

## BUILDING INTELLECT IN A SINGLE COUNTRY

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In his treatise 'Democracy in America in 1835', the Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville noted that people in the New World 'are the worst to learn Descartes' prescriptions but they are the best to follow them'. The precepts of the Briton Francis Bacon, who left us the slogan 'knowledge is power' are also followed well in the New World. In the United States, there are 1.5 million scientists vs. 1 million scientists in the entire European Union (there are an estimated 5.5 million in the whole world). America's scientists account for 40% of the world expenditures in the sphere of science and technology, 37% of the scholars (among the developed countries), 38% of patents for new technologies, 39% of publications, and 49% of all quotations (66% in the world). 70% of all Nobel prize winners work here and 75% of the top 20 universities in the world are located here.

It has become an axiom in America that **any social action taken by the government must first be preceded by research**. The business sector adopted this principle long ago. America is also the leader in terms of scientific financing. Indeed, it is big business that most scientists work for, with the remainder working for either educational or governmental institutions.

Governmental institutions, as well as those involved in the political sphere in general, have also long been recruiting intellectuals.

'Think tanks', which promote the transfer of ideas from the scientific community into the format for political action, appeared a century ago with the purpose of speeding up the process of extracting information.

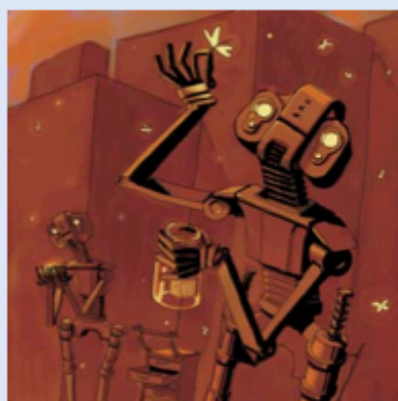
Today 'think tanks', these 'neurons of the political body' enjoy a presence in 170 countries of the world. A third of all such organisations are located in the United States (there are 1777). Washington alone is home to 350 think tanks (in Eastern Europe, there are 514 think

tanks, with 177 of those think tanks located in Russia).

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The United States long ago realised the benefits of signing up talented foreigners. Both before and after World War II, about 100 thousand European scientists made their move to the New World. **This brain inflow brought a second wind to American universities, research centres and the economy in general.**

Another reason that the number of educational institutions in the US is so large (there are about 4500) is that educational services are also tailored to students from other parts



of the world, because the most prestigious universities are located in the USA. However, the gradual effect of their leadership in the sphere of higher education is that their system gets copied by their rivals. Thus, in order to reap benefits from rendering educational services in the future, universities will have to offer something that is fundamentally new. So the predominant position in this sphere should also commit to innovation as well.

Socialisation is virtually the only function that remains for Americans within their school system. It focuses more on bringing up children than teaching them. Study is more a task designated for universities. It is perceived to be the most important element within civil society due to the fact that, the higher the educational level that a special-

ist has achieved, the more serious is his social responsibility.

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In 2007, 662 higher education institutions were engaged in conducting scientific research, accounting for more than a half of all fundamental studies. They yield products, technologies and highly qualified cadres who are also focused on producing new products and technologies, thereby creating a second platform for 'intelligent politics'.

It has become a fundamental truth for the state and the business sector that **collaboration and support with respect to universities is not only a noble dealing, but also a very profitable one**. Universities have been and continue to be the sources of ideas and innovation. The Association of American Universities also calls for a strengthening of partnership with government in order to enhance the role of science in the decision-making process.

Americans are not afraid of excessive production in the sphere of intellectual innovation because it is namely the masses of intellectuals who have appeared due to the developing knowledge industry who now comprise the societal layer forming the backbone of smart politics. They understand *how* to do things and can also say clearly *what* should be done.

**There are no signs of a slowdown in terms of innovative intellectual progress in the United States.** This can be explained by the conscious directive of the government and the elite to keep and assert leadership. Who can dare deny the leadership of the New World based on the principle that 'Knowledge is Power'? ■

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