

# Understand, Comprehend and Organize

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In the last 3-4 years, economic discussions in Russia always mention the issues of spatial development. This proves once again that space in our country is an extremely important factor that determines, shapes and directs almost all socio-economic processes. Without understanding the peculiarities of interaction between space and economy it is impossible not only to determine the nature and dynamics of the latter, but also to develop any effective approach to solving current and long-term development tasks.

Such an approach, apparently, was mainly developed in the course of those radical transformations, through which our homeland passed at the turn of the century, and the consequences of which we still feel in their entirety.

There is no doubt that as the economy develops (it is better, of course, if this process is evolutionary and progressive), its spatial metrics change; not only such metrics as the standard of living of the population in a particular point of space (with, quite obviously, acceptable territorial differences), but also specialization and concentration of economic activity, often entailing the relocation of centers of coordination and state management, which was shown and theoretically substantiated by Russian scientists at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

In particular, Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev and Boris Petrovich Weinberg showed a close connection between the solution of “tasks of industrial life” and, in general, the development of the economy with alterations in its spatial organization. In their opinion, as Russia’s economy develops, the center of its spatial structure cannot but shift to the East<sup>1, 2</sup>.

Today we can clearly see that there is not only a shift in the center of the country’s spatial structure, but also its significant qualitative transformation. Namely, the linear-hierarchical structure of space organization is increasingly being transformed into a matrix-network structure (see also the paper by A.N. Pilyasov in this issue of “ECO”).

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<sup>1</sup> Mendeleev D. *Toward the Knowledge of Russia*. S.-Petersburg: Edition of A.S. Suvorin, 1906, 158.

<sup>2</sup> Weinberg B.P. *The position of the center of the surface of Russia from the beginning of the Principality of Moscow to the present time // Izvestiya Imperatorskogo Russkoe Geograficheskoe Obshchestvo*. Volume LI. Issue VI. Petrograd: M.M. Stasyulevich Printing House, 1915, 365-384.

The linear-hierarchical model of space organization, which previously determined the placement of decision-making and responsibility centers on the territory of Russia and its individual regions, covered all stages and links of value-added creation processes. The linear nature of the latter was manifested, in particular, in the fact that the verticals corresponding to them, as a rule, did not touch each other, since the processes of horizontal interaction were either absent or extremely complicated and involved centers located at a considerable distance.

Within the framework of a similar linear hierarchy, social tasks were also considered, and approaches and procedures for research support of the processes of functioning and development of certain territories were formed (paper by L.M. Korytny).

In the opinion of the author of these lines, the transition to the matrix-network organization of socio-economic space, which is taking place before our eyes, is a critical problem, which is not yet realized by everyone and is not satisfactorily reflected in strategic planning documents (papers by N.N. Mikheeva, as well as A.K. Tulokhonov and S.N. Ivanova).

The management of this process, as it seems, goes beyond transportation and communication issues, and to a greater extent concerns the creation of prerequisites for the interaction of economic agents, which could promote economic growth in different territories and, accordingly, the welfare of the population living (working) there.

This approach requires careful consideration of local conditions - both cultural and historical specifics, and the peculiarities of those economic assets that determine the dynamics of socio-economic development of each particular territory.

In the author's opinion, the development of the resource-industrial complex of the Republic of Tatarstan can serve as an example of effective and efficient use of local specifics.

The socio-economic development of the region, starting from the late 1930s, was largely based on the oil and gas industry. However, for a long time the region was not engaged in hydrocarbon processing - producing more than 100 million tons of oil per year (the Republic reached this milestone by the mid-1970s), Tatarstan remained an exclusively extractive region. It was only at the turn of the 1970s-1980s that the Nizhnekamsk Petrochemical Combine (today JSC TANECO, a subsidiary of PJSC Tatneft) commissioned a primary oil refinery - the AVT-7 ELOU.

At present the Republic of Tatarstan not only has one of the world's most modern oil refineries with the refining depth of over 99%, but also

the production of composite materials, a wide range of machine-building products, modern environmentally oriented types and directions of activity are developing on its territory.

One of the reasons for this is the fact that the republic's management managed to retain on its territory both a significant package of assets and head offices (decision-making centers) of the relevant production and technological complexes (including PJSC Tatneft and TAIIF-NK). One should also note the continuity in training, selection and promotion of personnel at all management levels - from individual shops to holding structures inclusive, which is to a large extent a local tradition.

The Irkutsk Region is currently following a similar path, one of the drivers of its development being projects implemented by OAO Irkutsk Oil Company<sup>3</sup>. Alas, there are no other examples of an integrated spatial approach to the implementation of major projects in the east of the country (there are only a number of specialized sectoral projects).

The development of the economy of the regions of our country, modernization of its structure cannot be considered outside the connection with the creation of conditions for wider application of advanced scientific and scientific-technological developments, development of knowledge-intensive innovation business in all sectors and complexes, and this a priori implies an emphasis on horizontal interaction of scientific, technological and engineering centers of different levels. The sooner this is realized in the decision-making centers, implementing in practice matrix-network approaches to management, the faster and more harmoniously our homeland will develop. Science and modern technologies are the basis for improving the quality of life by increasing the number of high-tech jobs in the most geographically remote places and settlements of our large country.

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<sup>3</sup> INK projects are an impetus for the development of northern territories. UR:Lhttps://irkutskoil.ru/