

Winter 2017

The ISCSC Newsletter

The ISCSC was founded in 1961 by Othmar Auderle, Rushton Coulborn and Arnold Toynbee in Salzburg (Austria). Pitirim Sorokin was the first president (1964-71). In 1971 the Society's leadership moved to the U.S. Over 30 foreign countries are represented in the Society's membership. Benjamin Nelson became the Society's first American president (1971-77).

Our New Website

www.iscsc.org

Vol. 55 No.1

Sustainable Civilization Matters

Message from President Toby Huff:



As we prepare for the 47th Annual Meeting of the ISCSC, we must recognize the challenge to move the vision of our enterprise closer to more fruitful conceptions of comparative and historical analysis of civilizational formations.

The vision of Benjamin Nelson and his cofounders entailed the study of civilizational complex composed of multiple societies and ethnic groups built upon their unique “cultural geometries,” with all their internal promises and limits. Sometimes the idea of “structures of consciousness” was conjoined with these formations.

Nevertheless, today the literature of the social sciences is replete with references to *societies* and *nation-states*, their interactions, alliances, balances of power, and increasingly globalized modes of congress. Consequently, we need to ask ourselves once again: what are the largest socio-cultural formations that have meaningful existence and that impinge upon the trajectories and fates of societies and nation-states? Meeting that intellectual challenge will be fateful for the existential survival of the ISCSC.

In the meantime, we are preparing for the 48th Annual meeting to be held in Suzhou, China. I certainly hope that the challenge and benefits of such an international meeting will inspire an enlargement of our membership.

Announcement from the New ISCSC Newsletter Editor



It is with a grateful and humble heart that I have accepted the position of editor for the ISCSC Newsletter. I am greatly honored to succeed my dear friend and colleague Andrew Targowski, who has faithfully served the society for so many years and whose vision has helped moved the society forward. It is such a critical time for civilizational scholars to behold. With an on-going world crisis, we as scholars cannot stand idly by and remain indifferent to the world around us. Yet we must also strive to maintain our integrity as scholars to help face down the challenges facing our world. I will do my best to help contribute to the endeavors of the ISCSC as we as a scholarly society march boldly forward into the future.

Stephen T. Satkiewicz, ISCSC Newsletter Editor.

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From the former President and Newsletter Editor



After nine years of faithful service as the editor for the ISCSC newsletter, I have decided to retire from the position. It has been a great honor and privilege to work with so many esteemed colleagues on this on-going project. I wish all the best to my successor, Mr. Stephen Satkiewicz, who has graciously decided to take my place as editor. This also marks the passing of the torch from one generation of civilizational scholars to another. The ISCSC Newsletter now enters into a new chapter.

Andrew Targowski

President Emeritus of ISCSC (2007-2013)

From the former President of the ISCSC



Serving as ISCSC President from 2013-2016 was an interesting and challenging experience which taught me a number of lessons about a variety of things. I believe the most important lesson I learned from this experience was that the future of our organization lies not with inward-looking efforts primarily geared towards a core group of members here in the USA, but rather in once again forging alliances and cooperative ventures as a truly international society. That is

how our society was originally envisioned in 1961 in Salzburg, Austria, and how it must continue today.

I learned that there are large, active civilizational studies networks in countries such as Russia, China, Turkey and Japan. We need to reinvigorate our connections with them and meet them in their countries as well. They look up to ISCSC as a venerable, long-standing society with a distinguished past and an impressive infrastructure, including our unique peer-reviewed journal *Comparative Civilizations Review*. I saw how our 2015 conference in Brazil brought many new participants from the Middle East, South America and elsewhere.

I therefore learned that interest in civilizational studies is definitely out there if we know how to tap it. ISCSC for a long time had a fundamentally international focus. This was our original mission and charter. Now we must try harder to look outward again, re-connecting with our original 'international' charter, and expanding our vision in order to effectively do this. Some of my best memories as ISCSC President involved my extensive and spirited correspondence with so many international scholars.

It was an honor to serve ISCSC as President for these three years, and I am satisfied the organization is currently in very competent hands with President Toby Huff and his new administrative team. I wish them all the best.

Prof. Dr. David Rosner (New York)

President of the ISCSC (2013-2016)

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E Pluribus Unum?



