



## BOOK REVIEW

**Vladimir I. Ionesov**

*Culture in Transition: Imperatives of Transformation and Possibilities of Development, Samara Society for Cultural Studies; Samara State Academy of Culture and Arts, Samara: "Vek#21", 2011. – 537 pp. (text in Russian, summary in English, pp. 524-537), ISBN 978-5-88293-255-7*

**By Ioannis Liritzis**

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Although slow the dissemination of Russian Books to the West through the increased Russian-Western collaboration projects developed mainly by academics, significant Russian literature becomes known. In the field of Cultural transformation and evolution that MAA journal publishes on a combined interdisciplinary field of archaeology and cultural heritage with natural sciences, and/or purely art, archaeology or archaeometry of Mediterranean origin, MAA also exerts particular emphasis to cultural dynamics that has been approached by various researchers on a sole humanities issue but as a naturalistic phenomenon too applying theory of complexity (Liritzis, 2013; Mainzer, 1997).

In the book by Prof Ionesov, the aim is the study of the survival of culture in transition. It gives a cultural analysis and interpretation of the transitional reality as a multifunctional integral cultural system. The author has gone from the descriptive and estimating consideration to the exploratory analysis of the changing culture. First, the systematic-cultural and hypothetic-deductive approaches to the research of the nature and predestination of transformations in cultural process are used. Secondly, various manifestations of transition statuses are picked out as the main sources of cultural reconstruction. Thirdly, the models of transitions are given through the classification of different stages of cultural development both in space and in time.

Focused on multiculturalism as a universal strategy and survival imperative in terms of cultural diversity the author undervalues the syndrome of local projection. The author analyses the individualization and generalization that both terminate at the human and humanity respectively. The multiculturalism is theoretically and experimentally approached from author's regional background in southern west Russia where this multi-culturality is most evidenced throughout the time. Surely the author has got many data that extrapolates on a potential level to other societies. Thus he defines multiculturalism as the model (system) of stable co-existence of different ethnic, social and cultural groups in the functionally integral space of cross-cultural interaction with high density of their internal relations. The author in the conclusion through rational understanding of the western and eastern cultures in the course of time promotes the idea of harmonic interaction, that involves the terms-actions of: traditionalism, collectivism, conservatism, constancy, settled way of life, deep-rootedness, commitment to home, contemplation, regulation, serenity, irrational spirituality etc with individualism, liberalism, dynamism, openness, rationalism, commitment to reforms and progress, cosmopolitanism, pragmatism etc (see, Mazlish, 1998). Although it does not consider the environmental factor (Anderson et al., 2007) that affects cultural evolution, the book

explores in depth all social factors on an equilibrium that supports globality, but not globalization, of peaceful interactions between separate cultural clusters emerged in the course of time, which form the local/regional traditional roots of peoples. In our opinion the author pinpoints the risk to crisis and eventually to more drastic tribulation to an unsettled modern world. This

may occur due to failing to apply the multicultural co-existence based on classical values of respect, understanding, tolerance, freedom of expression and living within the rules without exceptions, and cultivation of virtues. The Book consists of four large chapters with several sub-chapters and consists of 537 pages with an English summary of a dozen of pages.

## REFERENCES

- Liritzis, I (2013) Twelve thousand years of non-linear cultural evolution: The physics of chaos in Archaeology. *SYNESIS: a journal of science, technology, ethics and policy*, G19-31
- Mainzer, K (1997) *Thinking in complexity, The complex dynamics of matter, mind and mankind*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Springer.
- Mazlish, B (1998) *The Uncertain Sciences*. Yale University Press, New Heaven London.
- Anderson D.G et al (2007) *Climatic change & cultural dynamics. A global perspective on mid-holocene transitions*. Academic Press, Elsevier, Amsterdam

Additional information about the book:

<http://www.culturelink.org/news/publics/2012/publication2012-040.html>

<http://www.culturalnet.ru/f/viewtopic.php?id=2363>

Review in Russian:

<http://www.lib.csu.ru/vch/329/027.pdf>

## Information about the author

**Vladimir Ionesov:** Chair, Department of Theory and History of Culture at Samara State at Samara State Academy of Culture and Arts, President of Samara Society for Cultural Studies. He graduated from the History Department of the Samarkand State University (1984). From 1984 to 1994 he worked at the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Since December 1993, he has been working at the Department of Cultural Studies of the Samara State Academy of Culture and Arts, where he teaches theory and methodology of culture, comparative cultural studies, cultural anthropology, theory of multiculturalism. He earned the academic degree of Full Doctor of Sciences (D.Sc.) in Cultural Studies from St. Petersburg State University of Culture and Arts (2012). He also received the degree of Candidate of Science (PhD) in History (1990) from the Institute of Archaeology of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences He is a member of the British Royal Archaeological Institute, the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), the World Archaeological Congress and other scientific organizations. He is also Head of the International Scientific Workshop "Social Innovation in the Cultural Process" and Chair of the Regional Centre of the International Commission on Urgent Anthropological Research. He is Senior Editor of International e-Journal "Creative Economics and Social Innovations". Since 2012 Director of the International School for Advanced Cultural Studies at Samara State Academy of Culture and Arts. He is author of over 230 scientific works, many of them published abroad (in 16 countries), five books, two of which were published in the United States (2002) and Germany (2013), as well as, two textbooks in cultural studies. The current scientific projects: phenomenology of culture, cultural dynamics, theory of multicultural transformations and transitional development.

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