

Social-geographic zoning of Ukraine: history, present days, viability

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Annotation: Historic review of previous social-geographic (economic) zoning of the territory of Ukraine was carried out. Numerous schemes of social-economic rayons suggested by geographers and economists in the second half of the XX century were scrupulously analyzed and grouped to help assess further viability of social-economic zoning to subsequently manage and design territorial organization of society.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social-geographic zoning, that is, the division of the country's territory into aggregate and mutually dependent parts characterized by specialization and development integration is essentially important for scientific substantiation of rational allocation of productive forces (Ishchuk 2006). The territory of Ukraine is now divided into different social-geographic rayons depending on natural conditions and resources (their components structure and concentration), demographic situation, structure and developmental status of economy, specificities of historic progress and administrative-territorial subdivision. Zoning reconstructs territorial differentiation of the society's development on the basis of geographic diversity of living standards and specialization of labor, structure of economics on the whole and population's mode of life since represents an important method of the analysis of its territorial organization.

2. ANALYSIS OF LATEST STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Social-geographic (economic) zoning on the whole and its specific problems in particular were given attention in rather sufficient detail in Ukraine (Dibrova 1958; Doroguntsov 2005; Dzhaman 2003; Dzhaman, Hiheichuk 2007; Zhuk, Krul 2004; Zastavnyy 1994; Ishchuk 2006; Kuzyshyn 2012; Masliak, Shyshchenko 1998; Mezentseva, Mezentsev 2000; Palamarchuk, Palamarchuk 1998; Pistun, Provotar 1995; Popovkin 1993; Shabliy 2000, etc), however, with no commonly agreed schemes of the country's territory division into social-geographic (economic) rayons. A good deal of previously suggested schemes contained from 2 to 14 economic rayons. The present study aims at the analysis of previous publications regarding social-geographic (economic) zoning, subsequent grouping of their different versions, and consideration of the

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perspectives of the use of social-geographic rayons as objects of management and planning of territorial organization of social complexes.

3. STUDY METHODS

Zoning principles and criteria represent the important methodical approaches to social-geographic zoning of the territory. These are the initial provisions or rules of the division of the country's or its regions territory into parts. Basic principles of national zoning were finally formed in the XX century and were not yet overtaken by any events. The principles included economic, ethnic, administrative, and perspective zoning (Mezentseva, Mezentsev 2000), followed by basic criteria such as availability of key problem, effect of historic specificities of the territory development, efficiency of functioning of energy-producing cycles, rayon-forming significance of big cities, level of links' maturity and intensity, population's standards of living, long-term benefits from new social-geographic formations (Pistun 1996). Methodological approaches applied in the course of this study were retrospective-chorological, constructive-geographic and systems-structural. The authors used general-science (literature, descriptive, comparative-geographical, analysis and synthesis) and specific-science (cartographic, classification, typification, systems-structural, diachronic and synchronic analysis) methods of research.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

First attempts to zone the territory of Ukraine into social-economic taxa were made since the beginning of the XIX century. It was also time of first publications regarding the problems of the theory of social-geographic zoning. For the purpose of cognition, only two «spaces» had been then outlined within the territory of Ukraine, namely, the Carpathian, and the Steppe (Kuzyshyn 2012).

It was as far back as the end of the XIX century and then 1926 when M. Dragomanov and S. Rusnytskyy had respectively divided the territory of Ukraine into the Pravoberezhzhia (Right-Bank), the Livoberezhzhia (Left-Bank) and the South rayons. By their order of 1921, the Gosplan (the State Planning Committee of the USSR) divided the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic into 2 big rayons: South-Western (grain-producing) and Southern (metallurgical). P. Fomin was in his Ukraine. Economic Characterization issued in 1924 outlining 3 fronts (rayons) as follows: Southern Metallurgical, Southern Grain-Trading and South-Western Agricultural-Industrial. V. Sadovsky in 1930s insisted that as many as 9 rayons, namely, Zakarpattia, Ukrainian Bessarabia, Ukrainian Bukovina, Volyn-Pole, Galician, Polissia, Right-Bank Forest-Steppe, Left-Bank Forest-Steppe, and Steppe rayons have naturally formed on the territory of Ukraine. K. Voblyy had in 1944 divided the territory of Ukrainian SSR into 5 economic rayons: South-Eastern, North-Eastern (Sumy-Kharkiv), Central (Kyiv), Southern (Prymorya-Odesa), and Western (Lviv) (Dzhaman, Hiheichuk 2007; Kuzyshyn 2012).

