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The Process and Features of the Marginalization of Urban Spaces

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Abstract: The article examines the process of marginalization of urban areas as a multi-layered and complex phenomenon that affects both economic and social aspects of urban life. The main methods of classification of marginal urban spaces are given: geometric, ecological, cultural and economic. Marginalization of urban areas is a process because of which specific areas of the city are transformed into exclusion zones due to the emergence of social, economic and cultural problems. In conclusion, the authors emphasize the importance of developing a strategic set of measures aimed at revitalization of marginalized areas, their integration into the urban rhythm and improving the overall quality of life of residents.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Russian community is still experiencing the consequences of the global crisis, and therefore the marginalization processes are only gaining momentum. First, it is worth noting the peculiarities of the study of marginality and marginalization, due to scientific diversity. The increase in complexity and acceleration of marginalization processes is associated with the development of the structure of society. In addition, society expands social, economic, cultural ties on a regular basis. The obligatory nature of marginalization is a particularly important feature. Marginalization is a multi-stage process that entails not only positive, but also detrimental consequences for the social structure. This aspect depends on how widely and actively marginal processes are carried out. In the current reality, marginalization is given increased attention (Ivanova, 2013). Scientific works devoted to the interaction between ethnic groups, migration processes and their consequences, urbanization, intercultural gaps in society, touch upon the concepts of marginality and marginal personality since the founding of the Chicago sociological school. As a rule, these terms were used to describe an individual who is at the junction of two or more cultures, social universes, and is unable to gain a foothold in any of them.

The unclear delineation of the socio-cultural space is justified by the constant transformations of the world and their diversity. It is the city that represents the most expanded, complex space in which people live. It is the city that, after several centuries, served as a reflection of human appearance. Given the socio-economic transformations that intensified in the 19th century, the city acquires the role of a foundation for subsequent urbanization. The processes of increasing the number of city dwellers and increasing the importance of cities are accompanied by the development of a new way of settling. Accordingly, society acquires a new culture and rules of life.

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Starting from the middle of the 20th century, there has been a significant transformation of the concept under consideration, which is due to the change of socio-economic and cultural poles. The first technological innovations appear, market globalization occurs, migrants begin to arrive in cities in huge numbers. Transformations of socio-economic and structural nature in society are the main reason for the increase in marginality. The definition of marginal acquires a negative connotation. It is increasingly used in relation to individuals who have lost their social status, who have been left "overboard". In this regard, there is a clear divergence in the interpretations of the marginal, as well as the cause-and-effect relationships of these aspects. The listed aspects can be characterized by the following terms: outskirts, intermediateness, borderlines. Thus, priorities are set in the process of analyzing marginal activity.

Personalization of individuals, increase in social atomicity, emergence of new social connections, renewal of social and political paradigms, erasure of the framework of conceptual and value space, pluralistic shade of the artificial habitat of the individual - all the above reflects the nature of urban space, prone to regular transformations. Marginalization of the individual, splitting of man as a person has become more frequent due to the development of new forms of urban functioning and global changes in the socio-cultural field. Based on this, we can conclude that it is necessary to revise scientific views on urban and marginal phenomena. The content and meaning of urban phenomena as a key aspect of the existence of a modern individual in society is due to the entry of urban processes into the post-industrialization stage (Lapova, 2009). Translated from Latin, the concept of marginalization means a person who is on the edge. This term describes a social phenomenon in which a person, being in society, is in a borderline state, which has a serious impact on his mental health. This term was first published by American sociologists; it was used to describe the inability of immigrants to adapt to local living conditions in society (Colyvas, 2011). From the point of view of the urban field, marginalization is a borderline position of a specific territory caused by the accelerated transformation of the city, due to which it differs unfavorably from others.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

