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EAST & WEST: PROBLEM OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

China Cultural Studies in Russia since 1741. Schools of the Chinese language in the Academy of Science. The Asian Museum in Saint Petersburg (1818). Closing the institutes of Eastern Studies and China Studies (30-40s of XX century). Eastern Studies returned by S. L. Tihvinskiy, the Institute of the Far East (1966) in the Academy of Science. Department of Modern Japan (1976) in IFE; the Centre of Japanese Research (1992); international project – the encyclopedic dictionary “Mental Civilization of China”; the first joint work of Russian and Chinese scientists (1993) - “Chinese culture of 20-40s and modernity”. Three AU-Russian conferences the subject of which was the Eastern Studies (1997-1999).

“Japan craze” in Israel. Growing interest in Japanese culture since 1980s. Courses, workshops for general public; organized artistic, cultural and commercial rest towards this exotic country (1990s). “Japan outside Japan”: a small community of Japanese didn’t take part in producing the “Japanese culture”.

Asian mass media was ousted. Asian Media Conference (Nov, 1998): Asia was overwhelmed by imported programs originated in the Western hemisphere. Manifest for restriction of the inflow of Western media; content devoted to educational, cultural, and non-commercial programming.

Eastern ideas of the West. Exhibition “Encounters: The Meeting of Asia and Europe 1500-1800” (Sept-Dec, 2004). Eastern “spiritual civilization” and Western “material civilization”: The first heritage of discovering the West is from China.

Fukuzava Yukichi (1834-1901), Japan's most influential Westerniser; his best work "Conditions in the West" about its open society and industrial development. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Bengali poet awarded the Nobel Prize for literature (1913) and knighthood (1915); his debate about modernity: West had "a spirit of repression and coercion" for him.

Russian Federation and China: "Together towards the mutual profit and collaboration!" The Year of Russia in China (2006); five-year jubilee of signet agreement for friendship and collaboration; approximately 300 actions. The Year of China in Russia (2007), Ceremony of Opening was held on March, 26. National China Exhibition in Moscow (2007 March, 27) with following forums and conferences – about 200 actions. Purposes salvations of the international nucleus problem, necessity for keeping peace and stability in all world; Development of energy resources and the space exploration; development of aviation, atomic energy, and high technologies.

A space flight. The Soviet Union had been helping China to begin the Chinese cosmic program (1950s) Dispatch of Russian-Chinese spaceship to the Mars is being planned (fall 2009).

China joining countries of the Great Eight. Supposed transformation of the Great Eight into the Great Ten; the countries of the latter are: Russia, USA, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and – in future – China and India.

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