is a specific spiritual, philosophic-scientific orientation, displaying encyclopedic and independent synthetic expression of the Russian genius, having its beginnings sometime in the middle of the last century. Belonging to the circle of these thinkers have been numerous creatorors, among whom the most important are doubtless: N. F. Fedorov (1828-1903), philosopher, theologien, admired in a manner by Dostoevski, Tolstoi and Vladimir Salavev; K. E. Ciolkovski (1857-1935); V. I. Vernadski (1863-1945), a world-renwned scientists, the founder of biochemistry – a theory of the biosphere and the ionosphere; A. L. Gizevli (1897-1964), scientist, philosopher, artist, particularly occupied with heliobiology. The cosmist ideas were another form of the maximalism, personified by therevolutionary Kibalcic, a participant in the attempt on the emperor Alexandar II, engaged simultaneously in drawing up plans for rockets, found as late as 1918 in the secret police files. The fate of the cosmists is, in general, personified by the men who brought into effect some of the projects as cosmists as was S. P. Korolev. In this connection many philosophical questions are currently raised as to the survival of mankind.