

Regions of Russia and the world in comparative perspective

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Brief Description

Globalization is a political trend that has had the greatest impact on the last decades. The world is going through a period marked by the erosion of the boundaries between nation-states. This erosion seriously undermines the very concept of the sovereignty of the state. At the same time we witness an emerging trend of regionalization in economic, political, and geographical senses - between countries and within countries; this trend gives rise to serious political consequences.

Regionalization as well as globalization shape our modern world and mold its spatial organization. Resulting from two different processes – integration and fragmentation, spatial organization can be considered as directly connected to globalization. When it goes from the bottom to the top it leads to macroregions formation, which can be seen as a direct result of globalization. When it moves from top to bottom it leads to growing subnational diversity and autonomy at all levels, which is a reaction onto globalization.

Russia, which alone occupies 1/7 of the world territory, is a country where regional approach is indispensable. To get an idea of Russia as a whole one should not only realize its regional diversity but have knowledge of its different regions which collectively make the country. It's not so much about mechanical gathering and memorizing the information about different regions, but rather learning the country through its regions. At the same time Russia can serve a testing ground for all kinds of regional studies.

The course offers a complex social-political, cultural and economic - approach to understanding, studying and explaining regional diversity of Russia viewed against the general international background. Basic information is given the regional dimension of Russia's nature, population, history, culture and economy and the way they factor in the Russian societal life and political processes. Methods of regional studies applied to Russia and other countries are considered, including comparative analysis, structuralism, functionalism, time-space analysis, landscape studies.

Regionalization can be seen as one of these methods. In the course it is approached in two different ways: as an objective socio-economic process (political regionalization) and as a research technique (academic regionalization). In the first sense regionalization is opposed to unitarianization and unification. Contrary to the myth claiming that regionalization leads to disintegration, regionalization in fact is a way to keep the unity of a state. It can serve as an alternative to federalization or even as a first phase of federalization. In the second sense regionalization is a spatial dimension of regional classification and typology. Differences in the approaches of the two leading schools of regionalization - Russian and American - are considered. Regionalization within and beyond national borders is considered. Different schemes of regionalization of Russia are analyzed.

The notion of “region” is defined along with region’s composition and its basic features including integrity. Plurality of regions’ networks and of regions’ contours. Hierarchy of regional networks: macro-, mezzo- and microregions. Different types of regions: natural regions and zones, administrative regions (and evolution of state-territorial composition), economic regions (and dynamics of a spatial organization of settlement and economy), socio-cultural, political regions etc. Mental maps. Vernacular regions.

Different models of regional differentiation: center-periphery, concentric zones, growth poles, field of urban settlement, etc. are analyzed, illustrated with different examples and used for analysis. Boundaries and their different types including lines and zones are investigated.

Russian regions being the main subject of the course are considered in comparative perspective along with regions of the United States, European Union, Germany, Ukraine, and some other countries. The emphasis is made on federal districts, natural zones, major economic regions, historical provinces and cultural regions, subjects of federation, large urban agglomerations, vernacular regions of different scale etc. Evolutionary approach is practiced to learn about Russia’s past, present and future in regional dimension.

Federalism, regionalism and regional separatism are studied using cases of post-Soviet space, Russia in particular, European countries and the United States. Russia’s “parade of sovereignties” in early 1990s. Scotland, Catalonia, Basque country. Regional integration is analyzed at both national and supranational levels. European regional blocs and alliances: EFTA, CEFTA, Schengen zone, Central European Initiative, Vysegrad group. Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western Europe, Central Europe.

The course uses ample graphic material, first and foremost, maps of different kinds including classic geographical maps, maps of isolines with gradients, anamorphoses, mental maps. Other forms of presenting geographical information including Geographic Information Systems, spatial matrixes etc. are studied and used as well.

