



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN-SOCIAL SCIENCE: C  
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE  
Volume 19 Issue 3 Version 1.0 Year 2019  
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal  
Publisher: Global Journals  
Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

## On Theory and Practice of the Volunteer's Participation in Mitigation of Critical Situations: A View from Russia

By Oleg N. Yanitsky & Olga A. Basheva

**Abstract-** The article analyses an essence, character and forms of the volunteer's organizations participation in the struggle with the 'accidents' i.e. with critical situations (hereafter the CS) generated by the outside and inside forces and contradictions paying special attention to the socially-constructed CS. The authors set forth the foundations of the theory of an emergence and development of the CS, defines their main archetypes, and offers a differentiation of their three phases of development: initial, the CS as such, and the mitigation of their immediate and far-reaching natural, social and technological consequences. A necessity of the volunteers' and individual civil rescuers participation in the various phases of the CS and in coping with their social and other consequences is substantiated. A brief history of this type of civic organizations in Russia of the XX and at the beginning of the XXI is set forth; a necessity of differentiation of functions of a state i.e. its rescue forces and civil society volunteers' organization is explained. The article gives a preliminary estimation of an efficiency of the use of various methods of the CS studies and their consequences. The authors offer a preliminary typology of the volunteers' organizations with a focus on their universal and international character.

**Keywords:** *civil society, critical situations (CS), globalization, metabolism, risks and threats, state, theory and methods, volunteers, Russia.*

**GJHSS-C Classification:** FOR Code: 160801



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



© 2019. Oleg N. Yanitsky & Olga A. Basheva. This is a research/review paper, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Unported License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>), permitting all non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

# On Theory and Practice of the Volunteer's Participation in Mitigation of Critical Situations: A View from Russia

Oleg N. Yanitsky <sup>α</sup> & Olga A. Basheva <sup>ο</sup>

**Abstract-** The article analyses an essence, character and forms of the volunteer's organizations participation in the struggle with the 'accidents' i.e. with critical situations (hereafter the CS) generated by the outside and inside forces and contradictions paying special attention to the socially-constructed CS. The authors set forth the foundations of the theory of an emergence and development of the CS, defines their main archetypes, and offers a differentiation of their three phases of development: initial, the CS as such, and the mitigation of their immediate and far-reaching natural, social and technological consequences. A necessity of the volunteers' and individual civil rescuers participation in the various phases of the CS and in coping with their social and other consequences is substantiated. A brief history of this type of civic organizations in Russia of the XX and at the beginning of the XXI is set forth; a necessity of differentiation of functions of a state i.e. its rescue forces and civil society volunteers' organization is explained. The article gives a preliminary estimation of an efficiency of the use of various methods of the CS studies and their consequences. The authors offer a preliminary typology of the volunteers' organizations with a focus on their universal and international character. The article concluded with the statement that the volunteers' movement is not only a mean to help to the nature and people in a calamity but it's an indispensable mean for giving to its participants a feeling of an intellectual and socially active persons.

**Keywords:** *civil society, critical situations (CS), globalization, metabolism, risks and threats, state, theory and methods, volunteers, Russia.*

## I. THEORETICAL URGENCY OF THE ISSUE

All countries including Russia are in a transition period conditioned by the Fourth industrial revolution. It means that the modes of production and consumption as well as the social institutions and the peoples way of life are in the process of a change when the existing structural-functional are already out of work while the new ones built on the basis an information-communication processes and the Internet are yet in the processes of construction and testing only.

**Author α:** *Ph.D., Professor, Chief Researcher, Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Address: Krzhizhanovskogo Str., 24/35, bld. 5, 117218, Moscow, Russia. e-mail: oleg.yanitsky@yandex.ru*

**Author ο:** *Ph.D., Research Fellow, Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Address: Krzhizhanovskogo Str., 24/35, bld. 5, 117218, Moscow, Russia. e-mail: OlgaAUsacheva@yandex.ru*

This transition period, imbalances and uncertain global prospects are a fertile soil for the emergence of the accidents and disasters i.e. the CS. Besides, a load of unresolved natural, social and technological problems continues to grow generating the new CS. This transition period, a growth of uncertainty of global dynamics, more often emergence of new CS of various scale and character as well as the processes of hybridization of various structural-functional agents and their living environments mean that such extremely complex and mobile CS cannot be resolved or even mitigated by special rescue forces only without the assistance and collaboration with voluntary organizations.