The second half of the 1950s was distinctive for the transition to territorial principle of industrial management, which required reconsideration of economic rayon schemes. The Gosplan of the Ukrainian SSR in their practical planning work had in 1956 therefore outlined 7 economic rayons: Donbas, Prydniprovya, Livoberezhzhia, Pravoberezhzhia, Western Oblasts, Polissia, and South-Western Rayon (Baranovskyy 1956). According to Further Improvement of Management in the Industrial and Building Sectors of Ukrainian SSR Act adopted by the Session of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR on 31 May 1957, the territory of the republic was yet again reorganized into 11 economic administrative rayons as follows: Vinnytsia (Vinnytsia and Khmelnystkyy oblasts), Dnipropetrovsk (Dnipropetrovsk Oblsat), Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizhzhia Oblast), Kyiv (Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Kirovograd, Cherkasy, Chernihiv oblasts, and the City of Kyiv), Luhansk (Luhansk Oblast), Lviv (Lvivv, Volyn, Rivne, and Ternopil oblasts), Odesa (Odesa Oblast), Stalin (Stalin Oblast), Stanislav (Stanislav, Drohobych, Zakarpattia, and Chernivtsi oblasts), Kharkiv (Kharkiv, Poltava, and Sumy oblasts), Kherson (Kherson, Crimean, Mykolayiv oblasts, and the City of Sevastopol). The economy's operative control was reassigned to councils of people's (national)

economy newly formed in each of economic administrative rayon. Exercising their activity, the councils took orders from the Council of Ministers. At the beginning of 1961, there functioned 14 economic administrative rayons in Ukraine. However, that network was combined into 7 larger units in 1962 (Donetsk, Kyiv, Lviv, Podillia, Prydniprovya, Kharkiv, and Chornomorskyy economic rayons). And, finally, economic administrative rayons and councils of people's economy were liquidated in 1965 due to transition to sectoral principle of management.

Beside economic administrative rayons handled by territorial planning and management bodies, the other schemes of economic rayons were also suggested. A team of authors affiliated with the Institute of Economics at the Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR, had at the beginning of 1950s outlined five rayons (Rumiantsev 1952), while O. Dibrova suggested six economic rayons in the late 1950s (Dibrova 1958). It was in 1963 (specified in 1966) that 18 big economic rayons were established on the territory of the former Soviet Union, inclusive of 3 such rayons on the territory of Ukraine: Donetsk-Prydniprovya, South-Western, and Southern. Zoned as above, economic rayons of Ukraine appeared to be too large and diverse (especially the first two with 8 and 13 administrative oblasts respectively) displaying no regional objective natural, economic, social, demographic, and historic differences. That was why Pistun, Shypovych (1982) in their Geography of Ukrainian SSR issued in the early 1980s for students of higher educational establishments spoke of the network of nine internal republican economic rayons (sub-rayons).

The problem of development of new format of social-geographic zoning of the country had again become topical upon declaration of independence of Ukraine. S. Ishchuk was the one who thoroughly analyzed new scientific approaches to social-geographic zoning of Ukraine in the works of such domestic scientists as F. Zastavnyy, M. Palamarchuk, O. Palamarchuk, M. Pistun, V. Popovkin, O. Shabliy, etc (Ishchuk 2006). In their various monographs, scientific-methodical and educational manuals published at the turn of the XX and XXI centuries, they substantiated several schemes of new social-geographic rayons, however, with no scientists' unanimous consent. In particular, F. Zastavnyy outlined nine meso-rayons comprising three macro-rayons (Zastavnyy 1994). This scheme of zoning (9 rayons) was supported by M. Pistun and N. Provotar (Pistun, Provotar 1995), and developed by P. Masliak and P. Shyshchenko (Masliak, Shyshchenko 1998) by specifying the rayons' names. V. Popovkin insisted on the division into five macro-rayons and nine meso-rayons (Popovkin 1993). Shabliy (2000) came to the idea of six socialeconomic rayons (Social-Economic Geography of Ukraine 2000). M. Palamarchuk O. Palamarchuk, and S. Ishchuk were supporting the division into six social-economic macrorayons with some changes to the composition of two macro-rayons (Palamarchuk, Palamarchuk 1998; Ishchuk 2006).

