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The Verbalization of Social Views in Walt Whitman's Poetry

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Abstract.
This article examines one of the most effective ways of disseminating socialist thought in Anglo-Saxon countries, unexplored in historiography, with the help of the poetic heritage of the American poet Walt Whitman. For the first time, the writer's works are assessed as an original source used as a communication channel in promoting the basic values of a socially just society. And although Whitman did not consider himself a convinced socialist, it was his poetry that sensitively responding to socio-economic and spiritual-moral upheavals in the life of society, it became a kind of ideological banner of the socialist movement in the Anglo-Saxon countries at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries. Whitman's poetic word, which relied on radical appeals and emotional perception, had a more convincing effect on participants in mass democratic movements. The poet's talent to express his thoughts clearly and speak in an accessible language contributed to the popularization of the ideals of socialism among the broad masses.

Keywords: *Revolutionist, intellectual history, doctrine of socialism, Walt Whitman, democracy, world brotherhood of working people, The Industrial Workers of the World*

INTRODUCTION.

The American poet Walt Whitman was not a convinced socialist, much less a revolutionist. Still, it was his poetry, which sensitively responded to the socio-economic and spiritual-moral upheavals in the life of society, that became a kind of ideological banner of the socialist movement at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries in the Anglo-Saxon countries. This phenomenon was explained by the fact that the writer, having captured in artistic form the contradictions of the emerging industrial world order, presented to the public a carefully developed plan for its future reorganization - the basic principles of which could be realized under the conditions of socialism. The essence of the idea, set out in his fateful poem "Leaves of Grass", suggested the inclusion in the list of universal human values, in addition to freedom and equality, of the universal brotherhood of working people.In this way, the poet stated that the potential of human rights, laid down by the "founding fathers" of the American state at the end of the 18th century, in many ways

has exhausted itself and without filling it with social content it is impossible to build a just society. Although it is generally recognized that absolute freedom is incompatible with the complete unity of people, Whitman created an ideal image of a just world order in which liberty, equality, and brotherhood coexisted, complementing each other.

DISCUSSION.

The American poet's poems were regularly published in the English socialist press, but most often in the quarterly magazine "Seed Time", whose editors adhered to the principles of ethical socialism. At the instigation of K. Hardy, who was the editor of the weekly "Labour Leader", Whitman's poetry was presented to the judgment of the reading audience. His poems, placed between reports of another workers' strike, acquired a revolutionary character, and the poet himself was considered a socialist. An updated vision of the liberal interpretation of democracy (from freedom through equality to brotherhood), in which there were mutual excluding components, determined the poetic heical paradox of Whitman, who glorified, with one on the other hand, unprecedented individualism person (own “I”), and on the other hand, the ideal universal equality (“identity”) individuums. In this theoretical paradigm the thinker acted not only as a creator social utopia, but also a theorist of national identity, whose poetry defined the particular of democracy in America. In conditions of formation at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Industrial world order, when millions of people found themselves separated by many barriers (political cultural, socio-economic, religious etc.), Whitman was invisibly faced with a dilemma about the unity of individualism and collectivism in the model of the future structure he creates

quality of society.At the end of his life he was tormented by the question about “how to combine your duty and politics as member of associations, societies, fraternities or something more, as well as their obligations to the state society and nation, with the necessary freedom as a separate personality, without which a person cannot can grow and develop" Whitman doesn't offered the reader a specific way to develop resolving the conflict between freedom of choice and social equality, although accentuated paid attention to the development of the spiritual component in people's lives, as a continuation of the process general democratization of society.In the United States, Whitman received recognition only at the end of his life, acquiring the nickname "old Walt". Contemporaries finally appreciated the innovative nature of his poetry, securing his place in the left-wing radical segment of society.This happened largely after he wrote an essay in 1871 entitled "Democratic Distances" For him, such statistics were "fleeting ephemeral, nothing at all." He was disgusted by America's "multi-faceted wealth," which concealed the underlying greed and corruption that had flourished after the Civil War 1861-1865. Whitman condemned the vice of business circles, for whom the only goal was monetary gain. Criticizing the conflict between labor and capital, he declared not only the existing injustice in the payment of workers' labor but also the danger to society in the form of "the growing accumulation of capital in the hands of a few", which became an obstacle to the spiritual progress of the American nation. Later, in "Model Days," Whitman again spoke of the fact that "at the bottom of the whole political world lies not the abstract question of democracy, but the question of social and economic organization, the relations of employers to labor, and everything connected with it."

CONCLUSION.

The ideas of socialism penetrated the consciousness of workers not only through political literature but also accessible to a limited circle of educated people. Unlike numerous printed works, the poetic word, which relied on radical appeals and emotional perception, was more convincing for participants in mass movements. That is why the leadership of socialist organizations often resorted to using works of fiction. In the socialist press, readers were recommended to get acquainted with proletarian poetry, facilitating the process of understanding such a complex issue as the nature of socialism and, in particular, one of such aspects of it as Whitman's idea of a community of equal and free people. The poet's talent for expressing his thoughts clearly and speaking in an accessible language contributed to the spread of the ideals of socialism, understood by many contemporaries as a world order that guarantees social and legal

equality. Russian poet of the "Silver Age" K. Balmont wrote in this regard that "one can love or not love Whitman, but it is impossible to eliminate him. He is a poet of the Present and the Future.

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