A rapid development of the Information Galaxy (Castells, 2004) and its relative accessibility coupled with the wish of quick enrichment provoke a quick development of the hackers' groups and organizations that in turn created new CS, financial, social and technological catastrophes. Besides, a continued 'top-down' regulation of public life, permanent generation of new social norms, competences, and codes (Burawoy, 2015) generate not only a reaction of escape but a strong will of the rank-and-file people to participate actively in a social life of a society, to render help to the others, and to help the affected people to return to a full value social life.

More than that, to our mind, the transition period signifies the ends of times of total individualism. But these citizens want not only to be the travelers – the further the more they want to be not only the spectators but the active participants of the struggle with new challenges and risks in situ as well as in any part of the world including the space. Why? Because the people are not only the individual consumers but they want to be risky individuals if this risk brings goods and wellbeing to other people. In other words, it seems us that the era of utmost individualism and a demonstrative behavior as it has been called by Bronislaw Malinowski is coming to the end, and the numerous critical situations here and there give them such opportunity. To our mind, a combination of risky behavior and its positive social results plus a 'return' on a public field of small highly integrated (i.e. face-to-face) active social groups, they wish to make their input into wellbeing of global community is a good signal produced by this transition period. The people begin to understand

practically the maxima formulated by the US biologist B. Commoner. According to him, all interconnected with all, all is going somewhere, and nothing yield for nothing. It's rather important that the numerous accidents and calamities forced ordinary people to unite as the 'individuals as the individuals' (K. Marx) but not only to have a cup of coffee but with the aim to work at the limits of their capacities in order to mitigate the CS after-effects and to return affected people for being the actors.

Therefore, we think that the problems of the theory and practice of the civil society organizations in the foreseeing, prevention, mitigation of the CSs and their natural, social and technological consequences is very urgent now. Unfortunately, the leading the US and the EU theorists of postmodernism (Beck, 1999; Beck et al., 1994; Brinzel and Domingues, 2004; Mol and Sonnefeld, 2000; Urry, 2003, 2008, 2011) operate by too general theoretical apparatus as the threats, risks, challenges and the like without their interdisciplinary and more detailed interpretation. Only the U. Beck's thesis that we are still living in a society of the side-effects argued in favor of prognostic research which by definition should be interdisciplinary. Besides, some interesting empirical facts have been gained by R. Murphy (1997, 2009).

At the ISA conferences and forums the issue of the CS, its theory, methodology of research and numerous multidisciplinary consequences have been never analyzed. The organizers of such international gatherings prefer to speak in such terms as the risks, turbulences, inequalities, etc. never discussing the theoretical meaning of very notion of the CS. Then, it's indicative that theory and practice of the CS were discussed in two different Research committees, the theory and methodology and that of accidents and disasters. Finally, about two years ago the two UNESCO's public committees, of Natural and Social sciences have been merged into one. But that significant act has no influence on the structure of modern science dealing with the CS.

## II. EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL RESOURCES

Prof. Yanitsky was the fifteen years participant of the UNESCO's program 'The Man and the Biosphere', the initiator of three international projects, the adviser of the EBRD, and the organizer and participant of 10 Russian research projects. He has 40-year experience of social and environmental movement studies in the Soviet Union and Russia. Initially Yanitsky was city planner and urban sociologist that allowed him to gain interdisciplinary experience in such research fields as urban functional structure, open areas, neighborhood life, urban way of life and many others. (Yanitsky, 2012, 2013, 2014).

Dr. Olga Basheva is experienced specialist in various types of the CS, namely in mitigation of the natural and social after-effects of forest fires, especially in long-term after-effects as a result of the resettlement of those who lost all his/her possessions in a fire. Dr. Basheva have studied in details the large fire of the main Information center of Russian Academy of Sciences (the library of the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences) (Basheva, 2018), and now she is the initiator and leader of the current research project 'Emergency volunteering as a reply to the natural and technological challenges in Russia' (see below).

Methods used for field-research have been as follows: observation, included observation, long-tern in-depth interviews with the affected people, the rescuers, volunteers and many others.

As concerns to theory and methodology, our researches are based on systemic approach adapted to such complex dynamic system as the Biosphere. The corner-stone of our theoretical approach is an understanding of modern state of the Biosphere as a socio-biotechnosphere (hereafter the SBT-system) shaping under an influence of constructive activity of humanity coupled with ongoing evolution of the natural systems.

There are no the 'interactions' as such in our world. The SBT-systems of any scale are shaping and transforming under various *metabolic processes* that are the reciprocal natural, social and technologically constructed mutual transformations. The results of the metabolic processes may be as follows: one-sided or mutual transformations, an empowerment of one another, construction of nature-like materials and functional systems, etc. till mutual destruction and annihilation.

