

STUDIES OF REGIONAL POLICY IN THE MODERN WORLD

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the theoretical foundations of one of the main topics of international relations as regionalization. As you know, world development is characterized by globalization processes, where regionalization plays an important role. In political approaches, there are a number of scientific and theoretical approaches on the topic of this scientific article. In theoretical approaches, such categories as region, regionalism, regionalization, etc. are singled out separately. In the study of political processes in Central Asia, the above approaches play an important role, since at present there is a process of regionalization in the region, where there are interests of such large international actors as the USA, China, Russia, etc.

Keywords: Region, regionalization, regionalism, Central Asia.

INTRODUCTION

As is known, the theory systematically reflects and generalizes the content of the subject of research, expressed in a conceptual and logical form. Each theory is primarily based on the definition of a definition. Therefore, there is a need for categorical analysis. This is necessary to determine the essence of the content and its components related to the defined concept.

Revealing the main category of "regional policy", first of all it is necessary to clarify the content of the terms directly absorbed by this category: "region", "regionalism", "regionalization", "regional policy", "foreign policy" in terms of approaches to determining their essence and content.

The study of the peculiarities of the regions is also relevant because of the strengthening of regional cooperation in Central Asia, where Consultative Meetings of heads of state have been playing an increasingly important role in recent years. As you know, in 2021 the summit was held in Turkmenistan, where the President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted in his speech that thanks to the common political will and joint efforts, today our region is becoming a space of good neighborliness, mutually beneficial cooperation and sustainable development. [1].

LITERATURE REVIEW

The key concept of regional policy research is the term "region". The region comes from the Latin region - "region", "country", "space". This term has been included in explanatory dictionaries since 1880. ("Dictionary of Foreign Words" by I. Bourdon and A. Mikhelson)[2], then went out of use. The authors often used the concept of "space", substituting them for the concept of "region". But in the second half of the twentieth century, it began to be used in physical and economic geography, and later the subjects "Geopolitics", "Regional Studies" and "Regionalism" were developed.

The methodology applied to the study of regional policy issues includes various approaches, techniques, rules and requirements that should be guided in the analysis process. Currently, an increasing number of specialists are beginning to realize that considerable attention should be

paid to the methods of orientation in the factual material of science. Moreover, from the point of view of practical application, the method should correspond to its properties such as efficiency, clarity and clarity, reliability, etc. By now, the general scientific methodology is better known, within the framework of which a systematic approach, a modeling method, has been widely studied [3].

A necessary condition for building a model of regional policy is its scientific justification in the territorial aspect. To do this, it is necessary to reflect in a retrospective analysis and the current state of politics the diversity of natural, political, socio-economic, ethno-cultural and other conditions that ensure the effective development of the region as a geopolitical space open to both interregional and international cooperation.

RESEARCH METODOLOGY

The methodological basis of the analysis of the region is formed by the paradigm that the region is not an autonomous object, but a multifunctional organism developing on the basis of vertical (center-regions) and horizontal (interregional) interactions, included in the system of world economic relations.

Thus, regional policy as a system-forming structure should be integrated into the country's foreign policy. This aims at the inevitable search for unity of regional policy.

Approaches to the definition of the concept of "region" are different, which directly depends on the specific research goals of representatives of various scientific knowledge. In addition, the criteria and grounds for the allocation of regions are not the same [4]. Based on this study of regional policy, it can be grouped as follows:

The first group of definitions contains a hierarchical or authoritative approach. Subordinate, in relation to the government or to the dominant center, as a constituent part of the state, or as a combination of several states with functional connections and forming a common system [5].

The second group of definitions has a territorial orientation. A region is a concept that is used to designate a territory that is distinguished by certain characteristics and separated by these characteristics from another territory [6]; it is a territorial unit of the subnational level, and a macroregion is a region of the supranational level [7].

The third group mixes both of the previous approaches. The concept of region includes not only the vertical of relations in power, but also the territorial aspect [8]. This area of the political space is distinguished by a special political organization by the presence of a special political interest [9].

Consequently, the region is a relatively isolated social community on national and territorial grounds, transforming into a system of interstate-state-regional-local. In addition, the region is a spatially organized and historically formed community. Therefore, its semantics has two interrelated components: spatial and managerial.

The fourth group is based on the constitutional and legal approach. For them, a region is a state-like or territorial entity with varying degrees of independence, which is characterized in terms of its interaction with state power [10].

Within the framework of constitutional law, there are two approaches to understanding the term "region": the normative approach - the direct consolidation and definition of the term region in the Constitutions and normative legal acts of states; the doctrinal approach - the region is defined as a state-like or territorial entity in a state of constitutional and legal status change [11].

