The economic science of Russian emigrants


At first everyone wanted to believe that they had left Russia not for a long time. Not by chance different education institutes found temporary improvement abroad, keeping their scientific and pedagogical continuity. That is why about ten various education institutes from all parts of Russia were in the charge of famous Russian foreign charitable organization in the Kingdom of Serbian, Croats and Slovenians in the beginning of 20th century. In 1921 thousands of Russian people emigrated to The Kingdom. Over 3 thousand of them had a high education. About 8 thousand people found the sanctuary in Belgrade.

The politics of Alexander I Karageorgevich, the king of Yugoslavia, allowed Belgrade to become one of the largest centers of Russian emigration because he highly appreciated Russia. Separate Russian education institutes were founded in Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and other countries. After the recognition of the Soviet Russia by the world powers (1924), the centers of Russian emigration were established at the large embassies of Russia and committees of Nansen. At that time Paris, Berlin, Prague, Belgrade, Harbin became important centers of Russian emigration. Most scientists removed there and Russian education institutes were opened. Only in Paris eight Russian higher education institutes were opened. The most popular of them were the Russian Department of University of Paris which numbered more than forty Russian professors; Russian higher technical institute, The Higher school of social, political and juridical sciences. Russian higher technical institute, opened in 1921(at first as a higher school) and supported by the government of France had the rights of higher technical education institutes in France. The old academic traditions remained in Russian polytechnic institute. The choir of students performed "Let's s be glad my dear friends while we strong and young" at the meetings accompanied by professor Antsiferov. Professor A.P. Markov, an economist in the sphere of agriculture, criticizing the Soviet economic orders, lived in Paris. A.N. Antsiferov and M.A. Bouniatyan organized an economic seminar (in 1934). M. Bouniatyan lectured "the causes of depression". A.N. Antsiferov, being a doctor of political economy and a statistician was also a friend of chairman of Central Committee by maintenance higher education of Russian young people abroad. A.N. Antsiferov headed the Russian group, formed in Paris in May (1920), namely, the management of scientific and research group "To cognition of Russia". In 1942 prof. Antsiferov as an author of scientific works on cooperative movement was awarded by Paris Academy of Sciences.

Prof.A.M.Michelson, a specialist in finance was elected as a correspondent of French Academy of
Sciences. Professor P.P. Migulin, who worked at universities in Kharkov and S.-Petersburg, was at the head of "Community of relief for Russian teachers and students in Nice". In 1934 prof. Migulin delivered a series of lectures on political economy and in 1935 a series of lectures on the agrarian politics in pre-Revolutionary Russia and communist agrarian politics in "the group of cognition of Russia". At the same time he carried out two important economic researches that remained in manuscripts only.

The Russian Academic group and "The Unit of Russian students in France" (the chairman - prof. A.V. Kartashev, formed in February, 1921), organized scientific lectures on the historical value of the Russian revolution by P.B. Struve, "the agrarian problem" and "the agrarian relations in Russia" by I.I Bounakov, "the economic system of Russia"(1923) by A.N. Antsiferov and "the money circulation" by M.V.Bernatsky.

In 1926 scientific courses "The lectures about Russia" were organized on general Miller’s initiative, where P. Struve delivered his reports (each of them was published as a separate booklet): "Russian science in the history of Russian culture" and "Economic development of Russia in the connection with its general culture and development".

The Russian department of law, Russian people university, Russian institute of agricultural cooperation, Economic study of prof. S.N. Procopovich, Economic seminar of P.Struve, Pedagogical institute, Institute of the study of Russia, Russian educational board, the Congress of sciences and other institutes and educational establishments.

The Unit of Russian organizations aboard (1921) established under the chairmanship of A.S.lomshakov in Prague. In 1923 Russian foreign historical archives established there. Russian department of law (to university of Carl) that had been established by prof. P.I. Novgorodtsev in may 1922 in Prague gathered 22 professors,8 assistant professors and 2 docents.There were 439 students at the department in 1925.the first dean was P.I.Novgorodtsev himself (right up his death in 1924).Afterwards the department was at the head of prof.A.Vilkov. The political economy was taught by P.Struve,prof.A.D.Bilimovich(a series of lectures),V.A.Kosinsky(practical trainings) and V.F.Totomiants, assistants-professors P.N.Savitsky and N.S.Jekulin. The course of statistics was taught by professor P.I.Georgievsky and assistant professor D.N.Ivantsov.Afterwars A.A.Chuprov who had removed from Dresden joined to them not for a long time. The library of department included several thousand volumes of literature including several hundred volumes in german-it was a gift of Kovalevskys.the department was opening with complications. At first there were not many teachers.the selection of them was rather casual. Many of them did not work by profession.In 1922 the structure of teachers at russian department of law was increased by professors Bulgakov and Kizevetter who was deported from Russia.In 1923 S.S.Kon tought at departement.He was invited for his scientific services as one of the founders of International econometrical community(USA).