Generally, the present-day schemes of social-geographic zoning of Ukraine can be combined into two groups: 1 – schemes outlining nine rayons, 2 – schemes outlining six rayons (*Tables 1, 2*). The rayons' limits coincide in four versions of zoning into 9 rayons. And, a single difference in 6-rayon versions is the referral of the Khmelnytskyy Oblast to the Western or the Central social-geographic rayons. Social-geographic limits of the rayons coincide in two groups of schemes when we speak of the eastern and the southern parts of the country. Specificities lie in the difference of the contours of social-geographic rayons of the western, central and northern parts of Ukraine. And, having combined two levels of division, that is, the macro- and the meso-zoning, V. Popovkin had suggested his intermediate option between two schemes of zoning groups.

Among all other schemes of zoning, we can not but mention the division of the territory of Ukraine into 8 (Dorohuntsov 2005) and 10 (Zhuk, Krul 2004) economic rayons.

Upon liquidation of the councils of people's economy, the system of internal republican rayons was not practically applicable for the purposes of management and planning (Zastavnyy 1994). At the same time, the study of the regularities in and the factors of the formation of economic complexes in some rayons is connected with forecasting of the trends in

their economic and social development. Such study is not only of cognitive significance but represents an important precondition for territorial organization and management of the country's economy (Ishchuk 2006). This is why it seems reasonable to establish the subjects of management of the whole territorial organization of the society at the regional (inter-oblast) level. These can be represented by the Councils for economy of social-geographic rayons, as it was in 1957–1965. M. Pistun regards that, upon reaching the high level of social-economic growth, national self-awareness and labor discipline, our country can come to the idea of federal-land division (Pistun 1992). In case of the establishment of land as the primary administrative-territorial unit in Ukraine there would appear a problem of lands' clear demarcation, especially, and the one of the establishment of land centers. The lands would on the average cover territories of two or three present-day oblasts with pre-established and duly formed urban well-populated centers of most favorable geographical disposition and the whole set of functions. According to Shabliy's (2000) prognosis, in the far future, when our country becomes so strong that its unitarity would slow down further social-economic progress, there can appear federal self-governing lands (provinces, states) of Ukrainian Independent Collegiate State (Social-Economic Geography of Ukraine 2000). Social-economic rayons with their ability to exercise within their limits the territorial regulation and coordination of social, economic and demographic processes at sub-Ukrainian level, in particular, the complex development and rational territorial organization of public life, would then stand in as their (federal lands) predecessors.

Table 1. Schemes of social-economic zoning of Ukraine with subdivision into nine rayons

Macro-economic rayons (according to M. Pistun and N. Provotar)	Economic rayons (according to P. Masliak and P. Shyshchenko)	Big and internal republican economic rayons (according to F. Zastavnyy)	Macro- and meso- rayons (according to V. Popovkin)	Administrative-territorial units of rayons	
Donetsk	Donetsk	Eastern: – Donetsk	Donbas and Lower Prydniprovya – Donbas	Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts	
Prydniprovya	Prydniprovya	– Prydniprovya	– Katerynoslavske Prydniprovya	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia oblasts	
North-Eastern	North-Eastern	– North-Eastern	Slobidska Ukraine	Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy oblasts	
Prychornomorya	Prychornomorya	Southern: - Prychornomorya	Prychornomorya	Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson oblasts and Autonomous Republic of Crimea	
Capital	Capital	Western: - Central- Polissia	Central- Ukrainian: – Kyiv Polissia	Kyiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr oblasts	
Central	Central	– Central-Ukrainian	– Mid- Prydniprovya	Cherkasy, Kirovograd oblasts	
North-Western	North-Western	– West-Volyn	West- Ukrainian: Volyn, Rivne oblasts - Volyn Polissia		
Podillia	Podillia	– Podillia	– Podillia	Vinnytsia, Terno- pil, Khmelnytskyy oblasts	
Prykarpattia	Carpathian	– Carpathian	– Ukrainian Carpathians	Lviv, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi oblasts	

Social-geographic zoning of Ukraine is conditioned by the problems of modern constructive social geography, the logic of scientific cognition of human activity as an integral process. It is closely connected with the improvement of territorial principle of regional management and serves as the means of scientific short- and long-run prediction of social development. If established on the basis of scientific principles and approved by the state, the scheme of social-

geographic rayons would help rebuild and create new rational regional territorial industrial and social complexes.

