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THE GEOGRAPHY OF ENTERPRISES IN THE SYSTEM OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

The geography of enterprises as a component of the system of socio-economic geography is a young branch of science. It was defined for the first time in a theoretical article of the same name in 1963 (L. Mištera, 1963) in which foundations were laid to the said branch. The author published a number of works dealing with this problem. The monography about the West Bohemian ceramic enterprises (L. Mištera, 1967) in which he checked the significance of the geography of enterprises in practice was most extensive.

It cannot be said that world geography had not paid attention to the enterprise but it regarded it always above all as a social and economic unit. The study of the enterprise was not in the complex of relationships but rather in global judgement of its position in the branch of industry or in the region. Works of this kind are numberless.

The conception of the geography of enterprises was mostly approached — though only in a descriptive form — with respect to the character of the work by V. P. Maksakovskij (1961) in the publication about large industrial establishments of Poland, Czechoslovakia and German Democratic Republic.

In connection with the needs of society the problems are tackled above all by Czech and Slovak geographers (M. Střída — 1968, V. Svárovský — 1966, J. Sabaka — 1972 — 1978, J. Šišák — 1978). This requires a system approach to the need of structural changes in political economy, mainly in industrial production which is projected into the individual regions through the mediation of geography in relationship to environment.

The questions of the enterprise are tackled thematically by economists, sociologists (enterprise sociology) and mainly by historians (history of enterprises). L. Česeněk (1971) appreciates the significance of the author's viewpoints of the geography of enterprises for the history of enterprises, P. Šindler (1976) points out the social need of the geography of enterprises.

Methodological approaches and historical conditions

The geography of enterprises, its tasks and aims are in harmony with the tasks and aims of geography. The geography as science, and/or a system of sciences, investigates the territorial and spatial interactions both inside the components of organic and inorganic nature and society and their reciprocal interaction relationships.

The subject of research of the geography of enterprises is the enterprise, the subject of investigation the interaction relationships evoked by the enterprise.

The enterprise is conceived as a production unit dislocated territorially. The enterprises manifest themselves spatially as elementary complexes. The quantitative and qualitative aspects of the phenomena and relationships of the enterprises to the natural and especially to the socio-economic milieu manifest themselves as a component of the landscape sphere.

The geography of enterprises originated on certain historical conditions of social development. The development of production, especially the industrial one, in the world caused that the industrial enterprise has become in its milieu the bearer of social and economic progress and, consequently, even the subject of study. The effects of economic laws of socialism such as equalization of the standard of living, abolition of the differences between well-developed and less-developed regions, between countries and inside the countries, between the towns and the province made of the enterprise a unit of planned production activity.

The philosophical and methodological contents of the geography of enterprises is founded with experimental and empirical approach. The task of the geography of enterprises is to investigate above all the optimum possibilities of the territorial division of labour on the basis of the well-developed social division labour, in its production specialization and concentration. The study of territorial and spatial relationships makes possible the establishment of the optimum location of the enterprises in places with suitable production and social conditions.

The structural changes in economy carried out according to plan require a scientific approach on numerous levels of the dislocation of production, in their territorial manifestations and relationships. The superiority of socio-economic and social conditions over production-technical ones is a characteristic feature and follows from the tasks and aims of a socialist society. The geography of enterprises does not investigate accordingly only the production aspect of the enterprise, its production effect, but the impact of the activities of the enterprise as a social unit in the socio-economic and social sphere.

The integration process of the whole state enters by the mediation of enterprises of production significance into the present-day stage of the internationalization of the world economy in a socialist integration process. Linking up of the state economy into the economy of socialist integration affects necessarily even the progress of specialization and concentration of production not only in the sphere of social division of labour but even in its territorial manifestation. The enterprise presents itself as a representative of specialized and concentrated production even spatially in territorial specialization and concentration in territorial division of labour.

The enterprise as a dynamic factor of social changes

We understand the enterprise as a subject of research as a source of energy and dynamics of economic and all-social development. It creates by its dynamic effect a complex of phenomena acting in the natural, socio-economic and technical spheres. It acts like an impulse cell in the dialectic relationships of this complex.

The enterprise is accordingly not a passive subject of research where it would be possible to add the individual phenomena but it is an active subject. It has its interior and exterior structure. The phenomena investigated have their values. Their development and state reflect the laws governing the social development, the level of generative forces. The enterprise appears in the dialectics of rela-

tionships as a live organism responding to the changes in its surroundings and its own structure.