The social metabolism as such is generated by a necessity of transformation of natural structures and processes into socially-useful ones, and vice versa. The social metabolism may be at least of three kinds: the adaptive, transformative and destructive. In all above cases this metabolism has its own tempo-rhythms. Thus, we consider the social metabolism as one of the driving forces of ongoing transformations of the global and (may be even an outer space) SBT-system.

## III. THE STATE, BUSINESS AND CIVIL VOLUNTEERS IN RUSSIA

Such division on three streams has gradually shaped after the years of perestroika (1988-92) and in the process of the extinguishing of state-governed civil organizations of the Soviet Union. The new, market period of the shaping of the state, business-governed 'informal groups' including mobile private military troops, and new civil initiatives began. These processes have been accompanied by a gradual exclusion of civil

organizations (grassroots and many others) from public arena and replacing them by pro-state and business ones.

Recently, such division is already well-institutionalized one resembling a more general process, namely an existence of pro-state and pro-business voluntary organizations as a counterbalance against the grassroots and other forms of spontaneous social activity. The emergence of the 'All-Russian Peoples' Front' established in the 2011 is a multi-functional public organization which has financial and organizational resources for funding educational, public and other programs including the shaping of the skilled personnel for the state organizations of various levels. Besides, a well-trained pro-state volunteer's organizations are used as the service personnel for a keeping order at mass national and international events (Olympic Games and many others). Local pro-state civil organizations are now sponsored by municipal authorities.

Unfortunately, a threat of the 'colored revolutions' is still exists not only in Russia but across the world as a very efficient instrument of non-violated change of established social order in a particular country. Therefore, the question who among the volunteers organizations is actually self-organized one is still remains an open one in modern sociology of social movements. For example, who are well-known private military troops: are they one of the forms of a resistance social movement or an instrument of struggle between competing state or business organizations?

As to civil volunteers and their movements in the CS, in overwhelming majority of cases they have an emergent (ad hoc) and quick character. Their nuclei are usually consists of an individual or a group of concerned people who are unsatisfied with local or global state of affairs or/and well-informed about a coming disaster. We call such grassroots (they may be shaped locally or globally, by means of one-to-one or virtual communications) as a response to a certain CS that always needs immediate response i.e. without endless bottom-top and top-down talks and co-ordination.

It means that such volunteers have to be well and multisided trained and prepared to the immediate mobilization i.e. to be a real civil rescuers. But such volunteers have a set of advantaged, namely: they know local situation and rescue potential of its inhabitants, these volunteers have to be well equipped, i.e. well-trained, included in global informational network, and acquire an experience in mitigation of other CS. Of course, the natural, social and technological CSs are quite different, and therefore civil volunteers should be 'universally' prepared and capable to fulfill various deeds simultaneously. Our natural, social and technological world is in the process of shaping a highly-integrated global or may be even space socio biotechnical system. This process is accompanied with

the emergence of the CS of unknown character, and the state, business and civic organizations have to be prepared to this turn. Civil volunteers should be prepared to permanently changing and accelerating tempo-rhythms of social life.

#### IV. A BRIEF SURVEY OF VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATIONS IN RUSSIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND NOWADAYS

In the history of prerevolutionary Russia (the second part of XIX – the beginning of the XX century) a system of private donations from rich men (the Maecenas, merchants and manufacturers) had been widely spread. The church and city authorities used these donations for the building and maintenance of the houses for invalids, alms-houses, hospitals, schools for poor children, etc.

With the rapid development of Russia on the edge of XIX and XX centuries and especially in the periods of the First and Second Russian revolutions (1904-07 and 1917 years) the grassroots and voluntary associations were rapidly growing in all spheres of social life including the establishment of voluntary associations of doctors, teachers, enlighteners, and defenders of national minorities (first of all the Jewish ones) from right-wing Russian nationalists as 'The Black Hundred' and 'The Union of Michel Archangel.'

In the 1922-31 years, the volunteer organizations not only rapidly developed but actively participated in all spheres of social life including their participation in the international discussion on the future of a socialist city. It had been the outstanding public event in which had participate nearly all kinds of the grassroots and voluntary organizations. Another distinguishing feature of that unique public event had been its creative character. Actually, its main aim was not an 'ideal model' of socialist city but the underpinnings of building of a socialist society in the Soviet Union.

