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THE CONCEPT OF GEOGRAPHICAL HOLISM AS A COMBINED CONSIDERATION OF NATURE AND SOCIETY

The article raises the problem of forming a new scientific direction – geographical holism, which would combine the delimited subject areas of physical and social geography. It is noted that modern requests for geographical knowledge are focused on the integral consideration of the Earth's shell – complex and integrated geographical studies, although domestic geography is not sufficiently defined and contradictory to the issue of integrated consideration of the Earth's shell as an integral geosphere. On the one hand, geographers try to take into account all the factors of functioning of the Earth's shell – both natural-geographical and socio-economic, while the general geographical direction of research in the system of geographical sciences is represented only by auxiliary and serving disciplines. The purpose of the article is to determine the cognitive functions and target attitudes of a new scientific direction of geographical research, structuring its conceptual basis. When conducting the study, the authors were guided by general scientific methods in geographical research and fundamental philosophical methods. The authors used research in the field of synergetics, system analysis, which reveal a fundamentally new type of connection between nature and society in their interaction, increasing the effectiveness of geographical research as a result of integration, merging individual parts of geographical science into a single integral system. The article notes that the scientific development of rational nature management requires an understanding of the principles and mechanisms of functioning of the Earth's shell as an integral and synergistic (self-regulated) socio-natural system. A generalized system of geographical sciences is proposed, in which four blocks are distinguished. The holistic direction of geographical research is based on the methodological block of the system of geographical sciences, which includes the analysis of the geospatial position of geographical objects and phenomena, the doctrine of territorial geographical complexes and systems, geospatial taxonomy of objects and phenomena in relation to the Earth's shell, the concept of geospatial (territorial) organization of society.

Keywords: geographical holism, geographical environment, system of geographical sciences, landscape shell.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of the formation of state sovereignty and the accelerated entry of Ukraine into the world community, a consistent theoretical and methodological transformation of domestic science is taking place. The world community has entered the latest scientific revolution. Radical changes are taking place in the way of social life and in the structure of the world economy. Rapid technological restructuring of the economy continues. Humanity has entered the so-called information revolution, which radically changes not only knowledge, but also the technological foundations of production.

Like all other sciences, geography constantly and regularly reviews and updates its own theoretical and methodological foundations and methodological tools in relation to the civilizational progress of mankind and the consistent growth of knowledge. These trends cause new requests of society for geographical science and determine its corresponding methodological modernization and restructuring. It is significant that most of the modern requests for geographical knowledge are focused on a holistic consideration of the Earth's shell, geographical environment, Environment, and complex and integrated geographical research.

Ukrainian geography refers to the issue of integrated consideration of the Earth's shell as an integral Geosphere insufficiently defined and contradictory. On the one hand, geographers again and again declare the complexity of their developments and try to take into account all the factors of the functioning of the Earth's Shell – both natural, geographical and socio-economic. The general geographical direction of research in the system of geographical sciences is represented only by auxiliary and service disciplines. Some authors call it» convergent», that is, the direction in which natural-geographical and socio-geographical developments converge (Shabliy et al.., 2019). But the direction itself as a component of geographical science is not designated. The traditional division of geography into natural and social sciences is preserved in many schemes of taxonomy of geographical sciences of domestic authors (Nemets, Nemets, 2014; Pistun, 1998), and the meaningful overlap of these directions is called «cross-cutting» or «mixed» geographical sciences (Zhekulin, 1989; Zhupansky, 1997). Only a few authors in the systems of geographical sciences distinguish general geographical blocks and subsystems, while calling such a division «conditional» (Saushkin, 1980). Geographers understand the methodological absurdity of such a situation and argue that domestic geography should «get rid of the extreme approach in the form of separating two separate geographies – natural and social» (Shabliy et al., 2019).

