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The Institutional Matrices of Society

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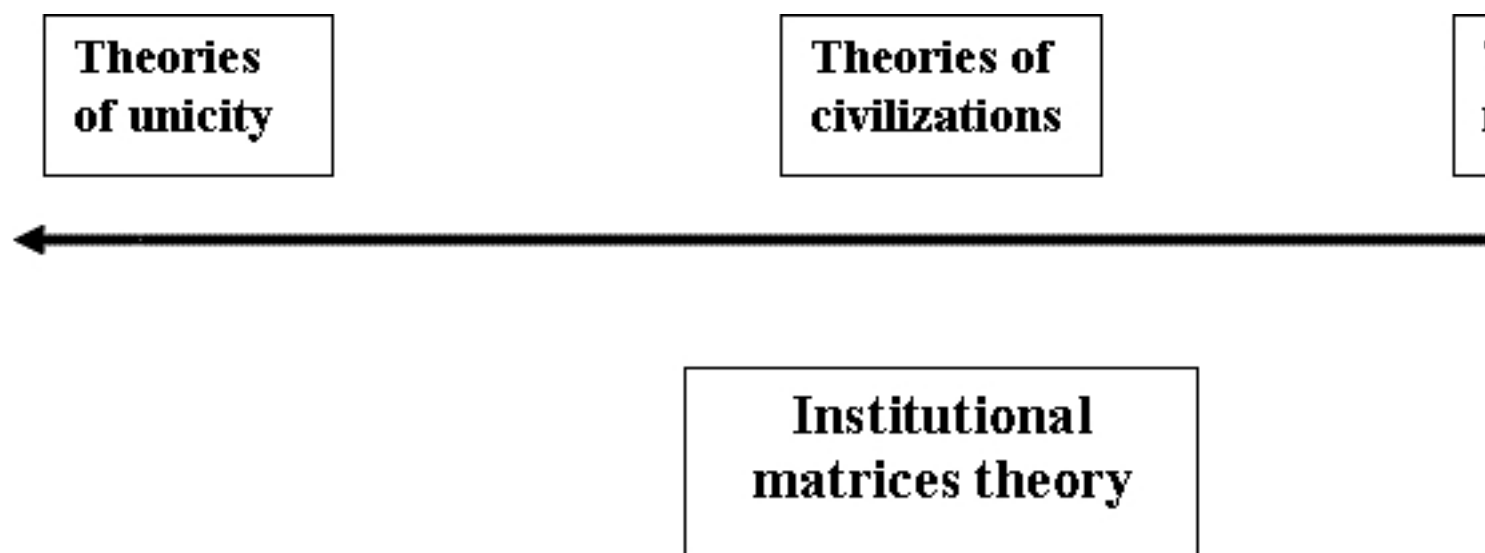
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Institutional matrices, social system, concept of society