Modern scientists pay increased attention to the analysis of marginalization. Most specialists analyzing these processes are of the opinion that marginalization has an increasingly intense impact on society every year. It is noteworthy that, depending on the study, marginalization is assessed differently. Thus, Z. Bauman in his study "Modernity and Ambivalence" emphasizes that in modern realities, a representative of a marginal cell is dangerous for society, first of all, by violating its identity. That is, the entry of a margin into society threatens the loss of any stability, because of which all attempts to organize a certain social space will be futile. The issue of marginalization from the point of view of global transformations is studied by scientists such as W. Beck and E. Giddens. Specialists have a view on the social position of marginals. They also deal with issues of new delimitation of socio-cultural frameworks considering modern realities, the place of marginals in the modern social field, and strive to find new indicators and boundaries to consolidate social identity. Cosmopolitanism, according to W. Beck, is an updated version of the identity of society (Beck, 2003). Some experts consider marginality as a new tool for the cultural development of society, as a variant of the unstable existence of an individual (Ivanova, 2006).

As for the situation with territories, in this context, marginalization denotes the borderline state of urban space, its location at the junction of the past and the future. For clarity, it is necessary to cite urban examples reflecting the processes of marginalization: the private sector, areas involved in renovation programs, cultural attractions located in central areas on expensive lands (Timoshkin, 2021). The phenomenon of urban marginalization is multifaceted. Marginal processes transform urban cultural spaces, the content and activity of social phenomena. The pinpoint placement of subcultures and partially legal businesses is caused by the formation of the inner periphery of the city, conditioned by marginalization. Upon completion of such processes, urban territories arise that have been left without attention (Preobrazhensky, 2020). Further, it is advisable to distinguish between the main methods of classifying marginal processes in relation to urban areas (Preobrazhensky, 2020):

• Geometric method. In this case, the outskirts of the city, remote areas of the urban area are marginal.

• Ecological method. The category of marginal includes regions or regional sections recognized as ecologically unsafe, probably due to an ecological or natural disaster.

• Cultural method. Marginals are urban sections within which subcultures are formed and spread.

• Economic method. The category according to this feature includes depressed territories, the development of which has been stopped and slowed down.
• Political method. Marginal territories are recognized as less attractive for political reasons.
In addition, it is worth mentioning the marginality of the spatial type. This concept is applied in relation to territories that, due to individual characteristics, are developing rapidly and therefore stand out among other areas. As mentioned above, such territories include private sectors, areas involved in renovation programs, etc. (Preobrazhensky, 2020).

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the analysis of existing research and literature on the topic of marginalization shows, the close attention of specialists is mainly attracted by the countries of Eastern Europe, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland. It should also be emphasized that from the territorial perspective, the concept of marginality is applied rather indirectly. The scientific glossary also lacks the concept of humanitarian geography (Preobrazhensky, 2020). A. Zyryanov, analyzing the concept of marginality from a territorial point of view, describes it as a phenomenon in which cities or urban areas quickly lose residents (Zyryanov,2008).
Based on the above, it can be concluded that the marginalization of urban territories is a process because of which specific areas of the city are transformed into exclusion zones due to the emergence of social, economic, and cultural problems (Demidenko,1992). The phenomenon described can often be found in densely populated cities, where areas remote from the center become marginal. Since the urbanization process is constantly expanding, such areas are losing their former infrastructure, the quality of life of the population is rapidly declining, financial investments are becoming insufficient, and crime statistics are growing. The integrity of the urban ecosystem suffers no less than the population of a particular territory. The central district of Khabarovsk is a clear example of the impact of marginalization. Historical buildings stand side by side with abandoned areas or empty houses.
In contrast to modern residential complexes, which are built without regard for the historical surroundings, there are noticeable problems in the field of architecture. Thus, at a great distance from the center, they suffer from insufficient infrastructure and weak social activity. Educational and cultural institutions are closed, and public transport is poor, which creates inconvenience for city residents. Although these areas have potential for growth, they often end up cut off from other areas, which leads to social disunity (Turkulets, 2019). The study notes that the city boundaries are expanding at the expense of industrial zones, wooden houses and cottage settlements. At the same time, the Soviet private sector, although it occupies a large territory and is a place of residence for many people, is often ignored (Blyakher, 2023). Residents may have an “ethnic” origin, which is still poorly described in the media and scientific literature. Another example of this phenomenon is the creation of gray rental zones, which are often created by incoming citizens, such as students, foreign migrants, military personnel and migrants from small towns in the Russian Far East. This has resulted in a strong mixing of different social groups. As a result, social division has become more noticeable due to the latent conflict between the rapidly developing center and the "non-center", which includes not only the city but also its surroundings (Blyakher, 2023). There are features associated with the division of urban areas into zones. These zones are associated with different projects of the past, present and ideas about the city. Social groups perceive the same areas or buildings differently. Marginal areas differ from other parts of the city in that they change depending on the actions of residents. For example, people make flower beds, playgrounds and clothes dryers there.
The historical function of the city is lost, and it becomes less important. As a result, the city does not participate in the modern economy and culture (Ryaposov, 2017). Subcultures and illegal businesses arise on the outskirts of the city. As a result, these areas become abandoned and deserted. From a management point of view, this is a problem, since it requires constant costs to maintain the infrastructure. Marginalization affects the composition of the population, and native residents can be displaced by richer people. This creates social problems and conflicts. When marginalization occurs, there are places that are not used properly, but become sites for creativity, subcultural movements. Such areas often face insufficient funding and poor infrastructure conditions. Local authorities find it difficult or uninteresting to revive forgotten places, which leads to poverty and social exclusion. Considering global changes, opportunities for transformation open up, when urban plans and public initiatives can breathe life into abandoned spaces and integrate them into the urban environment.