Previously, undifferentiated geography was called unified or monistic, modern geographical holism – holism – from the Greek.) is a methodological principle and worldview concept that asserts the integrity and indivisibility of the material and spiritual world, considers the Earth's shell as an integral Geosphere that integrates the natural environment, man with his economic and spiritual activities, and the artificial material world created by man. The holistic approach was used in their works by such famous philosophers, geographers, mathematicians, physicists, biologists, sociologists and historians as: Strabo, Herodotus, Thucydides, Thomas Aquinas, G.V. Leibniz, G. V.F. Hegel, J. R.R. Tolkien. B.S. Haldane, E.D. Durkheim, F. Braudel, T.S. Kuhn, And K. Ritter.

The peculiarity of modern science is to change the object of research. The modern holistic understanding of the world from the point of view of scientists consists in approaching it as an integral system. We consider the concept of geographical holism as the main component of such a transformation of Geographical Science, in which it will be possible to overcome the methodological differentiation of natural-geographical and socio-economic patterns in it (Topchiev, 2016; Topchiev, 2022).

The purpose of the article is to determine the cognitive functions and target attitudes of a new scientific direction of geographical research, structuring its conceptual and conceptual basis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

When conducting the study, the authors were guided by general scientific methods in geographical research and fundamental philosophical methods. The authors used research in the field of synergetics, system analysis, which reveal a fundamentally new type of connection between nature and society in their interaction, increasing the effectiveness of geographical research as a result of integration, merging individual parts of geographical science into a single integral system.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR DISCUSSION

Geographical holism as a field of research requires certain methodological limitations and principles of selection of basic concepts and concepts: they should be focused on the study of the integral shell of the Earth, that is, the geosphere, in which nature, the population with its economic and spiritual activities and the artificial material world created by man are inextricably and contradictory.

Geography is the only one among the sciences that covers the natural-geographical and socio-economic components of the earth's crust in its subject area, and this determines its exceptional potential in the development of problems of society's interaction with nature. The division of the Earth's crust into two generalized components – nature and society – poses many urgent and difficult questions to geographical science:

– how to determine the correct – ecologically safe and economically efficient directions of economic activity, taking into account the features and resources of the natural environment?

– how to make the use of natural conditions and resources economical, rational, balanced and effective?

– how to ensure the life of the population with an ecologically safe, convenient and comfortable natural environment?

– what should be the strategy of nature and environment protection, preservation of landscape and biological diversity?

– how to regulate and standardize society's interaction with nature in modern conditions?

– what should be the rational territorial organization of society in its relations with the natural environment?

– how to make the geo-planning organization of the geographical environment the norm of further civilizational progress of mankind?

These and many other issues raise the problem of the interaction of society and nature to the level of general civilization, mark it as a global problem of humanity and require the coordinated efforts of all science in general and geography in particular.

The progressive development of mankind requires an in-depth and balanced study of all component geospheres. We are talking about an in-depth study of the oceanosphere, which occupies more than 70% of the landscape shell and about 95% of its water mass and at the same time remains extremely insufficiently studied. Society's demands for the study and economic development of landscape zones and regions with extreme natural conditions – the Arctic and Antarctic, humid equatorial forests, the largest deserts and mountain ranges-are increasing. Humanity continues to explore outer space, which radically changes the boundaries of the landscape shell. These areas require a methodological study of the Earth's shell as a single geosphere.

The entry of the world community into post-industrial civilization is associated with a radical restructuring of the structure of the economy. In the global economy and farms of developed countries, the main sector has become the service sector (up to 75–80% of the employed population), as opposed to the traditional 20–25%. Rapid scientific and technological progress makes it possible to maintain and increase material production by a significantly smaller share of employees – about a quarter of the total number. New sectors of the economy and intersectoral complexes are being formed, and new industries and types of economic activity that have not yet been identified in official classifiers are emerging. Among them are types of activities that serve the interaction of society with nature – environmental protection, environmental management, planning organization of the geographical environment. Such branches and types of economic activity are already termed as socio-natural (Sonko, 2003; Topchiev, Sych, 2020), and geographical science plays a significant role in the development of such areas.

