

URBANIZATION: CONTENT-ESSENCE AND FORMS OF MANIFESTATION

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Annotation: *The article discusses the formation history of urbanization, regional features, content-essence, and forms of manifestation.*

Keywords: *Urbanization, civilization, architecture, trade, cultural ties, demographic process, progress.*

Introduction

In the years of independence, a number of reforms have been implemented in various sectors of our country. Many good deeds have been accomplished on the path of homeland prosperity and people's well-being. Starting from 2017, a new stage of development began in the history of Uzbekistan. Now, our country's relations with world states in all sectors have become even more active. For this reason, Uzbekistan must appear to the world in full stature. Precisely these factors demand strong attention to cities in our homeland – to intensify the urbanization policy.

Methods

The article employs scientific research methods such as analysis, synthesis, comparative analysis, observation, and historical approach.

Results and analyses

Today in Uzbekistan, urbanization processes are accompanied by rapid changes: the share of urban population has exceeded 50%. This process is linked to economic growth, infrastructure development, and demographic changes.

Turning to the history of urbanization, we witness that the first city-type settlements emerged in 3000-1000 BC in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Babylon, China, and India. Existing encyclopedic literature on architectural history dates the oldest urban planning in Central Asia to the 4th century BC, exemplified by the Jonbos fortress. They emerged as centers of crafts and trade, defensive fortresses against external enemies, centers of power and governance, services, and culture.

Almost all ancient cities were located in river valleys, which created favorable conditions for developing trade and cultural ties with other peoples. For instance, cities like Samarkand and Bukhara in Central Asia became hubs of the global trade system via the Silk Road, strengthening the economic-cultural aspects of urbanization. Later, cities appeared in Ancient Rome and Greece. During the flourishing of the Roman Empire, ancient cities were built and expanded from Britain to Mesopotamia. These cities

featured grand public buildings (forums, amphitheaters) and improved water supply and sewerage systems.

In the Middle Ages, cities had a significant impact on social life. They caused the creation of centralized states and contributed to the development of commodity-money relations. In the modern and contemporary periods of world history, cities became the most important indicator of societal development. In the 20th-21st centuries, urbanization, linked to the industrial revolution, globalization, and digital technologies, gave rise to megacities (e.g., Tokyo, New York).

Content and Essence of Urbanization

It is worth noting that various opinions exist in studying the concept of urbanization. Each scholar has defined it in their own way. In general, urbanization (Fr. urbanisation, Eng. urbanization, Lat. urbanus – pertaining to the city, urbs – city) is the increasing role of cities in social life; changes in the placement of productive forces, the social and demographic composition of the population, lifestyle, and culture. “Urbanization is a multifaceted geographic, socio-economic, and demographic process that occurs as a result of historically formed stages of society and territorial division of labor”.

The content of urbanization reflects complex and diverse processes associated with the growth and development of cities. However, this widely used concept in scientific practice cannot yet be said to have a precise definition. It expresses not only the direct emergence and formation of cities but also various phenomena accompanying or indirectly related to their formation. In recent years, generalized theoretical works on urbanization have appeared, comprehensively explaining its essence, identifying its features and forms of manifestation. Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done in the field.

Key principles describing the essence of urbanization in the study:

First, in a narrow sense, it means the growth of cities and urban population.

Second, in a broad sense, it is a historical process associated with the deepening of social division of labor, leading to the rapid development of human activity beyond industry, transport, and agriculture, and the socio-economic changes in cities and villages. It is characterized by the growth of cities, expansion of their functional and material-technical base, development of communication and service sectors, and the spread of urban lifestyle and communication forms in rural settlements.

The manifestation of urbanization processes reflects the objective historical laws of societal development and each social formation has its own characteristics. As a phenomenon linked to the growth of productive forces, it is generally progressive. However, until the contemporary period, in all formations, it developed spontaneously, deepening social contradictions in society. By the 20th century, states began purposefully regulating

urbanization, thereby eliminating or weakening its negative aspects (e.g., urban slums, ecological problems). In different social systems, the nature and forms of manifestation of urbanization fundamentally differ.

In the example of Uzbekistan, urbanization manifests in the form of suburbanization (development of new districts around cities) and polycentrism (multi-centered cities), which increases economic efficiency.

Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding the essence of urbanization requires not only knowing its development but also its spatial direction. Information on developing the network of urban settlements, complicating housing forms, and the influence spheres of new territories is beneficial. In the future, strengthening state policy and scientific research is necessary to ensure sustainable urbanization in Uzbekistan.

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