This Latin slogan describes the intentions of our founding father: that out of many colonies would come one nation. We Americans are very proud of this idea, and many think that we invented it. However, considering that the slogan is Latin, the ancient Romans certainly thought of it, as did others before them.

The small, scattered tribes of Homo Sapiens peopling Africa never looked beyond their tribes, related by blood. But as our ancestors left Africa and peopled the world (the only species to do this on their own—(rats and cockroaches depended on us to go global), the clans grew larger and stronger clans absorbed weaker ones.

Out of ancient Rome came the story of the Rape of the Sabine Women. The early Romans were poor and hungry and their women often died during childbirth. They invaded a neighbor's territory, conquered and killed the men, and carried off the women to become their wives. The Romans continued to absorb all their neighbors on the Italian peninsula and gave them Roman citizenship. The Roman Empire began this way. They went beyond Italy to rule territory from the British Isles, all across North Africa, the Middle East, and as far as the borders of Persia. For centuries to come, more people lived in prosperity under Roman rule than could have as struggling independent states.

China had a similar trajectory. The ancient Chinese hosted five kingdoms that fought incessantly until one finally conquered them all. This was the first Chinese Empire, a political success for centuries.

From the first empires after the agricultural revolution (Sumeria, Babylonia, Assyria, Persia), history was a cavalcade of empires that, when they overreached and collapsed, disintegrated into warlordism, famine, and death, until another warrior tribe created a new empire.

For human beings, empires, not independent states, have been the predominant global model. Centralized governments survive for centuries, periodically collapsing into anarchy until the next empire emerged. We are so used to thinking about sovereign nation states that we forget how new this concept is and how difficult it is for most of them to survive.

The horrors of two world wars (1914-18 and 1939-45) illustrated just how weak most nation states were. Neighborhood bullies, throwbacks to savage tribes, easily created new empires that they believed would endure. The Nazis and Japanese did not count on two other empires of sorts, the Russians (involuntary empire) and the Americans (voluntary empire) wiping them out. The Russians aspired to enlarging their already enormous empire by absorbing formerly independent European states (Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine) that they ruled with an iron hand.

The United States envisioned another sort of empire: one of free nation states agreeing to a set of global legal principles. Over a period of 70 years, during which we came close to nuclear war with the USSR, we prevailed, making us the single largest superpower. Over that time, our

influence and economic system lifted millions of people out of dire poverty and inspired many to attempt to become modern nation states.

History shows us that huge empires ultimately collapse because the cost of sustaining peace and order becomes more than its citizens want to pay. We are seeing this phenomenon today, with state after state (particularly in the Middle East) collapsing into anarchy and one wannabe super-state, the European Union, well intentioned but under-engineered, unraveling.

The world came close, under American tutelage, to creating a global society, a super-empire. It is in trouble right now, but historically, unity out of diversity (e pluribus unum) comes back. An invasion from Mars could unify us smartly, but short of that, global warfare will remind us how bad tribalism can be.

We are living through a period of increasing anarchy: some of it generated by neofascist militant Islam, which has a talent for destruction but no talent for governance; and other wannabe super-states, such as China and Russia, imagining that their visions are better than ours. People vote with their feet. Our vision is obviously better. Ask China's and Russia's neighbors.

Dr. Laina Farhat-Holzman is a historian, lecturer, and author of *God's Law or Man's Law*. You may contact her at Lfarhat102@aol.com or www.globalthink.net.

CONNECTIONS ARE STRENGTHENING BETWEEN SOCIETY AND ITS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PARTNERS



During September and October, 2016 I traveled to Europe and Russia. During the trip I have visited the cities of Cologne and Essen in Germany, as well as the cities of Moscow and Veliky Novgorod in Russia.

In the process, I have made presentations about ISCSC in a number of universities and scholarly organizations, such as Moscow State University (Lomonosov), Pitirim Sorokin-Nicolai Kondratieff International Institute in Moscow, and Novgorod State University (Yaroslav-the-Wise) in Veliky Novgorod. I also established scholarly relationships with Open University for the Dialogue between Civilizations (Russia, Kazakhstan, Germany, Italy, Brazil, China), and University of Duisburg-Essen in the city of Essen, Germany.