The restructuring of the world economy is called the service revolution. It is associated with a gradual revision of humanity's life values and ways of life, a departure from the traditional aspirations of consumer society and an understanding of the advantages of free time and cognitive leisure. Recreational and tourist activity of the population, which already accounts for about 10% of the world economy, is growing rapidly. In numerous countries and regions, there are powerful intersectoral complexes of recreational and tourist activities, in the study and development of which Geographical Science is actively involved.

Among the many global problems of humanity that require accelerated solutions, one of the priorities is the consistent achievement of rational use of natural resources. Humanity's use of environmental resources has long exceeded its biosphere potential. Society's demands for natural conditions and resources of its life activity still remain insufficiently normalized and balanced, inconsistent with the potential of the natural environment. Scientific development of rational use of natural resources requires understanding the principles and mechanisms of functioning of the Earth's shell as an integral and synergetic (self-regulated) socio-natural system (sich, etc.., 2019). Geography is the only science that covers Natural Sciences in its subject area. both the socio-economic components of the Earth's shell, and this circumstance determines the exceptional potential of Geographical Science in developing problems of interaction between society and nature.

Geographers study the Geospatial Organization of the Earth's landscape envelope and develop various and numerous schemes and models of its ordered differentiation – zoning, high-altitude zoning, regionalization, zoning, and echeloning. Regionalization – natural-geographical, historical-geographical, cultural-civilizational, ethnogeographic, socio-economic, confessional, geopolitical-serves as a cross-cutting principle of spatial organization of society's life (Kolomiets, 2016). It is significant that the modern world economy and national economies of many countries prefer the principles and methods of regional economy and regional policy, in which regions are considered as integral natural and economic complexes, as fragments of an integral socio-natural geosphere. We consider the regional geospatial organization of the Earth's landscape shell as a significant prerequisite for geographical holism, focused on its holistic consideration.

Urgent and complex are requests to Geographical Science on the problems of rational use of the geographical environment by society, in particular, the justification of an environmentally safe and economically effective territorial organization of society. We are talking about the development of concepts and programs of territorial organization of the natural environment and the formation of natural frameworks for environmental safety of Regions and countries, about the ordered geospatial distribution of the population based on the principles of territorial settlement systems, about the placement of economic activities and functional zoning of the territory by types of its economic use, about the impact of the population and economy on the natural environment, about the formation of frameworks for anthropogenic and man-made loads on the environment with minimal harm to the population and nature, on the Geospatial Organization of spiritual and political activity (Topchiev et al., 2019; Sych et al., 2019). The study of the territorial organization of society requires consideration of the Earth's shell as an integral geosphere and strengthens the general geographical direction of Geographical science.

Since the end of the XIX century, society's demands for planning ordering of the geographical environment, which in our time is termed as geospatial planning, have been growing and increasing. Many countries are developing general and regional territory planning schemes. Let us recall that following the European example, the «general scheme for planning the territory of Ukraine» was developed and approved by law in 2002. Practical experience has been accumulated in planning areas of intensive economic development – industrial areas, mining industry basins, recreational centers. This is the so-called district planning, which was previously referred to as «district planning». In domestic urban planning, master plans of cities and suburban areas, urban agglomerations and urbanized areas are constantly and regularly developed. Geospatial planning is an important component of geographical holism, since it is methodologically focused on a holistic consideration of the landscape shell and on a comprehensive study of natural, geographical and socio-economic components.

All the above examples of practical application of Geographical Science indicate that together with the traditional division of geography into two main branches – physical (natural) and social (socio-economic) geography, their integrated, combined version is formed – general (holistic) geography (fig. 1).