In 1925 The Russian peoples university opened(in 1930 it was renamed for Russian Free University). The Founders of university were prof.A.A.Kizevetter,P.I.Novgorodtsev and M.M.Novikov who became the rector of university. In 1925 on the basis of russian-czechian unit was established The Society of Russian peoples university.

The russian peoples university enveloped enlightenal and educational activity from elementary schools courses of accounting and studying of languages till higher courses on speciak fields of knowledge(economics,philosophy). The debatable evenings held in university and seminars opened.
particular S.S.Maslov and prof.A.N.Chelintsev taught the seminar about agrarian Russia. The seminar "The new in economic life" was devoted to studying of "new appearances in economic life which were interesting and which had an important and practical meaning. Prof.Ivantsov read at this seminar his reports "The world industry after the War", "The world agriculture after the War" and other. Prof.A.A.Vilkov read the lectures about analysis of tax politics in Soviet Russia and "The Public finances in Europe and in Soviet Russia after the War". Georgievsky, Chuprov, Ostroukhov and others took the part in the science of university. The Russian free university had its own department in Uzgorod. The public lectures of leading scientists of university were organized in other towns in Czechoslovakia. S.N.Prokopovich read his report "The economic state of Soviet Russia" in Ostrava and in Plzene. S.Prokopovich was the author of seminar on economic in Russian free university. In 1923 the The Russian Free university was visited by 33 thousand people. During the time of its highest raising in 1928-1929 it was visited by over 60 thousand people. In 1937-38 academic year about 17 thousand people. The economic seminar of prof. Prokopovich which was called "The economic armchair" gathered many young investigators and published regularly "The economic bulletin." In his scientific articles Prokopovich persisted in his opinion of capitalistic exhaustion of Europe and transporation the center of economic life to colonies. Besides the bulletin the Armchair of Prokopovich published "Russian economic collections" in fours every year. Many Russian economists were enlisted in this work including A.A.Chuprov, S.S.Kon, A.V.Peshekhonov. The library was opened to the Armchair.


After the lecture P. Struve declared that besides practical trainings with the students he had established closed seminar devoted to reading scientific reports and discussing scientific questions for persons which had the training and wished to study the questions of economic science fields of knowledge which were bound with it. D.N.Ivantsov, A.S.Isgoev, A.V.Kosinsky, S.N.Prokopovich, S.G.Pushkarev ("the economic history in time of Peter the first"), V.Brunst, S.I.Gessen ("The concept of economy", "The evolution of liberalism") and the others took part in that seminar. During the work of seminar A.D. Bilimovich told about questions of political economy, P.A. Sorokin about sociology.

In 1930 P. Struve settled down in Yugoslavia in Belgrade where he read the lections in Russian scientific institute and taught also in other educational institutes in Belgrade and in Subbotitsa. Afterwards P.B. Struve had moved to Paris where he in 1944 died.

The special research "An economy and price. The critical researches of theory and history of economy life." was belonged to P. Struve in emigration. In this work Struve considered the latest evolution of price, which was bound with tendency to definitness of price (the tariff system) and establishment sindicate prices and tarifs of wages as form of transition from free to index price. Struve called the economic system of Smith...
"The liberalism in garment of naturalism." In his opinion which he told in his work the both ideals-socialistic and liberal were equally unrealisable and were utopian. On considering the category of economic fitness Struve considered that it "purposed known moral virtues of personality as a whole." The continuously actions of ethic strengths was as a known fact in economic activity.

P. Struve criticized the application of concepts "statistics and dynamics" that were adopted from classical mechanics. P. Struve considered that political economy had to do with any significant individuals that had made naturally or artificially and were to be studied. A mathematical understanding of economic appearances revealed an extraordinary complication and mobility of economic phenomena. Struve rejected statistical precondition as a certain general and basic in economic theory where as it stipulated the most important generalizations of traditional economic theory.

Harbin was a particular center of Russian emigration. Prof. Gins remembered the first year of his emigration in the Far East. "The future for us was totally vaguely and we had not any ideas about it." Some professors removed to Harbin soon. Then the head of commercial schools had given an apartment, the necessary means were gathered, the students were found and in March of 1920 the economic and courses of law were opened, that was the source of future faculty. The higher schools were established thanks to common efforts of local society and professors from Russia.

In 1920-37 G. Gins taught at Russian department of law in Harbin served to China East railway station, had a lawyer training, wrote the works that were devoted to problems of China and Japan.

"An employer " which was one of the famous works was published in Harbin. And he explained the purpose of his work. "the passion for ideas of planned or organized economy made to forget those which put their alive soul and creative beginning in economic life. An employer is ignored in our time and is hated by some people because they do not understand the positive meaning of employers for agriculture."

