End Matter

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In October 1961, in Salzburg, Austria, an extraordinary group of scholars gathered
to create the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. Among
the 26 founding members from Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands,
Spain, Italy, England, Russia, the United States, China and Japan were such luminaries
as Pitirim Sorokin and Arnold Toynbee.

For six days, the participants debated such topics as the definition of “civilization,”
problems in the analysis of complex cultures, civilizational encounters in the past, the
Orient versus the Occident, problems of universal history, theories of historiography,
and the role of the “human sciences” in “globalization.” The meeting was funded by
the Austrian government, in cooperation with UNESCO, and received considerable press
coverage. Sorokin was elected the Society’s first president.

After several meetings in Europe, the advancing age of its founding
members and the declining health of then president, Othmar F. Anderle, were important factors in the
decision to transfer the Society to the United States.

Between 1968 and 1970 Roger Williams Wescott of Drew University facilitated
that transition. In 1971, the first annual meeting of the ISCSC (US) was held in
Philadelphia. Important participants in that meeting and in the Society’s activities
during the next years included Benjamin Nelson (the Society’s first American president),
Roger Wescott, Vytautas Kavolis, Matthew Melko, David Wilkinson, Rushton Coulborn
and C.P. Wolf. In 1974, the Salzburg branch was formally dissolved, and from that year
to the present there has been only one International Society for the Comparative Study
of Civilizations (ISCSC).

The presidents of the ISCSC are, in order: In Europe, Pitirim Sorokin and Othmar
Anderle; in the United States, Benjamin Nelson, Vytautas Kavolis, Matthew Melko,
Michael Palencia-Roth, Roger Wescott, Shuntaro Ito (from Japan), Wayne Bledsoe, Lee
Daniel Snyder, Andrew Targowski, David Rosner, and the current president Toby Huff.
To date, the Society has held 47 meetings, most of them in the United States but also in
Salzburg, Austria; Santo Domingo, The Dominican Republic; Dublin, Ireland; Chiba,
Japan; Frenchman’s Cove, Jamaica; St. Petersburg, Russia; Paris, France; New
Brunswick, Canada; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

More than 30 countries are represented in the Society’s membership. Its
intellectual dynamism and vibrancy over the years have been maintained and enhanced
through its annual meetings, its publications, and the participation of such scholars as
Talcott Parsons, Hayden White, Immanuel Wallerstein, Gordon Hewes, André Gunder
Frank, Marshall Sahlins, Lynn White Jr., and Jeremy Sabloff.

The Society is committed to the idea that complex civilizational problems can best
be approached through multidisciplinary analyses and debate by scholars from a variety
of fields. *The Comparative Civilizations Review*, which welcomes submissions from the
Society’s members as well as other scholars, has been published continually since its
inaugural issue in 1979.

Prof. Michael Palencia-Roth
Membership Information

If you are not a member of the ISCSC please consider joining for a $70 USD yearly membership fee, plus $8 USD for non-mainland USA postage. Members receive a one-year subscription to this journal, are invited to attend the annual conference, receive the ISCSC newsletter, and may participate in ongoing dialogues. Membership is open to all interested in civilizations. Visit www.iscsc.org for further information.

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International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations