

Urban Challenges
and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

The Russian urban space specifics

Abstract

Special session will be devoted to various aspects of the development and specifics of Russian cities. The following reports will be presented:

Alexander N. Pilyasov. «Smart cities in Russia: realities of the last decade»

The report reflects the specific Russian, along with country-wide, realities of the transition of the country's large and largest cities to an innovative economy and technologies of the emerging sixth technological order, the opportunities and problems that this dramatic transition to the "new rails" of the local economy contains.

Tatiana I. Gerasimenko. «City's ethno-cultural space evolution: intercultural integration or isolationism?»

Due to the growth and acceleration of interstate migrations, more and more city residents do not have time to adapt and become isolated. This processes leads to an ethnic division of labor, segmentation of the economy along ethnic lines, ghettoization and an increase in the mosaic nature of the urban ethno-cultural space in almost all countries and regions of the world. However, there are examples of integration and the formation of a single ethno-cultural space in Russia. The report will present the specifics of the development of the Russian urban ethno-cultural space in different regions

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The problem of shrinking of Arctic cities has been gaining more and more attention in recent years. Several stereotypes have already formed in relation to this problem. The first and most important is the idea of the general non-viability of Arctic cities. The second stereotype assumes that the world North was developed mainly by the shift method, while the Soviet One was developed by the integrated development of a network of cities. The analysis of the population dynamics of the Arctic cities of Russia and northern Canada since the beginning of the XX century, as well as the peculiarities of the development of the

northern cities of Russia, Canada and other northern countries of the world leads to fundamentally different conclusions.

In the foreign North and in the USSR/Russia has had similar waves of urban growth and development. At the beginning of the XX century, cities with deposits (mainly ores, as well as coal) grew in the circumpolar Arctic – at the same time, such cities had many accompanying and auxiliary industries, that is, they were not extremely monoprofile in the modern sense of the word. After the Second World Wave (especially in the 1960s and 70s), a new wave of founding of new cities took place, and new cities were founded not only in the Soviet part of the North (although, of course, here, due to the scale of the development of oil and gas reserves in Western Siberia, the network of new cities was the most powerful) - but also in the Canadian (cities Gagnon, Fermont, Labrador City and others). Only after the 1980s in Canada, the construction of new cities in the North was stopped; in Russia it happened in the 1990s, that is, not much later. However, the cities of the new wave were distinguished by a narrower specialization: the development of transport made it possible to replace the import of local auxiliary production – the formation of purely single-industry cities became the forerunner of the transfer of field development to the shift/expeditionary method. The mechanism of formation of the modern picture of Arctic urbanization was multidimensional.

The study identifies several types of dynamics of Arctic cities in Russia and Canada. Unlike the vast majority of studies, where, in fact, a three-part type of urban population dynamics is distinguished (growth-stabilization-compression), the novelty of the proposed approach consists in an attempt to identify exactly different types over a period of several decades, taking into account the possibly wave- like change in the population of cities. For each city, the year of the maximum number was allocated for the entire period of available data (mainly from the 1930s to 2021), and the dynamics of the number before and after the peak, as well as the moment of peak value itself, were analyzed.

In the Canadian Arctic, the type of steadily growing settlements prevails, although the type of settlements experiencing compression (by at least 20%) from the peak that was observed is also common (most often the peak occurred in the 1980s). In the Russian Arctic, due to the general diversity of settlements, the range of types of population dynamics is much more diverse. The following types are distinguished: 1) "old Polar region": the early (early - mid-XX century) peak of the population followed by a stable decline, 2) "late Soviet stabilization": growth followed by a decline with a peak in the 1970s (the decline here is already in Soviet times; Norilsk belongs to this category, among other cities), 3) "die hard": growth with a peak in 1989 followed by a decrease of no more than 30%, 4) "Arctic depopulation": growth with a peak in 1989 followed by a decrease of 30-50%, 5) "Arctic tragedy": growth with a peak in 1989 followed by a decline of more than 50%, 6) "phoenix cities": population decline in the 1990s followed by an increase of more than 15%, 7) "inert": growth until the early 2000s followed by a fall, 8) growing: settlements, the population of which has been increasing since its creation or since the first decades of the XX century, with minor declines. The presence of the first two types refutes, by the way, the popular idea of the stable growth of settlements in the Soviet North, and types 6-8 – the idea of the general depopulation of the Arctic.

In general, the study shows the variability of the development of Arctic cities – although in general, the "boom – bust" trend can be traced in many cases. In many cases, the cycles of ups and downs are associated with the individual trajectory of urban development (resource development, cycles of gaining losing advantages of economic and geographical location, etc.), and not only with the general political situation (in particular, the crisis of the 1990s in Russia).