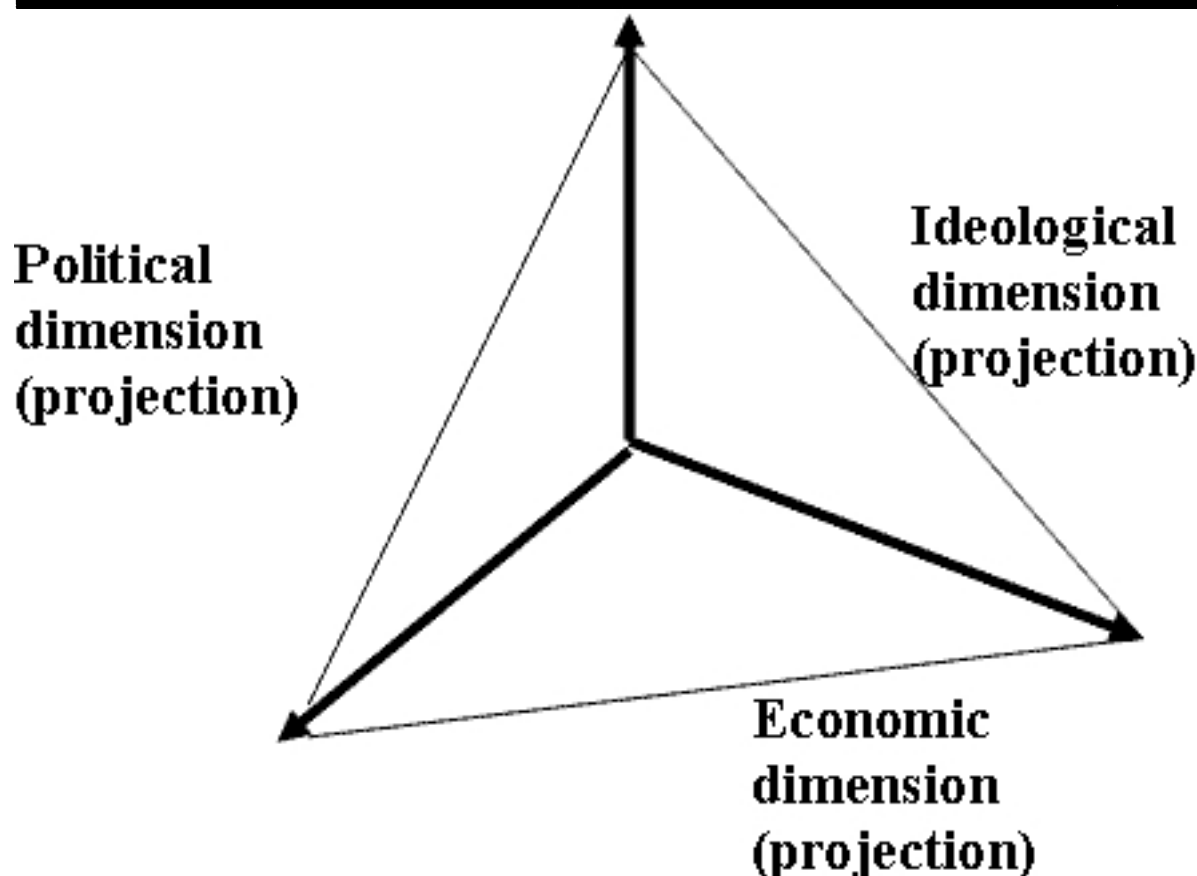
In the modern global world, individuals, countries, and nations learn increasingly more and more about each other and make comparisons between themselves. It is rather easy to do when we compare visible and evident results of social development – for instance, living standards, ecological situation, economic indicators, etc. It is, however, much more difficult to compare HOW different countries come to certain results, WHAT social mechanisms, procedures, institutions determine the prosperity in some countries, and the crisis in the others. It could be useful to turn to social theories when analyzing such unmanifested mechanisms.

The subject of my presentation is the possibility to use the theory of institutional matrices for a comparative analysis of the evolution and development mechanisms of modern societies.

What is the difference of this theory from other conceptions suggesting their own explanations of social evolution? As you know, two extremes could be singled out in these theories (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. The space of social evolution theories



Scheme 2. System of sociological co-ordinates

The different dimensions form the basis for the classification of institutions that are characterized by their content, form, and function. The content of institutions is determined by the ideological dimension, the form by the political dimension, and the function by the economic dimension.

Conclusions

The sociological scheme suggested in the theory of institutional matrices can be used for the comparative research of the social development of different countries. According to this theory:

- a society is regarded within the simplified 3-dimensional co-ordinates, its main projections being *economy, politics, and ideology*;
- the system of basic institutions regulating relations in the spheres of economy, politics, and ideology, forms the *institutional matrix* of a society;
- two types of institutional matrices are singled out: the X-matrix and the Y-matrix, which differ in the quality of their basic institutions; they determine the societal nature of the society which is maintained in the course of the historic development;
- the sustainability of the institutional structure of the society is ensured by the dominant position of the basic institutions, which corresponds to the societal nature of the society, and by complementary institutions alternative to them and borrowed from the other institutional matrix; *complementary institutions* occupy an auxiliary position, and their operation is limited by basic institutions;
- each society in a particular period of time is characterized by a certain *institutional profile* which demonstrates the proportion of institutional forms embodying basic and complementary institutions;
- when comparing the social development of different countries, their peculiar type of evolutionary institutional modernization depending on what institutional matrix, the X-matrix or the Y-matrix determines the societal nature of the society, needs to be taken into consideration.

The Institutional Matrices of Society

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Basic institutions

of X-matrix

%

0 100

Basic institutions of Y-matrix

Redistribution economy

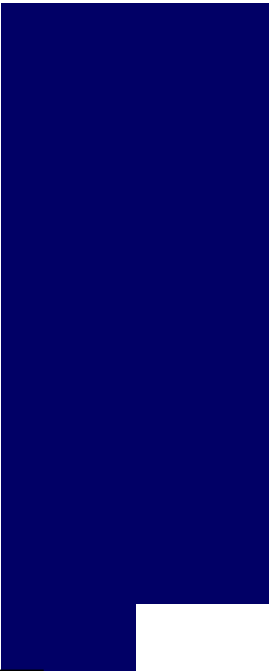
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Market economy

