

СЕКЦИЈА 4.
ДЕМОГРАФИЧНИ, МИГРАЦИЈНИ ТА СОЦИЈАЛНИ ПРОБЛЕМИ,
ПРОБЛЕМИ РОЗСЕЛЕННЯ НАСЕЛЕННЯ

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DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY

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Urban geography as a geographical discipline developed simultaneously with urbanization. Urbanization is said to be a continuous global and historical process that began to develop five thousand years ago, that is, from the emergence of the first cities. However, today, urbanization presents a broader concept. The urbanization process includes not only the emergence and development of cities, but also the complex changes in rural areas. By strengthening the urbanization of different characteristics and intensity, the content of urban geography extended and the methodology of urban geography developed.

Key words: urbanization, industrialization, urban geography

Urban geography is a young scientific discipline. The first papers with urban-geographical content appeared in the first half of the 19th century, when the process of industrialization directly affected intensive urban development. However, since urbanization is becoming a global process it can justifiably be said that urban geography is a geographical discipline of the 20th century. At that time, the interest in studying cities grew rapidly, and consequently the methodology of urban geographical research developed. Urban geography developed from the German anthropogeography, and accordingly urban geography was under the influence of general ideological trends in geography: geographical determinism and possibilism [3]. In the initial stage of its development, besides F. Rachel, other German geographers also contributed to the development of urban geography: O. Schliter, W. Kristaler, Hetner, H. Bobek and others. Contribution to the development of the French urban geography was given by: A. Demangon, G. Chabot, E. Juillard et al., the English: E. Dickinson, A. Smailes, American: Ch. Haris, E. Ulman, the Russian: Sauskin, Kovalev, Davidovich and others, and then the Macedonian M. Panov. Special significance in integrated urban development was given by French geologists Vidal de la Blache, R. Bruunet and M. Sorre – representatives of the geographical possibilism. The first significant works from urban geography were written by A. Weber in 1899, and the first general urban geography book by K. Hassert was published in 1907. Thereafter, a number of monographs on cities were written addressing the issues of position, development, population, functions and other

characteristics of individual cities. Additionally, the epochal works of the geographers P. Geddes and L. Mumford, that were key, conditionally speaking, in urban planning should be emphasized. They made a step forward in urban planning by introducing new attitudes as well as demanding a wider regional approach in studying cities. A prominent contribution in the development of urban geography in Serbia, except for J. Cvijić, was given by: V.S. Radovanović, V. Đurić, M. V. Radovanović, O. Savić, J. Ilić, and other geographers. In the development of the applied urban geography in Serbia, the greatest contribution was given by the following geographers: A. Veljković, D. Perišić and D. Tošić [4].

Since urbanization took place in stages, accordingly, four periods can be distinguished: up to 1900, from 1900 to the World War I, the period between the two wars and the postwar period. In the period until 1900, the concept of the city was not clearly defined. At that time, the attention was solely paid to the geographical, traffic and topographical position. In the second period, apart from defining a city, the physiognomic elements of the city are taken into account. In the study of urban settlements at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, the greatest attention was paid to the spatial expansion of cities, geographical and traffic position, as well as the appearance and morphological characteristics of urban settlements.

Between the two world wars, when the intensive process of industrialization led to a number of practical problems, more intensive research of cities began and the sophistication of the urban geography methodology. In the post-war period, the interest and needs for urban geographical research are increasing. The development of cities, that is, the expansion of urbanization in rural areas, encouraged urban geographers even more to do research not only of cities within their formal boundaries, but also of the city-environment complexes, that is, the urbanization in a broader sense [1].

At that time, the need for new methods, goals and tasks in urban geography emerges in order to further understand socio-economic and spatial development. From that period, the works of I. Crkvenčić on the concepts of geographical study of settlements, I. Rubić, V. Rogić and I. Vrišer on the determination of the boundaries of cities and their influential spheres, the works of S. Žuljić, V. Klemenčić, M. Friganović, A. Melik, M. Ban and others are most important [2]. Thus, the studying of the city, or the urbanization process, is not only a subject of urban geography, but also of other scientific disciplines. These boundaries in the study of the city are not clearly defined, and consequently urban geography uses research results of other scientific disciplines (sociology, economics, law, medicine, architecture, urbanism and others) and vice versa, which demonstrates that they complement one another. Special attention should be given to the sociological school in Chicago. Then, the models of ecological-spatial structure of the city emerge, as well as a large number of works on the functional structure of the city. The priority of the social-ecological school of urbanization was to determine the laws of development of the internal organization of urban settlements; it indirectly dealt with research into the connections and relations between urban settlements with their surroundings.

Dynamics of the development of cities induced the need for the establishment of urban planning and other institutions for studying and directing the development of

cities. At the same time in Europe, apart from studying the spatial structure of cities, great importance is attributed to the laws of spatial distribution and the importance of cities in space. At that time, W. Christaller's theory of central settlements appeared, which marked the beginning of the exploration of central settlements in many countries [1].

In urban geography, urban economics, urban sociology and some schools of urbanism, the notion that the spatial structure of the city encompasses spatial distribution and the system of functional relations – the processes and relations that take place between the structural elements of the urban settlement became predominant. Such a position was adopted in Croatia (Vresk, M., 2002) and Serbian urban geography (Veljković, A. 1988).

During the 1990s, new tendencies in the definition of spatial structures of urban settlements adapted to the postindustrial society emerged. The supporters of postfordism consider that the classic approach cannot be used in the study of rapid changes in cities and the spatial structure. For the new concepts of rapid changes in the spatial structures of the city, optimists suggest that they lead to vigorous development based on social, economic, cultural, aesthetic and ecological coherence [5].

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