Requirements and Grading

The course is structured around lectures and seminars, with a large impact on independent work and class discussion. Each student is supposed to read required literature, to make a presentation in class, and to write an essay. The final grade consists of three parts:

- Class attendance and active participation (30%)
- Presentation in class (30%)
- Essay/Final examination (40%)

Plan of Meetings

1. .The notion of region. An ideal region. Region as a complex system which combines elements of an organism and population. Region according to Hettner-Kant system of sciences. Characteristics of regions: area, location, boundaries, other: physical, economic, cultural. Types of regions: formal, functional, perceptual. Regional taxonomies and hierarchies. Region as a complex system combining elements of organismic and population systems. Connectivity, internal and external connections. Regional studies. Regionalization:

approaches and schools. Kinds of regionalization. Integral and thematic regionalization. Presentation of geographic information: maps, mental maps, GIS... Fields and gradients, plates and fractures.

Readings

Region <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_field

Alan Osborn, 2007 Regions of the United States http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~arosborn/uspdfs/e_regions.pdf

2. Geographic boundaries: physical/natural, political/administrative and other: social, economic etc. Natural territorial complexes (NTC) and territorial productive complexes (TPC). Boundaries: lines and zones; existing and former, old and new. Functions of boundaries: barrier, contact, filter. Boundaries' permeability. Changing boundaries in time and space. Agglomeration limits and delimitation. Isochrones of transportation accessibility. Borders: lines and marchlands. Natural borders, geometric borders, relict borders. Border disputes, ethnic-territorial claims and conflicts. Borders regime: cases of Southern and Northern Korea, pale of settlement, 101 kilometer. Cross-border regions. Overlaying and splitting borders.

Readings

Border <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border>

John Friedmann & John Miller (1965): THE URBAN FIELD, Journal of the American Institute of Planners, 31:4,312-320 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01944366508978185>

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1050993.files/2-01%20-%20John%20Friedman%20John%20Miller%20-%20The%20Urban%20Field.pdf>

Vladimir Kolosov, James Scott, Selected Conceptual Issues in Border Studies, EUBORDERSCAPES, WP #4, 2013

http://www.euborderscapes.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Working_Papers/EUBORDERSCAPES_Working_Paper_4_Kolosov_and_Scott.pdf

Bowon Chang, 2010, The power of geographical boundaries: Cultural, political, and economic border effects in a unitary nation, Iowa State University,

<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2328&context=etd>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_areas_of_London

3. Regional structure. Hierarchies/matreshkas, levels and networks. Regionalism in Russia. Russia's regional hierarchy: 1) macroregions including European and Asian parts, Siberia, the Far East; federal districts, economic regions, military districts and commands, river basin management, rail roads; 2) mezoregions including federation subjects, landscape regions and provinces; 3) microregions including Leizerovich microregions, local self-administration-2, electoral districts, landscapes). Taxonomic levels: the country in whole; big parts (North-South, Europe-Asia, European North – Center – European South – Volga – Urals – Siberia – Far East); administrative regions; electoral districts; vernacular regions.

Readings

Local and regional structures in Europe, 2005

http://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/local_regional_structures_2005_en.pdf

Subdivisions of Russia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Russia

Paul Goode, The Rise and Fall of Regionalism in Russia, in: The Territories of the Russian Federation, Routledge, 2012,

https://books.google.ru/books?id=wOVjhOafn_kC&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq=Russia+regional+stru

[cture&source=bl&ots=IEMHc_4dTK&sig=fUjSUUpriYHd1iH1z6OHJ4iOtI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDsQ6AEwCDgKahUKEwj23IO46drHAhWk73IKHRP-C58#v=onepage&q=Russia%20regional%20structure&f=false](#)

Jorge Garzon Pereira, Hierarchical regional orders: An analytical framework, Journal of Policy Modeling, Volume 36, Supplement 1, 2014, Pages S26–S46

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0161893813001026>

Images for vernacular regions USA

https://www.google.ru/?gfe_rd=cr&ei=IDLoVaPTOcyBZPzdhgqI&gws_rd=ssl#newwindow=1&q=vernacular+regions+USA

4. Regions: internal structure. The core, semi-periphery and periphery. The von Thunen model, Christaller's central place theory. Rodoman's model of polarized biosphere. Zipf rank size rule. Urban spatial structure models: Ernest Burgess concentric ring model, Homer Hoyt sector model, Patel and Ullman multiple nuclei model. Alexei Gutnov functional model of skeleton-tissue- plasm. Overcentralization of Russian regions, role of administrative centers.

