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## Analysis of the nature and characteristics of the civil society: theoretical aspect

*The article presents an analysis of the civil society, based on the consideration of different approaches to the definition of its essence and basic characteristics. The urgency of considering the problem of theoretical interpretation of “civil society” due to the change in the “social state” paradigm is substantiated. Both foreign and domestic approaches to the interpretation of the essence of civil society are considered. The definitions of civil society within the framework of value, subject, process, structural, spatial, network, functional, civilizational, normative approaches are given. Attention is focused on the sociological, economic, legal and philosophical interpretation of “civil society”. Despite the diversity of approaches, the author believes that a single, satisfying the whole range of research interests, the definition of civil society is hardly possible, however, an interdisciplinary approach to its interpretation will reflect the diversity of this phenomenon. As for the characteristics of civil society, the author comes to the conclusion that the main features inherent in civil society are: the foundation of civil society is an active person who, subject to strict compliance by all participants of public relations with the law, realizes their own and public interests through public institutions and structures.*

**Keywords:** social state, civil society, personality, social activity, public organizations.

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### Reference to the article

Makarova E. P. Analysis of the nature and characteristics of the civil society: theoretical aspect // Power and Administration in the East of Russia. 2019. No. 2 (87). Pp. 93–99. DOI 10.22394/1818-4049-2019-87-2-93-99

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