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THE THEORY OF CHANGE OF ELITES: CLASSICS AND THE PRESENT

The current political process in the world and particularly in Ukraine raises the acute question of ways of change of elites in power, qualities of elite, ways of their accession, and features of these processes in different countries. This issue becomes especially relevant in turning points in the life of society, when the replenishment of elite becomes of crucial importance. In democracies, elites serve important social functions related to public administration, so the quality of the elite, its ability to make important government decisions step forward among the tasks of modernization of society. Many answers to these questions we can find in the classical elite theory.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the views of classics of elite theory V. Pareto, G. Mosca and R. Michels on the reasons for the change of elites in power, ways of this process, as well as the possibility of using the classic

findings for understanding the contemporary political process in post-socialist countries.

Chaotic political participation of citizens, low effectiveness of national elites, incomplete process of recruiting a new management layer and at the same time its primary importance for the transformation of the country – all this makes the problem of political elites especially relevant to modern society. The social mechanisms of elite recruitment directly affect not only the social role and appearance of this group as a whole, but also determine the typical features of its individual representatives – political leaders.

It should be noted that even modern protest movements in post-Soviet countries are enhanced by the influence of social networks, do not bring forward bright leaders who would be able to gain a foothold on the positions of the elite for a long time and bring a constructive idea of further development of society.