

COMPARATIVE ASPECTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE URBANIZATION PROBLEM

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In the article the comparative aspects of the urban research, as a multidimensional historical and demographic processes, a factor in increasing the role of cities and health care in the development of society are considered. The main directions of urbanity: the role of health, philanthropy, migration, epidemics, housing policy, health care employees in the development of public policy. Formation of Russian urbanism started in parallel with Britain, but finished conception of cities and urbanization has not been worked out. Among the issues that demand further study should include the problems of urbanization of the North Caucasus, the formation of regional social policy, healthcare and culture. Migration has preconditioned new socio-economic, legal, health, administrative, transportation, religious and national problems of cities. The urbanization of the North Caucasus and in the early twenty-first century is considered. It differs markedly from Europe. The percentage of rural and urban populations in the North Caucasus has a relative performance, while maintaining the traditional way of life, exerting some influence on the development of national and local development strategies. Interdisciplinary research methods necessary to analyze the social phenomenon of urbanization from the point of its evolution, and social consequences of global change.

Key words: urbanization, migration, social problems, public health, social policy, Great Britain, North Caucasus.

Research topicality of urbanization comparative aspects is conditioned by theoretical and practical significance of the topic. The problem is insufficiently researched considering united dynamics, regular features, peculiarities and consequence of this process. Terms – “urbanization” and “city” stay as a subject of scientific disputes. Demographic and social urbanization consequences, as factors of social policy formation, educational and public health system appear to be topical theoretical and practical problem, attracting attention of historians and politicians. It is necessary to mention that the founder of the urban study is considered to be Dayos, who created the “Group on research of cities history” in Britain, as a regional department of “Society on study of Britain economy history”. According to the researcher, “Urban study – is the definition of city position in the historical process” [1]. In the middle of XX century Leicester University became the largest centre of Britain on urbanization study. In 1970-s urban study experienced its boom and G. Dayos became the first professor according to the problems of urban study, who headed the corresponding department. S. Checkland, continuing these researches, pointed out the constituents of urban study: building problems, accommodation, real estate, transport, municipal administration, commissariat, health service, family, authority, elite, and philanthropy. He noted that unique character of G. Dayos scientific works consists in “new history direction creation” [2].

Criteria of “city” concept also became the object of scientific discussion. S. Low, emphasizing the administrative and juridical definitions of the city, considered the place where about 2500 of people lived with density more than 1 person on an acre to be residential location of England of the beginning of XIX century. But, according to F. Tompson, only since 1901 the settlement, regulated by city council, with the population no less than 2500 of people became considered as “city” [3]. In the context of Scotland one used criterion – 5000 of people, but in Ireland in 1840 only cities with population more than 3000 of people could present a petition to recover the status of “city” [4]. In the modern world city is a place where live no less than 20000 of people. According to the researchers, under the epoch of urbanization “migrators introduced elements of national and rural development, growth of demographic, religious and social problems, necessity of civil registration and social support. Migration conditioned new socioeconomic, juridical, sanitary, administrative, transport, religious and national problems of the cities” [5].

Under the epoch of Britain National Health Service and urban study creation there was an interest splash of English researchers to cities social problems in the context of health service. Significant quantity of sources is introduced into scientific circulation, complex analysis of literature and discussion about city sanitary reforms origin and health service begins. Research of medical profession and nation health role became new direction in the cities [6]. According to the researches, “health service of the cities, as a new all-encompassing sphere of domestic policy, laid into the basis of social policy and development of scientific medical societies under the epoch of urbanization” [7]. It is also mentioned that “growth and death dynamics of the cities population followed the urbanization”, and “spread of massive population epidemics in industrial cities” became the consequence of it. Population death growth had become the social problem, significantly depended on urbanization dynamics and social conditions of growing cities... Tuberculosis was considered as a factor of race degeneration by contemporaries” [8]. “Acquiring the character of national debates, philosophical aspects of health service were discussed by the members of parliament, philosophers, lawyers and doctors. The synthesis of philosophical ideas laid the foundation of new social state conception and health service of Great Britain formation under the conditions of urbanization” [9].