PUBLIC

OWNERSHIP



95

PRIVATE

OWNERSHIP

REDISTRIBUTION

RELATIONS



~~INDUSTRY RELATIONS~~

96

WAGE

LABOR

COORDINATION



88

COMPETITION

PROPORTIONALITY





80

PROFIT

Unitary

political structure

Federative political structure

ADMINISTRATIVE

DIVISION



95

FEDERATION

HIERARCHIAL

VERTICAL



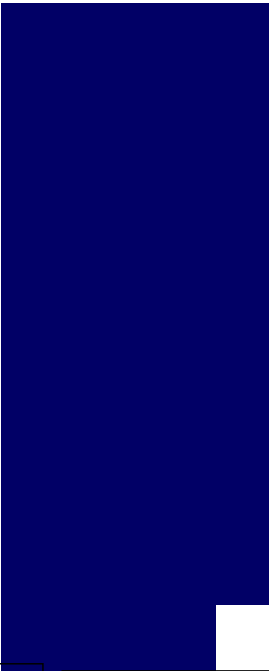


96

SELF-

GOVERNMENT

APPOINTMENTS



98

ELECTIONS

UNANIMITY



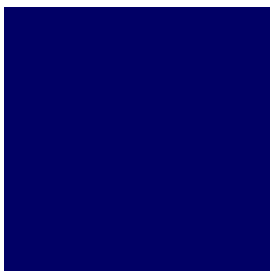
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MULTIPARTY

SYSTEM

APPEALS TO

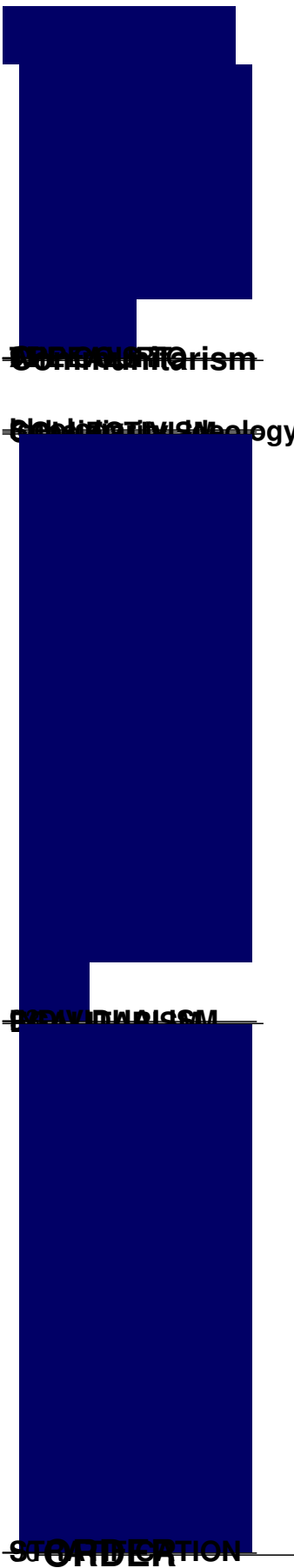
HIERAR. VERTICAL

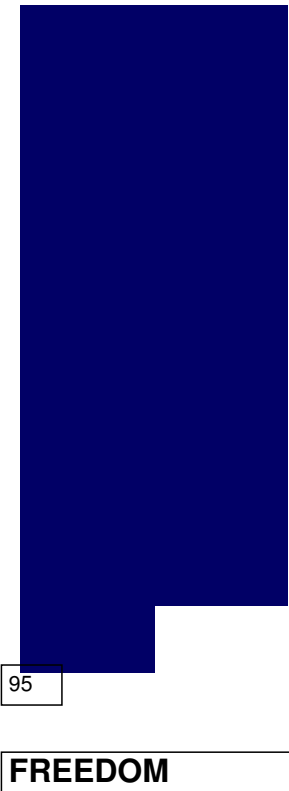


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Scheme 3. Institutional profile before the collapse of the USSR (1980s)

Basic institutions

of X-matrix

%

0 100

Basic institutions of Y-matrix

Redistribution economy

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Market economy

PUBLIC

OWNERSHIP



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PRIVATE

OWNERSHIP

REDISTRIBUTION

RELATIONS



45

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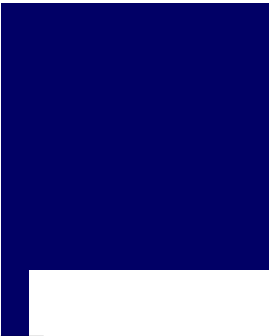
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EXCHANGE RELATIONS

SERVICE

LABOR





51

WAGE

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LABOR

COORDINATION



43

The Institutional Matrices of Society

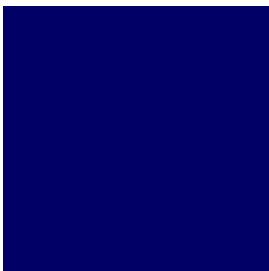
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COMPETITION

