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THE EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF URBANIZATION PROCESSES

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Abstract. This article analyzes the experience of developed and developing foreign countries in the territorial organization of urbanization processes. In particular, examples from countries such as the United States, Sweden, Germany, France, Japan, and China are used to examine mechanisms for managing urbanization, diversifying settlements, developing transport infrastructure, addressing population density, creating employment opportunities, maintaining ecological balance, and ensuring balanced regional development. Based on the analysis of these experiences, the article proposes advanced approaches that can be applied to effectively organize urbanization and shape regional policy in Uzbekistan. Additionally, recommendations are provided for developing models of urbanization adapted to national conditions.

Keywords: urbanization process, territorial organization, foreign experience, urban management, economic growth.

Urbanizatsiya jarayonlarini hududiy tashkil etilishida xorijiy davlatlar tajribasi

Abstract. Ushbu maqolada urbanizatsiya jarayonlarini hududiy tashkil etishda rivojlangan va rivojlanayotgan xorijiy davlatlar tajribasi tahlil qilingan. Jumladan AQSH, Shvetsiya, Germaniya, Fransiya, Yaponiya, Xitoy kabi mamlakatlar misolida shaharlashuvni boshqarish, aholi manzilgohlarini turlanishi, transport infratuzilmasi, aholi zichligi, ish o‘rinlari tashkil etilishi, ekologik muvozanatni saqlash va hududlar o‘rtasidagi mutavozin rivojlanishni ta’minlash mexanizmlari ko‘rib chiqilgan. Maqolada ushbu tajribalarni tahlil qilish orqali O‘zbekiston hududida urbanizatsiyani samarali tashkil etish va hududiy siyosatni shakllantirishda qo‘llash mumkin bo‘lgan ilg‘or yondashuvlar ilgari surilgan. Shu bilan birga, urbanizatsiya jarayonlarining milliy sharoitlarga moslashtirilgan modellarini yaratish bo‘yicha tavsiyalar ham ishlab chiqilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: urbanizatsiya jarayoni, hududiy tashkil etish, xorijiy tajribalar, shaharlashuvni boshqarish, iqtisodiy o‘sish.

Опыт зарубежных стран в территориальной организации урбанизационных процессов

Аннотация. В данной статье проанализирован опыт развитых и развивающихся зарубежных стран в территориальной организации урбанизационных процессов. В частности, на примере таких стран, как США, Швеция, Германия, Франция, Япония, Китай, рассмотрены механизмы управления урбанизацией, разнообразие населённых пунктов, транспортная инфраструктура, плотность населения, создание рабочих мест, сохранение экологического баланса и обеспечение сбалансированного развития между регионами.

На основе анализа данного опыта в статье предложены передовые подходы, которые можно использовать для эффективной организации урбанизации и формирования территориальной политики в Узбекистане. Кроме того, разработаны рекомендации по созданию моделей урбанизации, адаптированных к национальным условиям.

Ключевые слова: процесс урбанизации, территориальная организация, зарубежный опыт, управление урбанизацией, экономический рост.

Introduction. Global experience shows that proper organization and management of urbanization is one of the key factors for territorial stability, economic growth, and social well-being. In contrast, uncontrolled urbanization often leads to uneven city expansion, infrastructure shortages, environmental problems, and social tensions. Therefore, the strategic management of urbanization from a territorial perspective remains a pressing issue on the agenda of both developed and developing countries.

To address urbanization challenges, governments, regional and local authorities around the world use a wide range of tools and methods [Zokirov S.S., 2020, p.108]. In Uzbekistan, the development of a comprehensive urbanization policy is becoming a crucial factor for balanced and sustainable regional development, improving living standards, creating permanent jobs, expanding housing construction, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of the real sector of the economy, introducing green and digital technologies, and ensuring a safe living environment for the population. In many foreign countries, urbanization is viewed as an important area of scientific research and is considered an additional source of economic growth, integrated regional development, and balanced infrastructure expansion.