Urbanization questions also attracted attention in American historiography. The university in Cornell city became one of the first centers in the USA to study industrial revolution interaction and urban growth. On the ground of statistics A.F. Veber showed the connection between industrialization, growth of population and cities, emphasized chaos of their regulation. Already at the end of XIX century he used the term “urban”, to characterize population concentration in the developing cities of the North England [10].

However, the question about urban study formation, as a new scientific development of historical researches, was raised only in 1960 – 1970-s, when as in the USA, so in Britain the research interest to urban study grew very fast. Discussions began about urbanization conception and accurate definition of the “city” concept. According to L.Vers the basic characteristics of the city – are size and density of population. Ch. Tili, reflecting the researches of Michigan University, considered urbanization, as collective term for definition of “social activity coordinated by the government” [11]. Comparing urbanization dynamics it is necessary to notice that about 10 % of population lived in the middle of XIX century in France in the big industrial cities. But according to the data of enumeration in 1851 in Britain, for the first time the urban population became predominant in England and Wales– 50,1%, but in Scotland – 51,8% [12]. Enumeration for the first time registered that the part of urban population exceeded the part of rural one. But in Russia, even in the beginning of XX c., about 80% of population was peasants, the most part of which were the former bondmen. Only 1960 – 1980-s became for USSR the epoch of urbanization, when urban population exceeded the boundary of 50% [13]. The North Caucasus urbanization even in the beginning of XXI c. remarkably differs from European countries. The large cities appear to be Rostov-on-Don, Stavropol, Vladikavkaz, Grozny, Nalchik, Kislovodsk, Pyatigorsk and etc. Percentage ratio of rural and urban population in the North Caucasus has comparative figures, maintaining traditional way of life, influencing on state strategy formulization of stable regions development. It is worth mentioning that Britain practically on a century was in advance with many countries of the world and also with Russia according to urbanization temps.

Soviet urban study formation, as a study about city began in 1950 – 1970-s in USSR in parallel with Britain. Geographers and philosophers originally contributed to its formation. V. Davidovich advances the idea about possibility to form separate science of the city in the journal “Geography questions. Philosophers emphasized research of the city, as “informational system” [14]. In the post-Soviet period urbanization in foreign historiography was considered, as “socioeconomic process” of growth and concentration of urban settlements, spread of urban life style. Yu. L. Pivovarov, revealing the consequences of urban growth to society development, considered that urbanization – was historical process of increasing of cities role, urban life style and culture in the society development, stressing the undervaluation of its global regularities [15]. One marked in the researches that “Cross-disciplinary methods of researches are necessary for urbanization social phenomenon analysis from sides of its evolution, social changes and their consequences” [16].

Thus, covering various treatments and specificity of urban growth, “urbanization” is necessary to be considered, as multivariable historical, demographic, socioeconomic process, transformation of way and duration of population life, factor of urban role and health service increasing in the society development. Urban study formation, as a new branch of historical knowledge, began in 1960-s. The works of Leicester, Oxford, Cambridge universities researchers gave it features of consistently developing study. Mean streets, the role of capital, transport, health service, beneficence, migration, epidemics, inherited estates, housing policy, medical workers in state policy formation became the basic directions of study. Population enumeration research, having offered more complete model of social analysis, appeared to be an important in urban study development. Evolution of social policy and health service of central and local urban management became the object of discussions. Generally empirical and descriptive characters of the research were specific for initial period of urban study. Researches published in the USA at the end of XIX c. became pioneers in the sphere of urban analysis. But only in XX c. universities of the USA, also as in Britain, became the leading centers of urban study, as a new direction of historical knowledge. Russian urban study formation began in parallel with Britain. However, the accomplished conception of city and urbanization was not developed. Cross-disciplinary methods of research are necessary for the further analysis of urbanization social phenomenon from positions of its evolution and consequences. One should refer the problems of the North Caucasus urbanization, regional social policy formation, health care and culture institutions (hospitals, museums, libraries and etc.), ministries to the questions, requiring further research. Discussions about dynamics urbanization, role and consequence of population migration, determinants of population growth and social policy formation continue to be topical.

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