The sixth group includes authors who, when defining the concept of "region", focus on its aspects [12]. So, in the historical aspect, this concept is interpreted as a living space that has developed in the process of a long historical development. In physical and geographical terms, it is a territory with certain physical and geographical parameters. In the economy, it is a territory with a characteristic orientation of the development of productive forces with an appropriate material, technical, industrial and social infrastructure. In sociology, it is a socio-spatial community with the existing production infrastructure, the specifics of the culture and lifestyle of the population.

In general, it is possible to define a region as a territory with an interconnected economic and social life, the presence of management institutions.

At the same time, it should be borne in mind that territoriality as a systemic quality of society is manifested in all interrelated spheres of life. In this regard, one of the founders of regional science, W. Izard [13], noted that "such a theory should reveal and generalize the interdependencies between the system and its divisions... It should go beyond the orthodox theories of the social sciences and focus on such basic interactions of political, social and economic factors that have been neglected until now" [14].

In the Western political school, the concept of "region" is collective. The European Charter on Regionalism in 1988 defined the term "region" as a homogeneous space having physical, geographical, cultural and linguistic proximity, common economic structures and historical destiny [15].

American political scientist E. Markusen defines a region as a synthetic concept, a historically evolving territorial community, "which contains a physical environment, a socio-economic, political and cultural environment, as well as a spatial structure different from other regions and territorial units, such as a city and a nation" [16].

Analysis and results

From the point of view of analysis, it should be noted that, in regional studies, the concept of "region" is considered at three levels:

At the macro level - to designate a group of nearby countries, representing either a separate economic and geographical, or similar in ethnic composition and culture, or in political system;

At the meso-level, it is a part of the country allocated on the basis of administrative-territorial and economic division;

At the micro level, it is an administrative district, a city or a small territorial-industrial complex. Based on the above, it can be concluded that the concept of "region" includes several components and is systemic in nature: physical, geographical, economic, regulatory and political structure, administrative and territorial division, ethnic and socio-cultural component.

In international practice, a region means a set of bordering countries that have natural borders. Such categories as "regionalism" and "regionalization" are closely related to the concept of "region".

As a theoretical approach, "regionalism" became an object of attention in the 1930s after the collapse of the League of Nations. The creation of regional organizations in the world, such as the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community in the 1950s was an additional incentive. A new sharp surge in the study of regionalism caused the collapse of the bipolar system.

Russian researcher R. Smishchenko defines the concept of "regionalism" as a special strategy based "on agreement within the region and aimed at creating strong and effective structures in it [17].

In French literature, regionalism is understood as a system of political decentralization. The system provides the territories of the state with some independence in relation to the central government [18].

There are two basic approaches to the definition of "regionalism":

The first. Considers it as a political ideology, as a mechanism for promoting political interests. The second is as a socio-cultural phenomenon. It is assumed that regardless of the fact that regionalism is used as a means of political forces, they are forced to act in given socio-cultural conditions and rely on them. Therefore, cultural mechanisms are studied first, and then they are used for political purposes.

At the same time, both approaches are not mutually exclusive and can complement each other [19].

One of the distinguishing features of modern international relations is that it is influenced by the information society. In this regard, one of the representatives of the theory of information society, the Spanish scientist M. Castells, gives two visions of the region and regionalism. He characterizes them as "the space of place" and "the space of flows"[20]. "Spaces of place" are created by states, they are historically conditioned by territory. The "flow space" has a network character, consists of stable socio-cultural structures and is not tied to a specific territory. Such practices include political, economic and cultural relations.

Conclusion /Recommendations

It should be noted that regionalization becomes the political result of regionalism. Regionalization is a process of structuring space, more fully integrating regions into economic, social and political life at the national and transnational levels [21].

In this context, regionalization should be clearly defined in relation to such processes as devolution[22] and decentralization, each of which is expressed in the transfer of powers from the center to the regions.

Currently, the concepts of "regionalism" and "regionalization" have actually merged into one. These are concepts that help to study the nature of regional cooperation. At the same time, they differ from each other. The concept of regionalization focuses on understanding regional cooperation and integration as a process, and the concept of regionalism studies the theoretical aspects of this phenomenon.

It can also be noted that many countries consider regionalization as a way to avoid negative processes associated with globalization and as the most effective way to increase the competitiveness of both individual countries and the entire region.

Thus, it can be noted that regional policy acts as a system of goals and objectives of the state's foreign policy in relation to a particular region. Currently, we are able to observe this on the example of the Central Asian region.

As noted by the Russian researcher R.M. Alimov, Central Asia is one of the unique regions of the world with an ancient history and rich spiritual and cultural heritage. Since ancient times, dozens of states have arisen and disintegrated on its territory. Due to its geographical location, Central Asia for many centuries had a special geostrategic significance in the political and trade-economic relations of empires such as Rome, Iran, China, and later tsarist and communist Russia.[23]

It seems that the vast heritage of the peoples of Central Asia will be a solid guarantee for strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia, where the interests of the world's leading actors are manifested.

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