Social-economic rayons (according to O. Shabliy)		Social-economic macro-rayons (according to M. Palamarchuk, O. Palamarchuk), and macro-regions (according to S. Ishchuk)		
Rayon (its core)	Administrative-territorial units of rayons	Macro-rayon (its center), macro-region	Administrative-territorial units of macro-rayons	
Eastern (Donetsk)	Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts	Donetsk (Donetsk)	Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts	
North-Eastern (Kharkiv)	Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv oblasts	Kharkiv (Kharkiv), North-Eastern	Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv oblasts	
Central-Eastern (Dnipropetrovsk)	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovograd oblasts	Prydniprovya (Dnipropetrovsk)	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovograd oblasts	
Southern (Odesa)	Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson oblasts	Prychornomorya (Odesa)	Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson oblasts	
Central (Kyiv)	Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv oblasts	Central (Kyiv)	Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Khmelnytskyy oblasts	
Western (Lviv)	Volyn, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Khmelnytskyy oblasts	Western (Lviv)	Volyn, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil, Chernivtsi oblasts	

Table 2. Schemes of social-economic zoning of Ukraine with subdivision into six rayons

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 1. Social-geographic zoning, that is, the division of the country's territory into aggregate and mutually dependent parts characterized by specialization and development integration is essentially important for scientific substantiation of rational allocation of productive forces.
- 2. Social-geographic (economic) zoning on the whole and its specific problems in particular were given attention in rather sufficient detail in Ukraine, however, with no commonly agreed schemes of the country's territory division into social-geographic (economic) rayons. A good deal of previously suggested schemes contained from 2 to 14 economic rayons.
- 3. Generally, the present-day schemes of social-geographic zoning of Ukraine can be combined into two groups: 1 schemes outlining nine rayons, 2 schemes outlining six rayons. The rayons' limits coincide in the versions of zoning into 9 rayons. And, a single difference in 6-rayon versions is the referral of the Khmelnytskyy Oblast to the Western or the Central social-geographic rayons.
- 4. Social-geographic zoning of Ukraine is closely connected with the improvement of territorial principle of regional management and serves as the means of scientific short- and long-run prediction of social development. If established on the basis of scientific principles and approved by the state, the scheme of social-geographic rayons would help rebuild and create new rational regional territorial industrial and social complexes.

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В. Джаман, Я. Джаман Суспільно-географічне районування України: історія, сучасність, перспективи

Ключові слова: район, районування, економічний район, суспільно-географічний район, Україна.

Анотація: Проведено історичний огляд суспільно-географічного (економічного) районування території України. Детально проаналізовано і згруповано схеми суспільно-географічних районів, виділених географами і економістами у другій половині XX ст. Розглянуто перспективи використання суспільно-географічних районів як об'єктів управління та планування територіальної організації суспільства.

Для наукового обґрунтування раціонального розміщення продуктивних сил важливе значення має суспільно-географічне районування — поділ території країни на цілісні взаємопов'язані частини, які характеризуються спеціалізацією й комплексністю розвитку.

Суспільно-географічне (економічне) районування загалом та окремі його проблеми

- зокрема вивчені досить детально, але єдиної загальноприйнятої схеми суспільно-географічних (економічних) районів в Україні немає. Існувало багато схем, які мали від 2 до 14 економічних районів.
- Сучасні схеми суспільно-географічного районування України можна об'єднати у дві групи: 1—схеми з виділенням дев'яти районів, 2—схеми з шести районів. У варіантах суспільно-географічного районування на 9 районів, їх межі збігаються. При виділенні 6 районів єдиною різницею виступає віднесення Хмельницької області до Західного або Центрального суспільно-географічного району.
- Суспільно-географічне районування України тісно пов'язане з удосконаленням територіального принципу управління регіонами, виступає засобом наукового короткочасного і довготермінового прогнозування суспільного розвитку. Виділена на основі наукових принципів і затверджена на державному рівні схема суспільно-географічних районів допоможе відбудувати і створити раціональні регіональні територіально-виробничі та соціальні комплекси.