But in the 1934, the Bolsheviks frightened by such public activity rapidly cut down this discussion and decided that Moscow, the capital of the future socialist city has to be a model of any other cities of the USSR. Nevertheless, the impulse had been made, and in many new and old industrial cities of the USSR (in Magnitogorsk, Chelyabinsk, Stalingrad, and even in Moscow) many creative ideas of the above discussion had been realized.

This turn doesn't mean that public life had disappeared. It continue to develop but under strict control of the Communist party, the Young communist league, the Pioneer organization, and many voluntary organizations for assistance to the Red Army, Navy, and Air Forces. It should be noted that the experience of these organizations appeared very helpful in organization of the partisan movement in the enemy's rear.

After the end of the WWII in the 1945, a situation had changed again, the new stage of an economy restoration and renovation began. A period about 40 years had been full of construction initiatives generated by the party and government leaders, from a creation of forest shelter belts till recruiting of the youth for so-called the Great constructions of communism.

Two forces defined a new stage of the voluntary organizations development. The former was a gradual weakening of dictatorship regime while the latter was the beginning in the mid1950s the mass industrial construction of the apartment houses across all cities and towns of the USSR. The latter stimulated a mass urban resident's participation in the process of 'humanization' and individualization these identical industrial neighborhoods. The reverse side of the same coin had been a democratization of activity of the unions of architects, painters, composers, and cinematographers. An active exchange of people and ideas began.

It may seem paradoxical, but a close interconnection between these two types of voluntary associations under strict supervision of the Communist party created a network structure between all of them without the Internet. More than that, the All-Union student's movement for nature protection (so-called Drhuzhina movement) had emerged in the early 1960shas been the first social movement based exclusively on network structures. That movement has a very important advantage: it had been a community of the tutors, students, and rank-and-file but environmentally-concerned people.

The years of the perestroika (1988-92) marked the next stage of voluntary organizations development: it had been a peak of their development and of their influence on public policy. A transition period to market economy and of Russia's inclusion in a global community has been so hard and accompanied by inner local wars and ethno-confessional conflicts that the activity and significance of voluntary organizations slowed down in many respects. At the same time the state bodies taking into account a said experience of 'colored revolutions' in some post-Soviet countries, namely in Baltic republics and in the some republics of the Mid-Asia began to restrict the activity of emergent voluntary groups and organizations. The law of the 'Foreign Agents' has been released.

Two other facts have to be mentioned. The first is a destruction of some Russian voluntary organizations by the hackers' attacks. The second is a widespread consumerism as the ideology which generates the huge amounts of various kinds of the wastes and violations of established norms of social behavior.

## V. SOME FEATURES OF THE CHALLENGES AND RISKS

For the research purposes we divide them on the inner and outer ones. The former generated by the very development of a certain society or their alliance or on the contrary by the process of their degradation, while the latter produced by the interference from the outside (invasion, military or hackers' attack, 'colored revolution'). But in the run of the Fourth industrial revolution development such distinctions are effaced, and the complex (hybrid) challenges and risks came to the forefront, and therefore to indicate their sources immediately isn't possible. Besides, due to the inversion of space into time phenomenon a difference between a macro and micro sources of the threats is becoming not significant as well.

In the process of global evolution and its geopolitical structure plus rapidly going the processes of the digitalization of human activity and some other factors the typology of the volunteer's organizations is changing as well. This typology is becoming always movable and relative, because particular situations in many countries and regions as well as their relationships with other institutional structures are evolving simultaneously.

On the other hand, the civil society, the local or global and the volunteer's organization as its inseparable part also evolving. Finally, the new challenges and risks are emerging and due to natural or socially-constructed turnover of a matter and information in the biosphere are exerted influence on the whole socio-biotechnical system and change it. And modern volunteer's organizations have to meet these challenges. How exactly it's another open question.

Russia has a very mighty and professionally-trained Ministry of Civic Defense and Emergency Situations (hereafter Ministry of the CD and CS). Nevertheless, the modern CS situations have become so uncertain and 'liquid' (this term has been introduced by Z. Bauman as a key feature of current state of affairs) so the small, mobile and experienced voluntary organizations are seems more efficient than division of the above Ministry. These civil organizations aren't restricted by any instructions and therefore could act more quickly in accordance with the tempo-rhythms of current situation (as if in the time of warship).

Experienced volunteers know that, as a rule, the CSs have a hybrid character and a space-time parameters of the areal of their influence and its natural and social consequences are hard to predict. Therefore, the volunteer's movement as the social phenomenon is extremely diverse, and its immediate and further activity have to be as diverse and mobile as the particular CS. This activity may vary from the direct reaction on concrete local threat to a development of strategic

programs of global resistance against new risks and threats.

