

FROM THE EDITOR

The pandemic has significantly affected various aspects of our lives and made the future even more uncertain than it was before. Besides, the specificity of current situation, in contrast, for example, to such national troubles as war or natural disaster, is that it does not unite people, but separates them. This is typical of the epidemics that have been recorded and described in human history, starting with the epidemic that broke out in 430 BC in Athens. Of course, over two and a half thousand years the situation has changed, but oddly enough (given the changes that have occurred with human society), the socio-ethical consequences of this phenomenon are typologically very similar. At first, the search starts for the ones who are guilty. However, if earlier these were most often migrants, national minorities, different “helpers of the devil”, now these are special services, computer networks of the fifth generation, bankers... Immediately it turns out that the epidemic was sent by nature in order to punish certain social groups or peoples for their promiscuity. Also governments of different countries are certainly target for to be blamed for certain actions, as well as for inactions. Of course, human sins are generally to blame as it was millennia ago. In addition, prolonged isolation transforms the structure of public relations, replacing personal communication with the virtual one. It should be taken into account that a person who is locked in a virtual space is much more manipulated. Yet in public places, everyone you meet can be considered to be a potential threat. Thus, a whole cluster of new problems arises, and the task of the complex of social and humanitarian sciences is to try to determine the effect of factors that have unexpectedly entered our lives. The economy naturally came to the fore, since the pandemic threatened regular communications, but we can certainly expect serious consequences in various areas of public life – in medicine, in education, in the nature of relationships.

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