

Foreword of the Editor-in-Chief

The North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration is launching the publication of a new legal journal "Theoretical and Applied Law". As the title implies, the journal has a wide profile and will publish articles, essays and reviews on current issues in the theory of law and branch sciences. The need for it seems undisputable today. Despite a large number of periodicals (including such reputable and long-standing ones as "State and Law" [Gosudarstvo i pravo] and "Law" [Pravovedenie]), jurisprudence is still short of multidisciplinary journals, the pages of which could become a platform for discussions with representatives of various branches of jurisprudence.

While being reflective of the internal fragmentation of legal knowledge in terms of subject, such situation inhibits the development of research thought. This becomes especially noticeable in the context of a paradigm shift and legal thinking pluralism, apparent not only at the general theoretical, but also at the sectoral level. That is why further progress while overcoming commonly acknowledged recessionary trends is possible only with prior coordination of sectoral approaches on fundamental issues of conceptual significance.

Essential to that is the reception of key achievements in the foreign science of law, enabling to overcome self-isolation (due to political and ideological reasons), in which the jurisprudence of our country has been for most of the past century. Loss of the former influence by the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of law has certainly stimulated an appeal to the Western scientific discourse, which is reflected in the perception of fundamentals of the analytical jurisprudence, phenomenological theory of law, various versions of legal structuralism and poststructuralism.

Nonetheless, these trends are mainly sporadic in nature and, as it appears, have not yet led to the appropriate approaches widely used in legal practice. In particular, many representatives of branch sciences continue to develop traditional views that emerged in the 19th century, often expressing skepticism about the possible reception of ideas of the modern Western (primarily, Anglo-American) jurisprudence, which allegedly does not go along with the specifics of the Russian legal system. Moreover, in some cases calls are made to create a science of law that would be fully oriented towards national cultural values and ideals. There is no need to elaborate the insolvency and utopianism of such ideas. In fact, the objective of any science (and the science of law is not an exception here) is to identify universal laws that manifest themselves in various ways under certain specific conditions, but are not completely dependent on these conditions. That is why attempts to get confined to a narrow national framework, the rejection of the broadest possible contacts with the foreign scientific thought can only lead to the degradation of legal knowledge.

These considerations enable to sum up the basic principles of the journal's editorial policy. These include, firstly, the desire to synthesize general legal theory and sectoral doctrines, secondly, the involvement in publications of both scientists and practicing lawyers, whose elaborations are of significant value in solving specific tasks, and, thirdly, the placement on the pages of the journal of the most important and interesting articles of colleagues from abroad. It is submitted that with the consistent implementation of these principles, the journal "Theoretical and Applied Jurisprudence" would be able to make a significant contribution to the development of not only scientific research, but also legal education. Indeed, a truly efficient training of future lawyers within the walls of higher educational institutions is possible only through deep assimilation of the results of scientific research thought.

Editor-in-Chief
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