DISCUSSION. In recent years, Uzbekistan has been actively developing a series of measures aimed at improving urban structures and promoting the comprehensive development of cities. Institutional reforms are being implemented in the development of regions, cities, and urban agglomerations. At the same time, in order to develop a comprehensive urbanization policy from the perspective of regional development, it is essential to study global trends and conduct comparative assessments of urbanization policies in foreign countries. For this reason, the focus of this research has been placed on studying the experiences of countries that have achieved significant results in these areas.

United States. As of 2025, approximately 83% of the U.S. population resides in urban areas. The development of urbanization in the country holds particular significance and is the result of a long-standing and deliberate urbanization policy. In the U.S., each state defines and categorizes urban areas using terms such as “city,” “town,” “village,” and “borough,” each with its own legal status. There is no unified classification at the federal level; however, cities are generally informally grouped based on population size:

Small towns/cities: 1,000 – 20,000 people
Mid-sized cities: 20,000 – 100,000 people
Large cities: 100,000 – 1 million people
Major/mega cities: Over 1 million people

The early elements of urbanization policy in the U.S., particularly functional zoning and urban planning, emerged in the early 20th century and later influenced urban development in European cities as well [Zokirov S.S. (2020), p. 56]. While rapid urban growth occurred in the 19th century across Europe and North America, urbanization peaked in the 20th century. In the U.S., urbanization accelerated due to the industrial revolution and the development of automobile transportation.

A distinctive feature of American urbanization is suburbanization, where people tend to migrate from city centers to peripheral areas. Major urban regions include New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston [Tashtaeva S.K., Bakhramov S.Sh. 2021, p. 26]. Urbanization in the United States has developed under the influence of historical, economic, and social factors, and it is considered one

of the most effective and comprehensive systems globally. The main strengths of this system include decentralized governance, clear division of powers between federal and local authorities, integration of digital technologies, and the use of public-private partnership mechanisms in infrastructure projects.

In the USA, urbanization not only drives population concentration in urban areas but also serves as a hub for economic growth, innovation, and the development of the service sector. Furthermore, "smart city" approaches, principles of environmental sustainability, and urban agglomeration management models are transforming American cities into adaptable and efficient systems geared toward future development.

Sweden. Sweden is another highly urbanized country that stands out among European nations for its distinctive urbanization policy. As of today, nearly 89% of the country's population lives in urban areas. In Sweden, cities are not formally recognized as administrative units but are referred to as *tätorter* — population clusters that are classified based on size and density. According to the criteria defined by Statistics Sweden (SCB), a *tätort* is considered an urban settlement if it has at least 200 inhabitants and the distance between residential buildings does not exceed 200 meters.

Sweden's settlements are unofficially categorized by population as follows:

- **Small towns**: 200 – 10,000 inhabitants
- **Medium-sized towns**: 10,000 – 100,000 inhabitants
- **Large cities**: 100,000 – 1 million inhabitants
- **Mega cities**: over 1 million inhabitants

Planning cultures vary from country to country, and Sweden is known for its highly structured and systematic approach to urbanization planning and governance. The Swedish urbanization policy is grounded in the principles of sustainable development, emphasizing ecology, social equity, and economic efficiency. Urban planning in Sweden is characterized by strong coordination between centralized and local governance. While the national government formulates strategic planning policies, municipalities (*kommuner*) independently implement development projects at the local level.

One of the core priorities in Sweden's urban development is **environmental sustainability**. Urban planning emphasizes the preservation and expansion of green spaces, development of public transportation, construction of environmentally friendly buildings, and improvement of energy efficiency. Additionally, reducing automobile dependency is a key goal — Swedish cities have significantly invested in public transportation systems (buses, subways, trams), expanded cycling infrastructure, and created pedestrian-friendly environments. These efforts have contributed to creating cities that are environmentally clean and highly livable.

To ensure an inclusive and equitable urban environment, Sweden implements social welfare-driven practices such as affordable and high-quality housing programs, the development of community services and infrastructure, and policies that foster social integration for various population groups.

Sweden is also at the forefront of integrating **innovation and digital technology** into urban governance, making active use of the "smart city" concept. This includes smart transport systems, AI-based city management tools, and digitization of public services through e-government platforms. In conclusion, Sweden's urbanization model prioritizes ecological sustainability, transport infrastructure, innovation, and social equity. Its experience presents a valuable example for Uzbekistan and other countries aiming to modernize and strategically manage urban growth.