In 1942 G.K. Gins had removed to USA and taught at Californian university in Berkly and was one of the heads of educational fond for help Russian students) by I.V. Kulaev (the Siberian public man, the organizer of flour-grinding at China East railway station). G.K. Gins died in San-Francisco in 1971.

In Harbin M.V. Ambrosimov undertook the special research that devoted to problem of irregular assessment social profit. In his opinion "Our world is not the best of the worlds, but it indoubtedly is improving". He draw a conclusion that "there is not perfect social system because of gradual evolution and social revolutions."

The economists assistant-professors V.I. Surin and N.A. Itniysky worked with M.V. Ambrosimov and G.K. Gins at the department of law in Harbin. The department of law had been prospering till 1929. Professors had a high salary. The proceedings of the department of law continually published.

The department won a recognition by Sorbonne and other biggest centers of Europe and America. Our professors including G. Gins and N. Nikiforov (the dean of faculty) were members of "Academic group" of Russian "Unit of academic organizations".

The formation of the department of law in Harbin was unique. The department worked in semi-savages country without university traditions, scientific libraries and scientific strengths. In 1937 the Department closed because of political and economic complications (the country was the subject of interests of China, Japan and Russia and it influenced on its internal status).
It is worth noting an economic bureau of China East railway station. I.A. Mikhailov, I.F. Rassokhin, I.G. Baranov, E.E. Yashnov and east economic faculty of Saint Vladimir institute (G.G. Avenarius who was the author of course "an economic of the East" worked there) were employees of it.

The absolute most of Russian scientifics did not take that was happening in Soviet Russia. P. Struve told his relation in his early emigrant work "The results and essence of communist economic" (Paris, 1921): "a demoralization of labour, shallowing of economic life, a naturalization of economic and technical degradation". That all was the crisis of parasitic and rapacious economy and it had plunged the country to natural economic. P. Struve noticed that "socialism was not responsible for bolshevism and whole Russian experience and it was alive tragedy of socialism".

D. Pisarenko thought that Marxism and anarchism were the terrible experience which had maimed Russian nation and conditions of its life. ("to problems of economic reconstruction in Russia". Berlin, 1923)

The Soviet economists were hard criticized in emigrations because they proved progressiveness of the reforms which were in Soviet Russia. This way N.S. Zekulin criticized the law of primary socialistic accumulation (by E. Preobrazensky: "The new life", 1926).

He told that new economic system in bolshevist Russia was made artificially. And nobody had methods of its system building. In the time of capitalism free exchange reforms of market economy increased from the depth of economic life. The law of primary socialistic accumulation did not have an automatism of economic regulation which was valuable in the system of pricing under free market economic. Their wrong accounting was the reason of unprofitability of economic.

N. Zekulin told that an establishment of firm price destroyed the commodity economy. The dictatorship of proletariat was not transitional form before the jump to kingdom of freedom but was necessary condition of existence of socialistic economy. The whole system of soviet economy would disappear immediately with falling of dictatorship.

Prof. A.P. Markov who worked in Paris, criticized the new economic politics and purposed that it would not revive an agriculture. He shown inevitability of tax in kind for soviet finances when he assessed an emission as a source of state profits. And in future the agriculture of Russia independently of nep would suffer from this unjust tax.

L.M. Loumlyansky in his work "NEP" wrote about opposition between communist power and NEP. In his opinion The soviet power could not go in way of NEP. Its politic did not allow it and it rushed to the side of primitive decisions which threaten with new complications. He began to conduct finance assessment giving the right to defray their expenses with their own means. It brought disorganizations in life that was returning to normal with hardly and this way quickened general crisis. L.M. Loumlyansky purposed that the power threatened with a new adventure to delay decision the creative economic problems which were beyond its strength.

If we are present at origin and infantile development of socialistic state or socialistic phraseology is only a history masking of bourgeois revolution that had been done in epoch of late capitalism when proletariat that had been awaked for a political life needed to be lied to agree making by their hands for bourgeois destruction of feudal survives asked A. Jugov.
In his opinion the life destroyed utopian and proved that economy and social conditions doomed it to go through stage of capitalist development. Under influence of politics or terror and dictatorship the soviet power had emancipated from the working class. Jugov purposed that state capitalism in Russia was bureaucratic, working bad.

N.N.Alekseev thought that "there was a mighty experience of introduction of communist strage. The experience was lame conducted to capitalism which it had wanted to destroy."("The property and socialism. The experience of basis social and economy program of eurasia".Paris,1928). N.Alekseev concluded his work by the words: "Go into the power of "smudgy" because you wished to build socialism. It served you right for projects. When the new capitalism will settle on the fragments of communism then the building of capitalism will be destroyed by new socialists and communists. It is one fine historical plan that resembles a nasty joke."