SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA IN POST-SOVIET PERIOD

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Market reforms in the country were associated with significant spatial transformations affecting the Eastern territories. The aim of the work was to assess the validity of these predictions. The paper uses empirical methods of analysis and studies the changes in the spatial proportions of the development of Siberia for the period from 1991 to 2017. The following characteristics for Russia, Siberia and individual Siberian regions are compared: dynamics of GRP, population, employment, number of enterprises, urban population, level of urbanization, correlation of the number and population of small, medium and large cities. The results of the analysis showed that, despite significant population losses, Siberia was not inferior in dynamics and quality of spatial development. Urbanization was more rapid, and the structure of the urban system of Siberia was close to the proportions of the country as a whole. The spatial development of Siberia was highly dependent on the resource economy and migration of people from rural areas. Market mechanisms worked in favor of large cities and agglomerations, which found a competitive model of development. At the same time, industrial cities with a narrow specialization in markets with declining demand were losing population. Thus, the forecasts of the spatial development of Siberia, made on the eve of the reforms, were only partially realized.

Key words: spatial proportions, population, urbanization, urban system, empirical analysis, Siberia, regions.

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