

RUSSIAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

Call for Papers

Political Theology and International Justice

RSR announces its annual call for papers for a special issue.

Political theology is the main theme of this year's fourth issue of the journal. This rapidly developing field of scholarship has long since moved beyond the boundaries of the original project outlined by Carl Schmitt a century ago and in his later writings. Contemporary scholars disagree with Schmitt both in the interpretation of particular issues and the articulation of general problems. This does not prevent us from seeing political theology as a highly productive and instructive way of thinking. For sociologists, philosophers, and legal theorists, it is significant that Schmitt links his work on political theology to the questions of constitutional and international law, i.e., to the study of the foundations of the *domestic* social and political order along with that order's *foreign-policy conditions* of possibility. This is especially important in the aftermath of violent international military conflicts, their victories, and defeats.

If all nations do not recognize an international order as just and legal, then the nations that win a war cannot make convincing arguments for the justice of that order, that is, for the justice of the law itself. However, the question regarding the justice or injustice of the supreme legal order is a question of political theology. Not only scholars understand this.

It does not take much effort to notice the widespread use of theological rhetoric and symbolism in public communication, in the speeches of representatives of hostile parties. In exact correspondence with Carl Schmitt's understanding of

the essence of the matter, the adversary is not declared to be a conflicting party with its own interests. Instead, it is an absolute, radical evil in theological sense of the term. The local conflict turns into the final battle between Good and Evil, God and the Devil. Semantics of this kind are universal; only details change. Here is the point where social theory, political theology and international relations theory share their common research fields.

In May 2023, the Centre for Fundamental Sociology held a conference on the interrelation between political theology and international justice. It aroused substantial interest among Russian scholars and universities. In announcing this CFP, *Russian Sociological Review* appeals to conference participants and to all interested colleagues in Russia and abroad. We propose to continue the discussions in the journal and contribute to such an urgent topic.

Schedule

August 15, 2023 — 500 words abstracts deadline

September 1, 2023 — Invitation to submit full papers

October 1, 2023 — Full papers deadline

October 15, 2023 — Notification of acceptance

November 1, 2021 — Revised papers deadline

December 31, 2021 — Publication

Contributions should be sent via e-mail to the editor-in-chief Professor Alexander Filippov (afilippov@hse.ru) and Marina Pugacheva (puma7@yandex.ru) with a copy to sociologica@hse.ru.

If you have any further questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us.

Papers should be no more than 10,000 words and written in English. See website of the Review for the detailed guidelines for authors (sociologica.hse.ru/en/authors).