Readings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Heinrich_von_Th%C3%BCn,

<http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/vonthunen.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_place_theory

<http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/centralplace.htm>

<http://www2.econ.uu.nl/users/marrewijk/geography/zipf/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_structure

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isochrone_map

5. Factors of regions' formation and development. A. Natural: hydrography and relief, climate and vegetation. Civilization and great historical rivers by Lev Mechnikov and regions peculiar to each historical stage. Rivers as barriers and skeletons for regions' formation. The case of Volga river. Coastal zones. Origins of urban settlements – fortresses and trading centers at the edges of natural zones. B. Historical-cultural-ethnic. Historical borders: partitions of Poland, serfdom. Ethnic regions and ethnic conflicts. Lack of natural barriers and aspatiality of Russian culture. Ethnic composition and its dynamics. Russian wives: Arkhangelsk and Orel. Serfdom and its present day spatial implications. The Jewish Pale. C. Economy. Models of von Thunen and of Walter Christaller at present. Friction of distance and serving zones. Peri-Urban agriculture. Networks optimization – of settlement, health care and other services provision, etc.

Readings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_region

Negi Mohita, 13 Major Natural Regions of the World

<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/geography/13-major-natural-regions-of-the-world/12723/>

Negi Mohita, Russia: It's Physical Divisions, Climate and Natural Regions

<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/geography/russia-its-physical-divisions-climate-and-natural-regions/12742/>

Michael Alexeev, Andrey Chernyavskiy NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RUSSIA'S REGIONS, HSE Working Papers, WP BRP 55/EC/2014

<http://www.hse.ru/data/2014/04/08/1320527346/55EC2014.pdf>

Russian towns on Volga <http://www.xenophon-mil.org/ruscity/volga/volgalist.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom_in_Russia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitions_of_Poland

6. Regions' development and functioning. Dropping out of hierarchical levels and emergence of new ones. Enlarging and disaggregation of hierarchical levels, cycles of administrative reforms. Urban sprawl, urban agglomerations. Megalopolises in Northern America and Europe. Transnational: the Blue Banana, the Golden Banana, the Green Banana, Gulf of Finland, and national. Russia: cycles of enlargement and fragmentation. Complication/simplification of internal structure. Growth poles: capital agglomerations, ports and southern regions. Commuting. Greater London urban area. Sochi as Russia's summer capital. Supranational integration and regionalization-secessionism. Connectivity – autarky. Borders' changing role.

Readings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_London

London at night isochrones map <http://www.mapnificent.net/london/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megalopolis_\(city_type\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megalopolis_(city_type))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_megalopolis

<http://www.citypopulation.de/world/Agglomerations.html>

Gerald Carlino, William R. Kerr, 2014 Agglomeration and Innovation

http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/15-007_e181fd00-4426-4db8-8f70-89b1b5054a8f.pdf

7. Management schemes. Subordination and hierarchical levels. Unitarianism – federalism. Competitive federalism. Federalism Russian style. Regionalization and federalization of Ukraine. Territorial planning and management. Managerial schemes and networks. Catherine the Great gubernias and Putin's federal districts. Russia - from 89 to 83+2 regions. Republics and national autonomies, krais, oblasts, federal cities. Constitution and regional matreshkas. Siloviki regional management schemes. Arbitrazh and administrative courts. Church eparchies. Federal districts (7-8-9). Federalism, Russian style. Federal and regional bureaucracy. Representation of regional interests at the center.