PROPORTIONALITY



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40

PROFIT

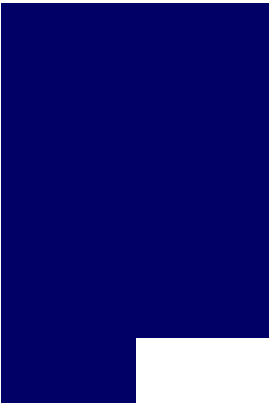
Unitary

political structure

Federative political structure

ADMINISTRATIVE

DIVISION



The Institutional Matrices of Society

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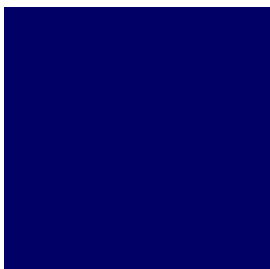
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FEDERATION

HIERARCHIAL

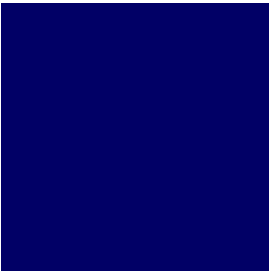
VERTICAL





GOVERNMENT

APPOINTMENTS



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ELECTIONS

UNANIMITY

☐☐☐☐

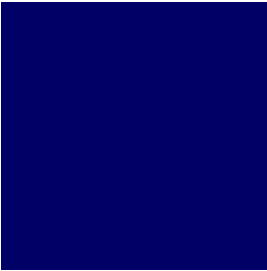
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MULTIPARTY

SYSTEM

APPEALS TO

HIERAR. VERTICAL



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APPEALS TO

THE COURT

Communitarism

Ideology

Subsidiarity ideology

COLLECTIVISM



45

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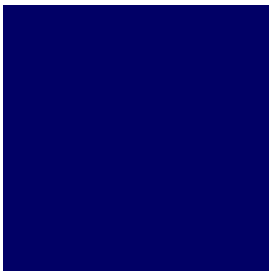
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INDIVIDUALISM

EGALITARISM



40

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STRATIFICATION

ORDER





43



FREEDOM

Scheme 4. Institutional profile of Russia in the beginning of perestroika (1990s)

Basic institutions

of X-matrix

%

0	100
---	-----

Basic institutions of Y-matrix

Redistribution economy

Market economy

PUBLIC

OWNERSHIP





PRIVATE

OWNERSHIP

REDISTRIBUTION

RELATIONS



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EXCHANGE RELATIONS

SERVICE

LABOR

☐☐

55

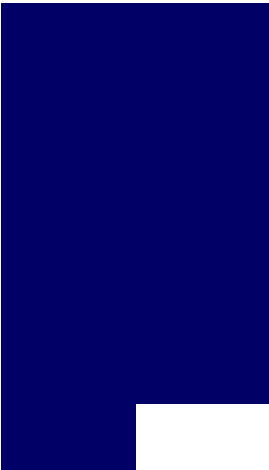
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WAGE

LABOR

COORDINATION



65



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COMPETITION

PROPORTIONALITY



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PROFIT

Unitary

political structure

Federative political structure

ADMINISTRATIVE

DIVISION



70

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FEDERATION

HIERARCHIAL

VERTICAL



65

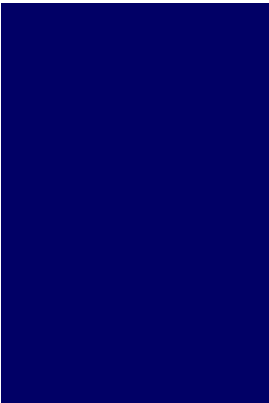




SELF-

GOVERNMENT

APPOINTMENTS



60



ELECTIONS

UNANIMITY



65



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MULTIPARTY

SYSTEM

APPEALS TO

HIERAR. VERTICAL



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APPEALS TO

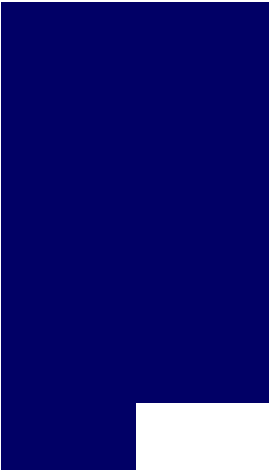
THE COURT

Communitarism

Ideology

Subsidiarity ideology

COLLECTIVISM



65

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INDIVIDUALISM

EGALITARISM



60





STRATIFICATION

ORDER



70



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FREEDOM

Scheme 5. Institutional profile of Russia in 2001-2002

[\[1\]](#) See, for instance, Pokrovsky, N. The Inevitability of the Strange World: The Involvement of Russia in the Global Community [Neizbezhnost' strannogo mira: vkluchenie Rossii v global'noe

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[3] See, for instance: Huntington, S. A Clash of Civilizations [Stolknovenie tsivilizatsiy] // *Political Studies*

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