As we suggest, at the initial stage of our research project (its title see below) it will be reasonable to restrict ourselves by those types of the accidents and disasters that are typical now for our country and especially by those produced by already started 'transition' to the Fourth industrial revolution with some pilot research concerning the possible sources of new risks emergence.

From the practical viewpoint it's not an easy question: who are needed in the help first of all? For the first glance, an answer seems obvious: to the affected people. Yes, it's so but badly constructed dam, bridge or aircraft, the obsolescent computer program, and insufficient protection any socially-constructed objects city life maintenance are usually burdened by a repetition of the accident in a larger scale.

Then, the natural and man-made disasters are usually has a cascade character. After then, each phase of the cascade disaster generates its specific threats and consequences. Besides, even if the disaster (an earthquake, tornado, mass forest-fires) is ended its after-effects may continue the months and years, their impact on nature of human health may be easy seen by ordinary people or absolutely overt, and so on and so forth. In sum, all said above means that a man has to develop an all-embracing and permanently developing system of constant monitoring. It also means that the uninterrupted monitoring of the ice condition on the North and the South Poles as important as the decisions permanently generated in the United Nation headquarters.

It also signifies that local SCs are inseparable from the global ones. Theoretically speaking, local metabolic processes are inseparable part of global and cosmic ones. Therefore, the main research methods of the study of the CS of any scale should be the interdisciplinary research of 'behavior' of natural, social and complex socially-constructed technological systems, for example, such as the nuclear power plants, ice-movements in the Arctic and Antarctic, or a direct and distanced impact of the numerous local wastes depositories on humanity and the Nature.

It doesn't mean that we intend to neglect a case-study method. On the contrary, the 'cases' are usually the girds of the issues developing in space and time. In our investigations we were using simultaneously a couple of research instruments such as an observation, included observation, case-studies, semi-structured in-depth interviews as well as the statistics of former disasters.

As to the use of quantitative methods, we think that they are now mainly fit to social and other statistics of the past disasters because there is no all-embracing i.e. global system of monitoring targeted on shaping of numerous CS and the myriad of their immediate and

postponed after-effects. Second, the matter is that the disasters may emerge suddenly and move or spread very quickly while the people, their living environment and the existing rescue institutions are much less movable. Third, as we already know, in the emergency cases one part of people tried to escape this affected zone, the other tried to organize local residents for the saving of other people and their property or belongings, still others do not move at all thinking that we shall put through anyhow, etc. Fourth, the cascade character of many CS gives a little chance for the forecasting of their further development, etc. Fifth, the modern systems of space monitoring are oriented for gaining more money, resources and geopolitical influence and not for humanitarian aids.

The above considerations didn't exclude the use of global statistics for the estimation of the after-effects of past disasters, their space area and natural and human losses.

## VI. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CS

We realize that the negative effects of the CS may be various: sudden and unseen, one-sided and multi-sided, instant and or with long-term striking effect, natural and socially-constructed (as hacker's attack). The typology of such negative effects deserves special attention because the so-called natural disasters may be the result of human activity and socially-constructed ones are already resulted in substantial climatic changes. In this section we offer our view on typologically different types of the CS. Let's briefly consider three widespread cases.

*Case one:* The most widely spread: a certain CS has emerged practically suddenly, its source, as a rule, is unknown, and the population has no time to escape from the stricken area. If this strike is a result of the hacker's attack and its source is, as a rule, unknown and inaccessible. A threat of hybrid mass and utter defeat of nature and people is emerging. It seems clear that an urgent notification is needed but whom exactly and in what turn? Keeping in mind that a state rescue forces will come what are the tasks of the volunteers? As the investigations of after-effects of forest fires showed, there were no local volunteers at all, and the state rescuers told us that the struggle with forest fires is beyond their duties.

*Case two:* Local volunteers group exists. But what their role in coping with the CS should be? Do they have to assist to the state rescuers, or they tasks are different, for example to render medical help to the affected people? Do these volunteers have a right and professionally capable to render such help, or they their activity should be restricted by the distribution of humanitarian aid?

Then, a post-CS period is the most disputable question. An adaptation of the affected people to a new

living conditions, its terms, necessary resources, sudden illnesses, restoration of lost documents, etc. – it's an endless list of urgent issues. And one again: what is an optimal division of labor between the state institutions, business and the volunteers? For example, all schoolchildren are trained to render primary medical help but all other urban residents have no such experience. But civil medical hospitals have no such experience as well. But the field and clinic medicine are quite different, it had been shown by the outstanding Russian surgeon Nikolai Pirogov even in XIX century!