4 CONCLUSIONS

It is quite natural that the use of the idea of marginalization in the study allows us to reveal the problem of social inequality that hinders the normal functioning of society. Based on such conclusions, there are discussions on the topic of further restoration of forgotten and alienated territories with high socio-cultural potential. Only in this way is it possible to reintegrate territories into the life of the city, opening horizons of inclusiveness. Nation states, in turn, have three alternatives to combat marginalization (Wakan, 2010). The first optimal option is to patch up existing state projects to improve welfare. Naturally, such measures do not contribute to the full eradication of problems. The second option is crueler and more radical. It consists of criminalizing poverty by moving all the poor to the most remote and forgotten areas. The other half will be distributed among prisons. This option was implemented in America in the 60s, when radical measures were taken against rebellious ghetto residents (Wacquant, 1995). It should be emphasized that this option has been repeatedly considered in Europe. Even the impressive financial costs of implementing such an idea did not stop local authorities. Over the past twenty years, the number of prisoners in European countries has increased significantly. Imprisonment seems to be the least traumatic way to combat destructive social phenomena (Christie, 1997). The initial causes of the spread of poverty are ignored.

The third, most rational option involves a global transformation of the state welfare mechanism considering modern socio-economic phenomena. To expand social rights and prevent disastrous consequences for the labor market, it is necessary to introduce such innovations as universal wages for citizens, distinguishing between labor and the desire to receive remuneration for subsequent survival (Parijs, 1996). Considering all existing options, we can conclude that the third method seems to be the most adequate in relation to society, gradually entering the third millennium.

It should also be mentioned that marginalization is not so much physical degradation as social. That is, some individuals become an empty space for the rest of society. Such processes entail the destruction of infrastructure. At the same time, they can serve as fuel for the development of new communities. As has been said many times, marginalization affects, first, the socio-cultural aspects of society.

Empty buildings and streets become sites for creativity and protests. Street artists appear there, decorating the walls and expressing the ideas of those who feel forgotten. This phenomenon creates a special culture that, despite the problems associated with poverty, makes cities more interesting.

Gradually, abandoned areas begin to attract investors, which leads to gentrification. This process can both renew the city and destroy its uniqueness. To bring areas out of the marginal state, it is necessary to develop development strategies aimed at improving the cultural, social and economic situation of residents. For example, it is necessary to take care of the creation of jobs that will be focused on the needs of residents, as well as pay attention to the development of social infrastructure.

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