The interior structure of the enterprises manifests itself in the technical and/or production-technical sphere. It comprehends above all the basic problems of production, the level of the products, their use value and the economic production outcome. The enterprise presents itself as the producer.

The exterior structure of the enterprise encroaches both upon the sphere of natural and that of economic relationships and creates social relationships. The range of its action is determined by the position of the enterprise in the social and territorial division of labour, i. e. the kind and extent of production, the quality and quantity of production relationships. It manifests itself in positive and negative effects on the environment, its exploitation and social-economic valorization.

Spatial manifestations of the enterprise and impact of their effects

The spatial manifestation of the enterprise can have a territorial extent from microregion up to macroregion. The interior structure manifests itself socially mostly in the microup to mesoregion and the exterior structure economically according to the orientation of production even in the macroregion. The area extent is different, according to the kind of production and the significance of the enterprise. The areas of consumer-supplier relationships can be of considerable area extent especially in the international division of labour.

The enterprise exerts a decisive influence upon the natural and socio-economic milieu. The impact of society on the landscape sphere is increasing with the development of production and rational introduction of science and modern technique into production. The beginning of the chain reaction, the revolutionism of production and social changes in society is in the enterprises.

The enterprise affects substantially the environment of man and its shaping, for production draws the complex of social relationships into the social process. It affects the mode of life, the living standard, the standard of housing conditions, social security, the possibilities of cultural life, etc.

The geography of enterprises leads the enterprise as subject of study into the dialectically copious quantity of variations of relationships in the effects of the exterior and interior structure inside and outside the enterprise manifesting themselves actively both positively and negatively. The geography of enterprises studies the activity from the viewpoint of spatial relationships and this is why even other scientific branches and/or specialists mainly economists, jurists, doctors, etc. should participate in the search for optimum solution.

Sometimes, geography is defined as a science on complexes. By this is meant its significance from the point of view of the synthesis of knowledge from natural, social and technical sciences. The complexes are of different territorial extent and have a different spatial level from geospheres up to basic geographical objects. The enterprise is one of these complexes affecting by its effects the natural, social and technical spheres. The geography of enterprises investigates the enterprises in their concrete spatial manifestation and territorial effect, the quantity and quality of these relationships. Practical checking of theoretical approaches has proved that two levels are involved in this process.

In the case of vertical level on the one hand the components of the place to the given enterprise are analyzed, on the other hand the sector or branch relations

from the viewpoint of production. In horizontal level, the relationships of the enterprises to the individual components of place are systematized as regionally specific relationships, and/or among components of different places, i. e. from regionally general viewpoints.

The system approach in the geography of enterprises is based on the necessity of a complex critical examination of the enterprise as a geographical object. The system approach involves the morphological, structural, functional, dynamic and prognostic-model systems. The individual systems are step-likely linked up, the extent of investigation is determined by the tasks and aims of research. But the tasks and aims of each system are determined in a gradation leading to a complex investigation of the effects and relationships of the enterprise, its interior and exterior structures.

The geography of enterprises as a research basis for the branch of socio-economic geography

The geography of enterprises originates on the margin of geographical sciences proper and has a multidisciplinary character in its utilization. As a component of the system of socio-economic geography it makes itself felt in the geography of industry, agriculture, services, transport, population, settlements, towns, etc. with a close relationship to the disciplines of physical geography and the protection and modelling of the environment. But even the relationships to a number of other branches of science, such as economic sciences, especially economics and planning, are of the same significance. But it encroaches even into the sphere of social sciences for the enterprise is not only the basic production unit but even a social and political unit.

The geography of enterprises is of special significance for investigations in the geography of industry. The geography of industry investigates in harmony with the tasks and aims of geography the laws and particularities of the dislocation of industry in the complexity of spatial relationships and interaction relationships to a certain concrete industry, branch, sector or landscape sphere. The aim is, similarly as with the other scientific disciplines of socio-economic geography, to specify the territorial particularities and differences in the social and territorial division of labour from the viewpoint of dialectic relationships of a higher geographical complex, i. e. the branch, sector or region, landscape sphere.

The geography of industry studies the dislocation, its general laws and particularities globally, i. e. the industry as a whole, a complex, and separately, i. e. industrial branches and sectors. It is the geography of enterprises which is engaged in individual concrete enterprises and singular research. The results of these investigations improve qualitatively the scientific content of the geography of industry placing it on a new broad fundament which will make possible to reveal the profound general and special inherent laws. The geography of enterprises affects analogical the development of the other branches of socio-economic geography supplying them with basic data which are necessary for a qualified judgement of the state.