*Case three:* The relationships between the volunteers and changing natural, social and technical (built) environment. It's the most difficult case for several reasons. First, all three environments react on the CS quite differently. The natural ecosystems if it's not the case of the forest fires are the most resistant and capable to regenerate. But the after-effects of social and built environments may vary from an immediate to unseen, post-phoned and sometimes uncertain. But if many years ago a highly-radioactive waste had been buried, and in the run of the CS came to a surface, the situation is becoming extremely dangerous. This example is one more confirmation of our thesis that there is no separate nature and society but there are the SBT-systems. One should keep in mind that any environment isn't only a recipient but a social and technological actor as well.

In the all above cases the business is interested not in restoration of affected environment but in gaining a maximum surplus. When in the 2003 the Katrina tornado destroyed New Orleans the business was ready to restore this old city but only if the proportion of input-output will be at least 1:100 (Barriers, 2011). In Russia after some forest fires the businessmen gifted to the affected people TV-sets but rejected to assist them in restoration of their small wooden houses.

The cases when great CS generates mass protest and social movements aren't analyzed here.

## VII. POST-CATASTROPHE ACTIVITY OF THE VOLUNTEERS

This is the most complex and difficult and the least investigated phase of the Russian volunteer's organization activity. The main reasons are as follows: too many codes and instructions regulated this activity; lack of financial and organizational resources; the training courses are practically absent. But to our mind, there are two principled impediments for the volunteering of ordinary people: they are accustomed that any aid will be offered by the state rescue teams, and the TV and other means of mass communications produce every moment new 'breaking news' that demobilize ordinary people and wean them to think and act without assistance. And to surmount this dependence is difficult because it's their i.e. the mass-media business.

On the other hand, the very process of post-catastrophe adaptation has many forms, from submission to the state institution's rules and norms till the search to organize this process on their own. Besides, modern society offers many other means of post-catastrophe adaptation, from a resettlement and emigration, via a change his/her way of life till an escape into an asocial or criminal milieu here or there. Since the CS tend to repeat more and more often, and their diversity is growing the state, business and civil society organizations are forced to concentrate on new threats and risks, and therefore the today affected people are becoming tomorrow an ordinary patients of an ordinary (and not specialized!) system of social assistance.

The faith of affected people today in the period of transition toward total digitalization is the most urgent issue. The matter is the transition toward an information-communication mode of production is the CS as such because it's accompanied by new, sometimes unknown threats and risks. Some of them as the reducing labor market and so-called technological unemployment, transformation of family, one of the oldest social institution, permanently growing spatial mobility, and a growing gap between the rich and the poor, etc. But from our viewpoint, a permanent speeding up the pace of all forms of social life is one of the most dangerous threat of already going transition period. Theoretically speaking, we are now dealing with three quite different time duration. The first is the time of functioning of various natural ecosystems and the biosphere as a whole. The second is the tempo-rhythms of acceleration produced by the digitalization processes. And the third it's a variety of tempo-rhythms generated by the modern CSs.

## VIII. FOCUS ON AN INDIVIDUAL

A development of all-embracing and all-penetrating information-communication networks including the media and virtual network communities coupled with the break of the individual with local civil and professional communities and growing spatial mobility of masses of people sharply reduced a defensive role of a family and local civic organizations. As a result, the value gap is emerging. On the one hand, a role of an individual as a creator of material and spiritual valued is growing, but on the other hand his/her consciousness and behavior is determined by value models created and dispersed by the media. It should be recognized that a consumer ideology and behavior took over, but at the same time the processes of differentiation of a society on the creative minority and subaltern majority is rapidly going on. Hence, it's not surprising that even schoolchildren in Sweden and Russia are becoming the organizers of anti-wastes and other counter-consumerism actions and movements.

In all periods of human history there were persons who personified its particular epochs: Aristotle, Leonardo da Vinci, I. Newton, M. Lomonosov, K. Tsiolkowski, E. Ruthsford, N.I. Vavilov, V.I. Vernadski and many others. A very simple example: in the Soviet times there were simultaneously five Nobel Laureates but recently – no one. In the 1960-70s the Soviet Union outstripped the US in the mastering of a space, but now we are lags behind. In the Soviet times we had a mighty instrument of mass Enlightenment (the Knowledge Society) but today our TV broadcasting almost lost this critically important social function. Some of our media little by little teach the teenagers and young people that our social world is relied upon on money and family ties.