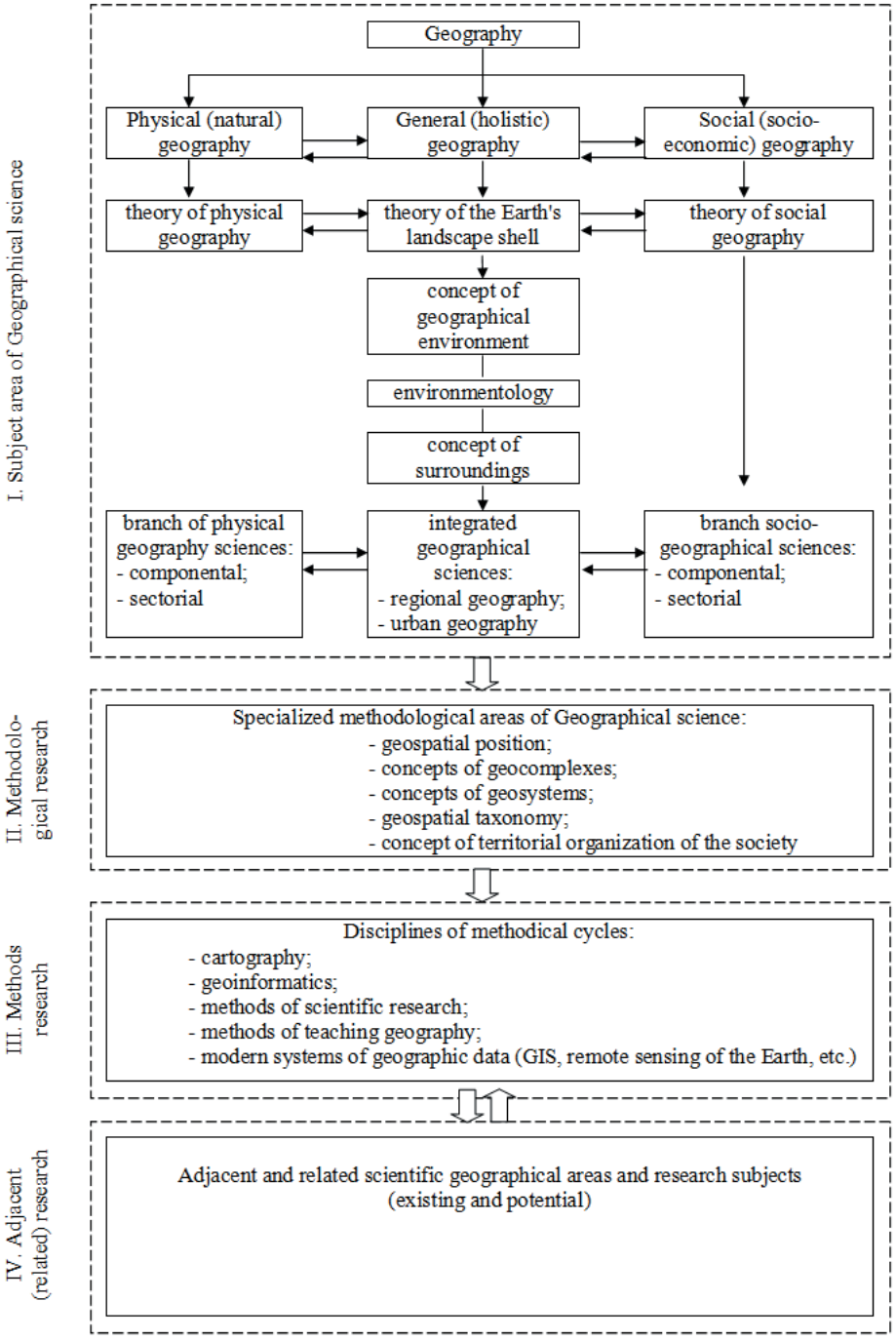

Fig. 1. Generalized system of Geographical sciences

It is characteristic that in numerous schemes of structuring the system of geographical sciences, the combination of physical and social geography was shown only according to general theory and methodology. In other words, the complex characteristics of the Earth's shell that combine and integrate natural and socio – geographical characteristics at the level of generalized areas of geographical science were not represented and belonged to the lower levels with the general geographical characteristics of countries and regions.