The presentations were warmly met by professors, researchers, and students, who expressed a great interest in initiation or continuing scholarly cooperation with the Society.

In addition, I am in constant communication with scholars from University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada where the Pitirim A. Sorokin's Collections are located, and I have established scholarly contacts with the Pitirim A. Sorokin Foundation in Winchester, MA.



Moscow State University (Lomonosov)



Moscow State University (Lomonosov)



Kremlin (a citadel) in Veliky Novgorod, Russia

Vlad Alalykin-Izvekov, ISCSC Representative and Programs Coordinator (Europe, Russia).

47th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations

Dear Colleagues:

Registration is now open for the 47th Annual ISCSC Conference! Please save the dates of June 30 to July 3rd, 2017 and make your plans now to guarantee your spot for this exciting conference. The primary theme this year as described in the Call for Papers, is “Revolutions” in the Late 20th and early 21st Century. In addition to the primary theme, many engaging, comparative civilizational topics will be discussed. Dialogues issuing from recent issues of the *Comparative Civilizations Review* will also enliven our meeting.

Updated registration and detailed information about the conference is now available on the ISCSC website. This year’s conference package includes a one-year membership in the ISCSC. We have instituted a simple, online registration payment process. Registration details can be found here: <http://iscsc.org/2017conf/index.html>

The esteemed Eric Trager PhD. has agreed to be our guest speaker this year. He is an Esther K. Wagner Fellow at the Washington Institute and author of *Arab Fall: How the Muslim Brotherhood Won and Lost Egypt in 891 Days* (Georgetown University Press, 2016). Dr. Trager is an expert on the Middle East, was in Egypt during the revolts, and continues to return to the area for continued study and research. His writings have appeared in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *Atlantic*, and the *New Republic*. We are excited that he has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker and join us for this 47th ISCSC Conference. More information about Mr. Trager can be found here: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/trager-eric>

Our chosen conference theme could not be more appropriate today. The world has faced and is facing revolutions on a wide range of scales: local, national, international, and theoretical. Politics, passions, and sentiments run high. Let's meet together, hear from each other, listen to each other and learn.

This year's conference is sure to be one of the very best. Join us. Don't miss out. Register today.

Sincerely,

Toby Huff
President, ISCSC
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www.iscsc.org

Comparative Civilizations Review Report to the Newsletter



As readers may know, we have now switched over from our previous electronic platform to a new one. Both were made possible through the very kind efforts of Connie Lamb and her associates at the Brigham Young University.

The new platform is called Digital Commons, and it is a service of bepress.

I am happy to report that The *Comparative Civilizations Review* is being read quite widely over our new Digital Commons electronic platform. We are being read electronically by more people each month. The number of readers downloading articles has jumped by 50% for the first quarter of the year.

Lately, I have been receiving a Digital Commons report from the platform's managers. Three such reports are at hand. The first, from December, 2016, was prepared and sent in January, 2017. Here is the report:

Comparative Civilizations Review

Last month, **Comparative Civilizations Review** had **1457** full-text downloads and **2** new submissions were posted.

The most popular papers were:

Front Matter (76 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol75/iss75/1>

Full Issue (55 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol75/iss75/13>

Sahasia: Geographical Comparisons of World Cultures and Civilizations (53 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol69/iss69/3>

The second report is from the February Readership Snapshot: Last month, **Comparative Civilizations Review** had **1817** full-text downloads and **0** new submissions were posted.

The most popular papers were:

Myth and Reality of the Chinese Diaspora (110 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol46/iss46/8>

Globalization vs. Americanization: Is the World Being Americanized by the Dominance of American Culture (57 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol47/iss47/7>

Sahasia: Geographical Comparisons of World Cultures and Civilizations (44 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol69/iss69/3>

The final report I have is from the March Readership Snapshot: Last month, **Comparative Civilizations Review** had **2109** full-text downloads and **0** new submissions were posted.

The most popular papers were:

Sahasia: Geographical Comparisons of World Cultures and Civilizations (42 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol69/iss69/3>

Metmorphoses of La Malinche and Mexican Cultural Identity (37 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol19/iss19/2>

Evidence for a Belarusian-Ukrainian Eastern Slavic Civilization (33 downloads)

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol73/iss73/7>

From where are our readers coming? There are 97 countries on the list for the month of April, but here are the top ten entries.