In Russia and across the world a trade is becoming more and more aggressive, and the individual has no defense from its onslaught because any information related to his/her needs and requirements are accessible to the traders. Modern media is a kind of business, and therefore a sport is on the first lines of public agenda while a science is somewhere in the very end of this list. Modern market society isn't capable to cope with the bribery, shadow economy and criminal organizations.

There is one more threat to the rich and poor. Every day the modern social world and any person are becoming more permeable i.e. not defended from the informational and other impulses from the outside. Such all-embracing permeability is a reverse side of the unlimited development of information technologies which may be used by anyone including those who use them in their selfish ends. And this social illness affects not only the criminals and dishonorable people but those who ex officio have to defend all people, their private property and social space.

Thus, moral and social capital of the individuals is under the treat. It means that a struggle for a peace only is insufficient now. The struggle for the peace and safety for all should be inseparable. And in this enterprise the role of volunteer's movement is hard to overestimate.

## IX. THE MAIN TYPES OF VOLUNTEER'S ORGANIZATIONS

Theoretically, these types are situated at the crossroad of two axis of coordinate. The 'vertical' i.e. that is on its top are situated pro-state or full-state voluntary organizations while on the 'bottom' are that of self-organized which sponsored by non-state organizations, social movements and private persons. And the 'horizontal' when on the one end of this axis are the grassroots and other local voluntary forces, while on the other are transnational civic organizations and unions such as Greenpeace or Worldwide Fund for Nature which have their divisions in various parts of the world.

But there are the volunteer's organizations that ate outside of this theoretical scheme. It's the volunteer's international organizations which by the request of the governments or civil organizations may came to any point of the worlds map if they will have the guarantee of their relative safety. It is the 'Doctors without Borders', the 'Liza Alert', the 'Barefoot Doctors' and some others.

The 'Doctors without Borders' represent the main archetype of such international volunteer's organization. Such volunteers are prepared to arrive at any point of our world, because they capable to mobilize quickly a group of doctors and other experienced persons which are required in a certain CS. They are prepared to render medical and another type of aid, and should be able to organize a field hospital in situ, to be ready to treat anybody kindly, including small children in an absolutely unknown country or region, and to be maximally interchangeable. In such organizations work Russian doctors and other specialists and experienced people. It's a very specific type of the individual because he is accustomed to work in a command render help to people and nature, and not willing to set a personal record.

Of course, their activity is regulated by the norms and rules setting the limits of the threatening conditions in which they are allowed to act. These rules resemble the principles of the 'reasonable egoism' offer by Russian democrat Nikolai Chernyshevski in the XIX century. It's significant that such teams are sponsored by private donations, and therefore they are maximally independent in their activity.

## X. THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE 'EXTREMALS'

Modern capitalism with its instinct of permanent accumulation and success, institutions and first of all the media and social networks provokes the young people for the extremal public actions. The 'extremal' behavior may be considered as the reaction of young generation on sofa wars on the elderly. The sense of such rash actions dangerous for a health and life is their public effect measured in the number of the 'likes' and reposts in the social networks. The well-known US sociologist B. Malinowski called such behavior as a demonstrative one.

The actual sense of the volunteering is a charity in relation to the people and animals in trouble. As it has been mentioned earlier, it's a kind of the 'reasonable egoism' i.e. a certain balance between an activity for the wellbeing of others and a protection of themselves in order to continue their noble actions. The volunteers are trying to male such noble actions simultaneously protecting themselves while the 'extremals' making a short-term public effect brings zero public goods.

From this viewpoint, an Enlightening and training role of volunteers organizations is very

substantial because they not only brings real goods and played very important educational role whereas the 'extremals' satisfy only those who wants the 'panem et circenses' only.

## XI. CONCLUSION

The forces of the Ministry of the CD and CS are playing a leading role in the defense of population and built environment from the natural and man-made disasters. Although the current practice shows, that this mighty defense structure lags behind from the pace, scale and complexity of these CS. A fruitful collaboration of the state and civil rescue organizations requires a variety of forms of self-organizing voluntary groups and their rescue teams.

Russian legislation put these civic organizations in the rigid frames of non-political activity. That is why the volunteers are able much less than that they did 20 and even 30 years ago. Recently the volunteer's movement is not only a form of self-organization and mode of mutual assistance of population. This movement fulfills now a function of a compensatory mechanism of many lost forms of a feedback between the population and the state. Besides the ordinary people want not only to follow the dynamics of the CS somewhere behind the TV screen but to participate directly in their resolving gaining a moral satisfaction of such self-activity.