Readings

Natalia Zubarevich, Russian elections and relations between the centre and the regions, 30

November 2011 <http://www.iss.europa.eu/publications/detail/article/russian-elections-and-relations-between-the-centre-and-the-regions/>

Paul Goble, Russian-Style Federalism in Ukraine Would Reduce Russian Language Use There, 2014

<http://www.interpretermag.com/russian-style-federalism-in-ukraine-would-reduce-russian-language-use-there-expert/>

Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Federalism in Russia, *CEFIR / _ES Working Paper series, #141*, 2010,

Nikolai Petrov, Federalism Russian-Style and the Evolution of Center-Region Relations, 2002

http://www.miamioh.edu/cas/_files/documents/havighurst/%2010%20years%20petrov.pdf

8. Regions of Russia and the USA: comparative analysis. State-territorial composition and its development. Western frontier in the US and Eastern frontier in Russia. Time zones. Number of top level regions, their character, borders, capitals. American counties and

Russian administrative rayons. Russia as a continental empire, its spatial growth. Remote areas – ‘ukraines’. Geopolitics: heartland, hinterland, Rimland, thalassocracy vs tellurocracy.

Readings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_regions_of_Russia

<http://www.rusemb.org.uk/russiageography/>

Alan Osborn, 2007 Regions of the United States http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~arosborn/uspdfs/e_regions.pdf

Drill or Expand the Geographic Hierarchy in a Geographical Map

<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/citug/65339/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n031pwplal3jlnn1a9ysm4rn8zr3.htm>

Samuel Arbesman, 2012, The Invisible Borders That Define American Culture

<http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/04/invisible-borders-define-american-culture/1839/>

Reid Wilson, 2013, Which of the 11 American nations do you live in?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2013/11/08/which-of-the-11-american-nations-do-you-live-in/>

The Real U.S. Map, a Country of Regions (Part 1): Colin Woodard

<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2011-09-29/real-u-s-map-a-country-of-regions-part-1-commentary-by-colin-woodard>

Wilbur Zelinsky: The Cultural Geography of the United States: Study Guide

http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1103&context=gov_fac_pubs

Wilbur Zelinsky, North America vernacular regions. Annals of the AAG, 1980.

http://www.jstor.org/stable/2562821?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Robert Ištók, Zuzana Jakobová, Geopolitical Conception of Globalization in the Interpretation of Alexander Dugin http://conference.osu.eu/globalization/publ2011/112-117_Istok-Jakabova.pdf

9. Euroregions, their genesis, types, levels. Barents-region. Regionalization of Europe. Cross-border cooperation and transboundary regions. Euroregions and eurodistricts. Baltic, Barents, Dnepr, Donbas, Karelia, Neman. Multi-level partnership (European, governmental, regional, local), in several development domains (infra-structure, economy, culture and sports, tourism and leisure, transports, environment, health, energy, communications, education, innovation and technology, etc.). SWOT analysis of Euroregions development.

Readings

List of Euroregions - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Euroregions

<http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Euroregion>

Sergey Barinov, Petr Kiryushin, 2014 A Comparative Analysis of Euroregion Development Under Different Institutional Circumstances. *Higher School of Economics Research Paper No. WP BRP 06/IR/2014*

Elena Belokurova, Marina Nozhenko, North-West Russia: regional contexts of political integration.

Vladimir Kolossov, James Scott, Karelia: a Finnish-Russian borderland on the edge of neighbourhood. In: The EU-Russia Borderland. New context for regional cooperation, 2013

<https://books.google.ru/books?id=45wOqhvjJLsC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=Russia+regional+structure&source=bl&ots=D-JoHSXbjX&sig=PpovFE54KOiKizE0MrJx733jloc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CD8Q6AEwCjgKahUKEwj23IO46drHAhWk73IKHRP-C58#v=onepage&q=Russia%20regional%20structure&f=false>

<http://www.barentsinfo.org/Barents-region/Administration/Administration-in-Russia>

