

case consumers, who will be forced to purchase goods at higher prices due to increased costs of their production and sale or limited supply.

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THE PROBLEM OF THE PRECARIAT IN A TECHNOGENIC SOCIETY

Проблема прекариата в техногенном обществе

The modern world is highly technogenic, which causes the significant changes of the types of unemployment. The rapid development of technology leads to replacement of human labor with machine labor within significant spheres of employment, which in turn leads to a change in the social stratification of society and the formation of new social groups. Those are the reasons why the concept of a new social class – the *precariat* – has emerged in sociology. This term was introduced by French sociologists in the 1980s, and became widespread after the publication of Guy Standing's book "The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class" (2011). By his definition precariat employees are employees who work part-time, "off-staff", are involved in individual projects, in temporary positions, who agreed to work for a "gray" or "black" salary. Freelancers could be added to the same list. In other words, precariat consists of people without a "normal" stably paid job. The main characteristics of the precariat are the incomplete or unstable nature of their employment, the lack of social guarantees (trade unions, sick leave, vacations, etc.) and, as a result, uncertainty about the future. According to sociologists, currently informal, unstable, non-standard

employment in different countries of the world has covered from 30 to 60% of the employable population [1, p. 60]. Western researchers note that the main danger of the precariat lies in the possibility of its radicalization, which will lead to the instability of society and new revolutionary transformations, including socialist orientation. Economic insecurity, a loss in the fight against artificial intelligence can lead to the emergence of a new Luddite, to revolutionary upheavals, and in the darkest version of the future – a return to the new Middle Ages.

As a panacea for the precarization of the population, projects are proposed to introduce the so-called basic unconditional income. Guy Standing sees a way out in "providing everyone in society with basic security in the form of a guaranteed monthly income, which is paid monthly, regardless of the status – working or unemployed" [2].

However, the current experiments on the implementation of this initiative have not shown the expected results. For example, a project in Canada, implemented in 2018, was curtailed ahead of schedule; projects in Italy, Spain, Finland, etc. were not continued at all [3]. In addition, experts talk about excessively high costs for the implementation of this program (up to 30-50% of GDP) and the danger of even stronger immigration to countries that will begin to implement such programs.

Thus, the development of science and technology, automation and robotization of labor, the emergence of AI and other trends in the development in society will lead to global structural unemployment. The introduction of new technologies makes it possible to significantly reduce the cost of the production process, and replacing a human with a machine saves on wages and social guarantees. In these conditions, modern countries will face an unprecedented challenge to their existence, and only socially-oriented economies will be able to facilitate the transition to a new stage of civilization development, but the ways to protect the population today have not yet been definitively determined.

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