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An extended abstract of the paper on the subject of:  
ANTHROPOLOGIC TURN IN PHILOSOPHY:  
TOWARDS THEORY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Problem statement. Development of the public administration system in the Ukrainian transformational society should take place in the context of the European humanitarian thought. However, the content and historical background of the ‘new public management’, ‘public administration’ and other notions are not always obvious which necessitates a special philosophic research.

Recent research and publications analysis. The present research is based on the works by the leading contemporary thinkers of international fame, and namely: A. Camus, M. Heidegger, F. Nietzsche, J.-P. Sartre, M. Scheler, O. Spengler, A. J. Toynbee, T. Veblen, M. Weber and other scholars.

The paper objective is analysis of the ‘anthropological turn’ notion in the course of the evolving socio-humanitarian thought.

The paper main body. The problems of administering a state always were in the primary focus of thinkers, starting from Plato and Aristotle. However, in this connection, due attention was scarcely ever paid to specific features of human nature and the essence of human existence.

The paper analyzes the historical development of the European humanitarian thought and American economic theory of institutionalism, which have brought about an anthropological turn, in particular, in public administration.

Conclusions of the research. The “anthropological turn” – in the socio-humanitarian thought as well as in a modern society in general – is connected with rethinking of the role of the human being in a society, human spiritual nature and vital activity conditions. Hence, a modern interpretation of partner relations
between a citizen and authorities, and the content of the notions of ‘public administration’, ‘social policy of the state’ etc. Following A. Toynbee, a capacity of public administration for a timely response to challenges and contradictions that permanently accompany social development can be called the main indicator of a society’s “intellectual development”.