Eduardo Medeiros1, (Re)Defining the Euroregion concept

http://gostodofrio.ccmr.ualg.pt/ct/Euroregion_Eduardo_Medeiros.pdf

Corey M. Johnson, Cross-Border Regions and Territorial Restructuring in Central Europe: Room for More transboundary Space *European Urban and Regional Studies* April 1, 2009 16: 177–191

<http://eur.sagepub.com/content/16/2/177.full.pdf+html>

Brenner Neil, . *Building 'Euro-regions': locational politics and the political geography of neo-liberalism in post-unification Germany. European Urban and Regional Studies* 2000;7:319-345.

http://eur.sagepub.com/content/7/4/319.abstract?ijkey=133d3e0e86c937ead4b3e3461d9bd34724b10902&keytype2=tf_ipsecsha

10. Regions in post-Soviet space. Mixture of pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet features. New borders and their delimitation, demarcation and construction, border regimes. Socio-economic space transformation. The case of Russian-Ukrainian border and development of Chernozem regions across it. Schemes of administrative-territorial composition. Border disputes and ethnic-territorial conflicts. Secessionism and irredentism. Non-recognized states. Integration projects. Cross-border cooperation.

Readings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_recognition_of_Abkhazia_and_South_Ossetia

Leonid.V. Smyrnyagin Typologies of Regional Conflicts in Modern Russia

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF139/CF139.chap1.pdf

Aleksei M. Lavrov , Budgetary Federalism

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF139/CF139.chap3.pdf

Kolossov, V. and O'Loughlin, J. (2011) 'Economic Insecurities and Migration in the "De Facto" States of Abkhazia and South Ossetia', *Eurasian Geography and Economy*, 52(5): 596–630.

V. A. Kolosov, O. I. Vendina The Russian-Ukrainian border area: twenty years of disrupted unity. Moskau: Novyj Chronograf, 2011

V. Kolosov, M. Zotova, A. Sebentsov, Structural features of the economy and gradients of socioeconomic development of the border regions of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. *Political Geography*, October 2014 <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1134%2FS207997051404011X>

11. Greater Moscow/Moscow capital region – Ile de France – Greater London. Moscow and the rest. Overcentralization and its costs. Moscow as the capital and a global city. Capital functions and their transfer. S. Petersburg as the second capital. Moscowcentrism and Moscowclasm. Moscow as a model and a center of innovations which are spread across the country. Center-periphery model at all levels. Distance from Moscow as factor of politics in regions. Spatial trajectory of innovations' spread.

Readings

Moscow metropolitan area https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_metropolitan_area

Ian Steadman Plans to double size of Moscow greenlit <http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-09/12/moscow-expansion-plan-chosen>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Ele-de-France>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Paris

<http://untappedcities.com/2014/04/17/can-le-grand-paris-project-revitalize-the-greater-paris-region/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_London

London and Paris: the rivals, 2008 <http://www.economist.com/node/10849106>

John McDermott, Is London becoming more like Paris? 2014

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/7be2ae5a-3aa0-11e4-bd08-00144feabdco.html#axzz3kks0Izev>

12. Crimea: breaking region out of Ukrainian political and socio-economic space and its embedding into Russian space. Shifts in internal political and managerial design in the Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol. Political parties, law enforcement, local self-administration. Ethnic composition and settlement system, Crimean tatars. Internal and external relations. Status of Crimea and Sevastopol. Representation of federal interests in Crimea and of Crimean interests in Moscow. Crimean federal district.

Readings

Vladimir Putin, Address of the President of Russian Federation, March 18, 2014

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/20603>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimea>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sevastopol>

Crimea profile <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18287223>

Autonomous Republic of Crimea, <http://mfa.gov.ua/en/about-ukraine/info/regions/1-crimea>

Mark Kramer. Why Did Russia Give Away Crimea Sixty Years Ago? 2014

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/why-did-russia-give-away-crimea-sixty-years-ago>

Thomas de Waal, The New Siege of Crimea, 2015 <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-new-siege-crimea-13291>