

The thesis compares the concepts of culture of German historian Oswald Spengler and American anthropologist Alfred Louis Kroeber. Both authors shared interest in comparative study of civilizations and similar approaches to it, based on an assumption, that culture is a distinct level of reality, nonreducible to its parts, but on the contrary controlling them. This conception is sometimes referred to as superorganic. Each of the scholars compared here hit upon the idea by other ways, hence it carries some different implications for them. The concepts and related methods are analyzed in this work with focus on revealing their assumptions. The explicit comparison is made in the end of the work.