

**A. A. BOGDANOV:
TEKTOLOGY SERVING THE PROLETKULT**

1. In A. Uyemov's "The General Systems Theory for the Humanitarians" A. Bogdanov's tektology is called like a predecessor of the contemporary general systems theory and systems research [12, c. 315]. A. Uyemov saw tektology as a 'systems proto-theory' [11]. That point of view was supported by G. Povarov who considered tektology as a precursor for L. von Bertalanffy's general system theory and N. Wiener's cybernetics [8, c. 24], M. Setrov [9], and A. Takhtajan [10, c. 29]. Today in the post-Soviet humanities, science, and philosophy it is commonplace to consider A. Bogdanov's tektology as a foregoer for general systems theory and, indeed, to put it at the same level with systems research, including cybernetics and synergetics, semiotics, structuralism and functionalism – and in general to see in tektology an interdisciplinary conception.

2. Nevertheless, if to have a look at the historical and cultural context of the origination of tektology then the relationship between tektology and systems research would appear to be retrospective – and nothing else.

3. A. Bogdanov wrote the following: "My starting point is that structural relations can be generalized to the same degree of formal purity of schemes as in mathematics relations of magnitudes, and on this basis organizational problems can be solved in ways analogous to mathematical ones... Tektology must find out what ways of an organization are observed in nature and human activity; then to generalize and systematize these ways; then to explain them, i.e. to give abstract schemes of their tendencies and regularities; finally, based on these schemes, to determine the directions of development of organizational methods and their role in the economy of the world process" [1, c. 100]. In the quote A. Bogdanov showed interest in the organizational methods placed in the context of 'economy of the world process'. Those organizational methods must be the generalizing of the ways to solve organizational problems used in nature and human activity. This is the aim of tektology or general organizational science.

4. Here is another quote from A. Bogdanov: "<...> culture is a set of the organizational methods and forms of collective" [2, c. 328]. This quote allows me to assume that tektology as the general organizational science is related to culture: actually, tektology studies the organizational methods that make up the culture and that participate in the creation of collectives (that is, the organization of people). First of all, A. Bogdanov is interested in the class culture (the term coined by G. Plekhanov), specifically in the proletarian culture (shortly saying: proletkult), that is, such a dynamic system of the

elements of consciousness (mind) that rules social practice, and proletariat as a class realizes the system [4, c. 98]. Thus, tektology appears to be a 'science' serving the proletkult, realized by the proletariat "developing in an international direction," and aiming to become an "international collective" [2, c. 328], especially in such areas of social life as economics and technology [2, c. 328–329].

5. If tektology as the general organizational science serves the proletarian culture (possibly, being a part of it in the form of 'the proletarian science'), then from the historical and cultural standpoint A. Bogdanov's tektology might be rather considered in the context of the development of the proletkult than in the context of the systems research development. A. Bogdanov's tektology has to be set on the same plane as the conception of scientific management of A. Gastev [5], the conception of the proletarian culture of V. Pletnev [7], ergology and ergotechnics of V. Myasishchev [6] and heurology of P. Engelmeyer [13–14], i.e. the multiple conceptions of the effective management of labor, including creative ones [3].

6. The view that A. Bogdanov's tektology is a conception of the effective management of labor, especially creative one, and is a progenitor of systems research enables me to bring something new in the systems research, viz. the question on the praxeological and heuristic aspects; especially when the very systems research enables to do it by self-including G. Schedrovitsky's system thinking activity methodology which is similar with the conceptions of the effective management of labor in some way. The retrospective view of tektology as an ancestor of systems research allows me to consider systems research being commensurate to the conceptions of the effective management of labor, heuristics, the problem-solving theory, the decision-making theory, theory of inventive problem solving, and the like.

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