In settlement and town geography the enterprise and/or enterprises manifest themselves as settlement-forming agents. The enterprise has the function of an a priori factor for it provides job opportunities and ensures the economic basis of the population, forms its own economic infrastructure and affects directly the social infrastructure.

From the historical, evolutionary point of view, the enterprises came into existence either subsequently in already existing settlements or primarily and their establishment gave an impulse to the creation of a settlement. There is a sufficient number of examples of both groups. The geography of enterprises investigates the position of enterprises as settlement-forming factors.

Usually in each larger settlement, town, there is one main, most important enterprise which affected substantially the development of the respective settlement and was of decisive significance in its development.

Necessary structural changes transform the present-day proportion of relationships and location factors. The active share of the geography of enterprises in the solution of the territorial division of labour has a concrete impact even on the sphere of settlement problems. The utilization of the potential of place, keeping the balance is linked organically to the existence of the production expressed in terms of organization by the basic production complex — the enterprise.

The relationships of the geography of enterprises and population geography are very close. The enterprises linked together by organization into production units are a dynamic component in the distribution, numerousness and cumulation of populations. They came to be the main economic basis of the population in the function of the „maintenor“, they provide job opportunities. The unevenness in the distribution of the population is determined more by the dislocation of enterprises, mainly industrial ones, than by natural factors. The enterprises affect by their attractivity gravitationally practically all demographic agents from migration up to the age structure.

Spontaneous and planned migrations are in their way a social manifestation of the influences of the enterprises. The monoindustrial or polyindustrial structure as a result of the specialization and concentration of production creates similarly preconditions for the extent of profession varieties in the rate of employment.

In geographical regionalization the enterprises manifest themselves too as a dynamic elementary complex. The most important enterprises give the character of a certain region, express its position in the territorial division of labour. The dislocation of the enterprises expresses the heterogeneity, homogeneity or nodality in the region. Location relationships to natural factors, economic or social factors, are in many lines of determining significance. The concentration of production owing to specialization expresses even a certain degree of the specialization of the region in the territorial division of labour.

The decisive position of the main, most important, enterprise manifests territorially mostly in the microregion and mesoregion according to the character of production and the significance of the enterprise which is the subject of investigations of the geography of enterprises. The different extent of the areas of activities depends on the developed interior and exterior structure of the enterprise. The highest degree of macroregional activities in the region is usually attained by enterprises producing means of production which exceed by the extent of production the all-state significance.

In a region, there are usually several enterprises. The microregions proper are mostly territorially affected by enterprises with a production of predominantly local up to regional significance. Large enterprises with a production of all-state and international significance make felt their attractivity in mesoregions. From the point of view of the dislocation of the enterprises and their economic and social functions, the region can be divided into areas of activities of the individual most important enterprises. The basic economic infrastructure, the population

to whom the enterprises provide employment, settlements with social infrastructure and, naturally, a number of other medium-size and small enterprises of complementary significance are bound to the main enterprises.

Analytical-synthetical analyses within the frame of the geography of enterprises have proved that the enterprises are the main element of dynamics in the utilization of the potential of the region. The geography of enterprises together with the other even non-geographical disciplines studies its utilization. It envisages on the basis of prognoses and models the possibilities of optimum utilization, investigates and studies the adherence to the autoregulation of the system, points out the disturbance of the equilibrium, the existing or arising deformations caused by the enterprises. The geography of enterprises supplies these analytical-synthetical analyses as basic data for the territorial analysis of a region.

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České shrnutí

GEOGRAFIE ZÁVODŮ

Geografie závodů vzniká jako nové odvětví v systému socioekonomické geografie. Její úkoly a cíle jsou v souladu s úkoly a cíli geografie. Objektem zkoumání je závod, předmětem vztahy, interakční vazby, které jsou jím vyvolány. Závod je pojímán jako jednotka územně dislokovaná, prostorově se projevující jako elementární komplex. Geografie závodů vzniká v období zespolečenštění výrobních prostředků, které uvolnilo výrobní síly společnosti.

Závod se jeví jako zdroj energie a dynamiky ekonomického a celospolečenského rozvoje, je aktivním objektem. Má zvláštní význam pro bádání kvantitativně a kvalitativně fundované v oblasti geografie průmyslu, zemědělství, infrastruktury, sídel a měst, obyvatelstva a v geografické regionalizaci. Geografie závodů je sledována z hledisek teoretických, metodologických a jejího uplatnění v praxi.