The diagram is shown (fig. 1) represents a generalized system of Geographical Sciences and requires further development and detail. Its main goal is to show a new scientific direction of modern geography, according to which the Earth's shell is considered as a single and integral geosphere, as a landscape shell of the Earth. The system of geographical sciences is divided into four blocks (fig. 1). The first block summarizes the subject area of geography, the second – characterizes the peculiar scientific directions of geographical research that form the methodological foundations of modern geography. The third block identifies methodological areas of geographical science, and the fourth block combines existing and possible (potential) related and butt areas and subjects of geographical research.

The subject area of geographical science is represented by three main components: 1) physical (natural) geography; 2) general (holistic) geography; 3) social (socio-economic) geography. In contrast to numerous developments of systems or complexes of geographical sciences, this taxonomy indicates the direction of general (holistic) geography. Each branch of the system of geographical sciences has its own theoretical and methodological basis. For the traditional branches of physical and social geography, these are the theory of physical geography and the theory of social geography, respectively, which have already been sufficiently developed. The theoretical foundations of physical geography are represented by the concept of the theoretical basis of social geography is the concept of the social envelope (sociosphere). Holistic development of the theoretical and methodological foundations of the general geographical (holistic) direction is a matter of the future.

The complex of General (holistic) geographical sciences has its own methodological features. It combines the directions and disciplines of research that consider geographical objects holistically and comprehensively. This includes, in particular, country studies, region studies, and urban geography (urbogeography). General geographical research areas fully use the results of sectoral natural-geographical and socio-geographical sciences to develop holistic characteristics of countries, regions, and cities.

The holistic direction, according to which the landscape shell of the Earth is considered as an integral socio-natural Geosphere, is based on the basic concepts and categories used in all branch areas of Geographical Science and determine the subject specifics of geography as a science. This is a generalized and somewhat formalized second block – the methodological block of the system of geographical sciences (fig. 1). It includes the analysis of the geospatial position of geographical objects and phenomena, the study of territorial geographical complexes and systems, geospatial taxonomy of objects and phenomena in relation to the Earth's shell, the concept of geospatial (territorial) organization of society. Let us briefly consider these components of the system of geographical sciences.

Geographical science studies the placement of components of the Earth's landscape envelope and geospheres within the Earth's envelope. The location of geographical objects, the potential of the Geospatial position of objects in relation to their interaction with other objects, the prerequisites for creating geospatial networks of geographical objects, the formation of hierarchical systems of geographical objects by the potentials of geographical location are subject to assessment. The concept of geographical location, on the one hand, is well known and sufficiently developed, and on the other hand, it requires a methodological revision in our time of information technologies and space exploration.

The concept of territorial natural complexes, which began in German geography, quickly spread to other branches of geographical science. Soon the doctrine of territorial socio-economic complexes was developed. The concepts of natural-economic and socio-natural territorial complexes are associated with the development of anthropogenic landscape science. A powerful scientific direction of territorial geographical complexes – geocomplexes-has been formed.

The general scientific system approach led to the development of concepts of territorial geographical systems – geosystems. Territorial systems of natural environment management – nature reserve fund and ecological networks, territorial systems of settlement, territorial systems of production and infrastructure, territorial recreational systems, territorial systems of marketing and management-have a general scientific status. In the system of geographical sciences, there is already a corresponding scientific direction – the study of geosystems (V. B. Sochava).

Geography is the only science that develops the principles and methods of territorial (geospatial) taxonomy. At all levels of the organization of society's life, various schemes and models of zoning, regionalization, zoning, echeloning, zoning, and sectorization are developed. We are talking about the study of the geospatial organization of the natural environment, the population with its industrial and spiritual activities, the artificial material world created by man, and the Geospatial ordering of the Earth's landscape shell.

