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Communist Myth of the *Golden Age*: Origins and Features of its Evolution

Summary

The article analyses whether the Communist myth of the Golden Age is valid and examines the structure and features of its evolution. Particular attention is paid to the processes which took place in Soviet Russia. The study is based on the ideas by Carl Gustav Jung, Benedict Anderson and other contemporary thinkers. The article distinguishes the archetypes that shaped the imagined Bolshevik world, the main imagined and imagining communities which were involved in the building of socialism and the psychological reasons for the ideology's collapse. The author substantiates the idea that the Communist myth of the *Golden Age* was formed as compensation for poverty, humiliation and injustice rooted in society. Social equality played an exclusive role in the structure of this myth. Communist society was supposed to be one in which there were no rich and no poor, one where people did not live lives of luxury and

where there were no people living below the poverty line. Thanks to these attributes, the ideology of communism has gained many sympathisers and apologists in Western societies and it has followers in virtually every corner of the globe. In the article, Marxism is considered to be an attempt to rationally substantiate the Communist myth of the *Golden Age* and bring an air of scholarliness to it. In Europe, exhausted by the First World War, the role of communist parties was strengthened with some of them temporarily seizing power in some countries. In Russia, meanwhile, communist parties took power and remained in control for decades. However, social and political myths are viable only so long as they remain myths, i.e. they exist in the form of collective dreams or memories. When an effort is made to implement the myth, it collapses and the society which tried to implement it collapses together with it.

Keywords: the Myth of the Golden Age, archetypes, imagined communities, imagined worlds.