Thus, the world once more has divided into a majority that follows the consumer ideology principles and a minority that strives for making their life intelligent, sensible to the misfortunes of others and to be useful for the nature and people of the world. The volunteer's movement shows to other people that to be useful to the others and simultaneously to gain moral satisfaction from the living at the limits of his/her strength.

Volunteering today is a real and socially important instrument aimed at the replacement of an artificially-created CS by modern media such as 'the last hero', 'roofers', or 'jumpers' for gaining critical feelings. Besides, the volunteer's movement may be considered as a warning to those who are in hurry to transfer all forms of mental and social activity to the smart machines.

Today, the volunteer is a comprehensively developed person capable to combine the individual and public interests. Such volunteer has to be prepared to act in a diversity of the CSs simultaneously keeping himself to future activity. The volunteering as a social institution is necessary for the surmounting of the deadlock rends of consumer society. In addition, this movement is an important instrument of public mobilization that is absolutely necessary in our mobile, uncertain and rapidly-evolving society.

If it's so the theorists and practitioners have to think over what knowledge and practical experience are

needed to the volunteers first of all, and who will make and disseminate them.

Modern sciences are not prepared to resolve these issues since it produces the interdisciplinary knowledge for particular tasks of social and engineering constructing while the tempo-rhythms of such production are usually lag behind the pace of ongoing multisided CS. In the near future we'll face the substantial and unpredictable climatic changes. The principled question is emerging. Whom and what the volunteer's organizations have to save in the near future: an affected people and their groups or the humanity and its SBT-milieu? If the second, the network of volunteer's organizations should develop across the world. In this case such network has to be institutionalized but in what degree and forms – it's an open question.

*Funding:* This article is funded by the by the Russian Scientific Fund, grant No 19-78-10052, project 'Emergency volunteering as a reply to the natural and technological challenges in Russia'.

## REFERENCES RÉFÉRENCES REFERENCIAS

1. Barriers R. 2011. Post-Katrina Neighborhood Recovery Planning in New Orleans, in: Dowty R. and Allen B., eds. *Dynamics of Disaster. Lessons on Risk, Response and Recovery*. Lnd.: Earth Scan, pp. 97-14.
2. Basheva O. A. *Urban Catastrophe: The Case of the INION // Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities*. View from Russia [Electronic resource]: collected papers XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities (Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018) / Editor-in-Chief V. Mansurov. Moscow: RSS; FCTAS RAS. 2018. Pp. 395-402.
3. Beck U. 1999. *World Risk Society*. Malden, MA: Polity Press. 184 pp.
4. Beck U., Giddens A., Lash S. 1994. *Reflexive Modernization. Politics, Tradition and Aesthetics in the Modern Social Order*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. 225 pp.
5. Bringel B. and Domingues J., eds. 2015. *Global Modernity and Social Contestation*. London: Sage. 257 p.
6. Burawoy M. 2008. What is to be done? Theses on the Degradation of Social Existence in a Globalizing World. *Current Sociology* 56 (3): 351-59.
7. Castells M. 2004. *The Internet Galaxy. Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 292 pp.
8. Mol A. and D. Sonnenfeld, eds. 2000. *Ecological Modernization around the World: Perspectives and Critical Debates*. London: Frank Cass. 246 pp.
9. Murphy R. 1997. *Sociology and Nature. Social Action and Context*. Boulder: West view Press. 320 pp.

10. Murphy R. 2009. *Leadership in Disaster. Learning for a Future with Global Climate Change*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. 406 pp.
11. Urry J. 2003. *Global Complexity*. Cambridge: Polity Press. 311 pp.
12. Urry J. 2008. *Mobilities*. Cambridge: Polity Press. 275 pp.
13. Urry J. 2011. *Climate Change and Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press. 286 pp.
14. Yanitsky O. 2012. *Russian nature protection networks and their social capital*. Institute of Sociology, Russian academy of sciences, 185 pp. Official site of the Institute of sociology RAN [electronic resource] URL: <http://www.isras.ru/publ/html?id=2446> (In Russ.).
15. Yanitsky O. 2013. *Environmental disasters: structural-functional analysis*. Official site of the Institute of sociology RAN [electronic resource] 2014. [URL: <http://www.isras.ru/publ.html?id=2794>] (In Russ.).
16. Yanitsky O. 2014. *Ecological archive of Oleg Yanitsky*. Official site of the Institute of sociology RAN [electronic resource] 2233 pp. URL: <http://www.isras.ru/publ.html?id=2983> (In Russ.).