The third block in the system of geographical sciences is formed by the directions and Sciences that provide geography with appropriate methodological support. It includes cartography, Geoinformatics, methods of geographical research, methods of teaching geography, modern Geographical Information Systems (GIS) – Remote Sensing of the Earth (remote sensing) (fig. 1). The relevance of geographical holism – the scientific direction of studying the Earth's shell as an integral socio-natural geosphere, is reinforced by modern requests for geographical research methods associated with the mass use of geographic information systems and technologies. Geographical science retains the functions of developing the theory and methodology of various territorial (geospatial) taxonomies and classifications, the demand for which is constantly growing. Geographical research methods in the context of the information revolution received a powerful qualitative and quantitative growth and became the basis for the formation of a modern GIS – remote sensing system, in which geographical information systems are combined with remote sensing technologies of the Earth. Currently, the international community has not been able to accept and organize unusual flows of new geographical information, and requests for an accelerated solution to this problem are growing. Geographical

science should deepen geographic information technologies and develop new systems for accumulating and organizing geographical information. New methods of geographical research related to Geoinformation technologies and Remote Sensing of the Earth strengthen the methodological potential of geographical holism.

Like any other system of sciences, geography has many related areas and disciplines that have emerged and will continue to arise in the contact zones of geography with other sciences. The methodological prerequisite for the formation of such «butt directions» is the geographical method and the principles and methods of territorial (geospatial) taxonomy of the studied objects developed by geographers. They are represented by the fourth block of the system of Geographical Sciences – butt and related scientific areas. For example, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, History, etc., at the intersection of which historical geography, engineering geography, mathematical geography, geochemistry, biogeography, and others are formed.

CONCLUSIONS

Methodological difficulties in considering the Earth's shell as an integral socio-natural geosphere are caused by the fundamental difference in the quality of the laws of development of nature and society. The modern theory of knowledge rigidly distinguishes between the laws of nature and the laws of society on the grounds of objectivity – subjectivity and considers them incompatible and contradictory. Let us recall that at one time it was for these reasons that some Soviet scientists tried to divide geographical science into «two geographies» and separate them into natural sciences – physical geography, and social – economic geography.

The subject area of geography integrates the natural-geographical and socio-economic components of the Earth's shell. At the same time, in the theoretical and methodological arsenal of geographical science, there are still no meaningful generalizations, regularities, laws that would sufficiently represent the landscape shell of the Earth as a single and integral socio-natural system: existing scientific developments characterize the structure of the landscape shell mainly by its component and branch composition. It is clear that the progressive development of science over time will justify the methodological objectivity and modern subjective laws of society's life. General scientific principles and methodological means of combined use of the laws of nature and society in accordance with the unity and integrity of the material world will be found. Nowadays, such developments are headed by holism, a popular direction of modern theory of knowledge.

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КОНЦЕПЦІЯ ГЕОГРАФІЧНОГО ХОЛІЗМУ ЯК ПОЄДНАНОГО РОЗГЛЯДУ ПРИРОДИ І СУСПІЛЬСТВА

Резюме. В статті поставлена проблема формування нового наукового напряму – географічного холізму, який би об'єднав розмежовані предметні області фізичної та суспільної географії. Зазначено, що сучасні запити на географічні знання орієнтовані на цілісний розгляд земної оболонки – комплексні й інтегровані географічні дослідження. В статті наголошено, що наукова розробка раціонального природокористування потребує розуміння принципів і механізмів функціонування земної оболонки як цілісної й синергетичної (саморегульованої) соціоприродної системи. Запропонована генералізована система географічних наук, в якій виділено чотири блоки. Холістичний напрям географічних досліджень спирається на методологічний блок системи географічних наук, до складу якого віднесені аналіз геопросторового положення географічних об'єктів і явищ, вчення про територіальні географічні комплекси і системи, геопросторова систематика об'єктів і явищ відносно земної оболонки, концепція геопросторової (територіальної) організації суспільства.

Ключові слова: географічний холізм, географічне середовище, система географічних наук, ландшафтна оболонка.