United States	1118
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United Kingdom	167
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Germany	122
Australia	100
Canada	86
India	68
France	52
Russian Federation	51
Netherlands	44
Turkey	36

For the month, there were 320 educational institutions that read us, plus commercial organizations, government, and other organizations. Here are the top ten educational institutions, with the number of downloads:

London Grid for Learning Trust	23
University of Zurich	13
University of Massachusetts	12
Franklin and Marshall College	12
Michigan State University	9
York University	7
State University of New York at Stony Brook	7
Emory University	7
School of Oriental and African Studies	6
Technische Universitaet Dortmund	6

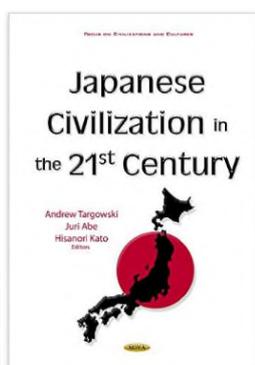
Finally, as to the referrers from which those who wished to download came, the following is the list of the top ten:

www.google.com/	531
www.google.co.uk/	65
www.google.ca/	61
scholar.google.com/	53
scholarsarchive.byu.edu/do/search/	40
www.google.co.in/	38
scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/	36
www.google.com.au/	33
www.google.com/url	25
www.google.de/	25

We are very happy with these early results. They tell us the categories of people who are downloading articles from our journal and from which institutions the requests come. What we are sure of now is that thousands of readers are coming to the journal that previously were not doing so.

Joseph Drew
Comparative Civilizations Review Editor-in-Chief
joseph.drew@iscsc.org

Japanese Civilization in the 21st Century



Published by Andrew Targowski (WMU), Juri Abe (Rikkyo University), Hisanori Kato (Chuo University), New York: NOVA Science Publishers 2016.

This book is a comprehensive synthesis of Japanese civilization in the 21st century. It covers all major elements of this civilization with a strong emphasis on how it can develop further in the future. All nations strive for prominence, but few reach it. Over the last 61 years (1965-2016), Japan has achieved this uncommon status. But, where is Japan heading in the 21st century? This question has been asked since the 1990s; Japan has been in a stagnant-deflation stage and has been looking for all sorts of solutions to return to the prosperous times reflecting Pax Nipponica in the 1970s and 1980s. The context of this situation and some recommendations for the future of Japanese culture are provided in this book. Nowadays, Japan is the third largest economy of the world. Its economy performs at near zero growth, due primarily to its aging society, which is actually positive since the Japanese have the longest lifespan in the world today and slow growth does not unsustainably deplete resources and nature. Japan's new purpose should be in the development of a sustainably wise civilization and its world-wide dissemination. Does Japanese civilization have a chance to trigger another reform and be successful again in the 21st century? This question has been pondered in this book. This monograph is written for those who are interested in the contemporary issues of the world's globalization and the role of leading countries in this process. With this in mind, students, faculty, social and political activists from around the world should be interested in this book.

Call for Contributors: WAR OR A PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION



I would like to inform our contributors to the book, *“Spirituality for Sustainable Civilization”*, and to *“Crisis and Renewals of Civilization”*, that both books were published again by Nova Publishers, this time as soft covers which hopefully will broaden their circulation. It would be contributory to visibility of these books if anyone could attempt to write a review for an academic journal. Thus, we may enjoy a small success and satisfaction that our books are recognized at least by the publisher as worthy of further effort at their propagation.

There is another project going on to which the members of this society are welcome with ideas and contributions: *War or Peaceful Transformation*. This project is already in its development and a number of chapters have been received. Nevertheless, whoever wishes to contribute to this project is welcome to contact me as an editor directly at marekcelinski1@rogers.com. I thank you all for your collegial inspiration and efforts to contribute to the previous work and wish you successful, healthy and a satisfying New Year.

Marek J. Celinski

**Photos from the 46th Annual ISCSC Conference at Monmouth University,
New Jersey, USA, June 29-July 1 2016**









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