Germany. Germany is considered one of the leading countries in effective urbanization planning and management. The country stands out for its strict regulations and controls in this field. With an urbanization rate exceeding 88%, the majority of the population resides in urban areas. German cities are classified by population size based on the system adopted at the International Statistical Conference in 1887:

- Small cities (Kleinstadt): 5,000 – 20,000 inhabitants
- Medium cities (Mittelstadt): 20,000 – 100,000 inhabitants
- Large cities (Großstadt): 100,000 – 1,000,000 inhabitants
- Million cities (Millionenstadt): Over 1,000,000 inhabitants

Urban planning in Germany is implemented at the national, regional, and local levels. The country's urbanization policy is guided by several key principles:

Sustainable development, which emphasizes green infrastructure and environmental balance. Decentralization, where administrative authority is transferred from central to local governments to enhance effectiveness, bring decision-making closer to citizens, and address local issues more efficiently. Balanced regional development, through incentives and investments in small and medium-sized towns to reduce overconcentration in large cities. Innovative urban planning, including the use of smart city technologies. Transport and infrastructure development, with strong support for public transportation and environmentally friendly mobility. Environmental sustainability plays a central role in urban development policies. Green zones are expanded in large cities, and ecological considerations are integrated into construction projects. Renewable energy usage and energy-efficient housing are strongly promoted. Germany has a highly developed public transportation system with extended pedestrian and cycling networks, as well as electric vehicle infrastructure.

Smart city technologies are actively deployed in cities such as Berlin, Munich, and Frankfurt. These include intelligent lighting systems, automated public transport, and environmental monitoring technologies. Germany also focuses on affordable and accessible housing. The government allocates subsidies to address housing challenges and supports social rental housing programs. To counter excessive internal migration to major cities, regional development strategies promote growth in peripheral areas, while housing affordability is maintained through government-backed construction initiatives.

Germany's approach to urbanization is founded on principles of innovation, ecological sustainability, infrastructure development, and social equity, aiming to enhance the overall quality of life for its citizens.

France. In France, the status of a "city" is not granted through a formal legal process, but rather based on factors such as population size, infrastructure, and linguistic usage. All population settlements are officially referred to as "communes," which are the basic administrative units. A commune may be a large city, a small town, or even a village. France has over 35,000 communes, and these are classified by population size:

- Small communes (village): 200 – 2,000 inhabitants
- Small towns (bourg): 2,000 – 20,000 inhabitants
- Medium cities (ville moyenne): 20,000 – 100,000 inhabitants
- Large cities (grande ville): 100,000 – 500,000 inhabitants
- Metropolises (métropole): 500,000 – 1,000,000 inhabitants
- Greater metropolises (grande métropole): Over 1,000,000 inhabitants

There is no automatic legal designation for "city" (ville) status. Instead, a commune may begin referring to itself as a "ville de..." in official documents, websites, or signage if its characteristics—such as schools, clinics, public transport—are in line with urban criteria. The classification system is maintained by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE).

France has adopted the "smart city" concept as a central strategy in its urbanization policy. Smart city projects in France focus on:

Data-driven decision-making, including AI-based monitoring of urban systems. Enhanced quality of life, through user-centered innovations and participatory governance. In recent years, special attention has been given to smart governance through digitalization and the use of real-time city management systems. Urban control centers now oversee transport, energy, water, and emergency services in a unified framework.

The French government finances a significant portion of these initiatives and supports development in small and medium-sized cities with adequate industrial and infrastructural potential. Long-term development programs aim to transform underdeveloped areas into economically active regions by stimulating investment and improving public services.

France’s urban development policy illustrates a balanced approach that combines innovation, inclusivity, environmental consciousness, and digital transformation — offering valuable insights for countries like Uzbekistan.

Japan. Japan has a distinct approach to granting urban status to its settlements, which is based on strict legal and administrative classifications. Cities in Japan are categorized by the central government according to their population size, territory, and administrative capacity. Generally, Japanese cities are divided into three main categories based on their population and function:

- Ordinary cities: at least 50,000 inhabitants with basic infrastructure
- Core cities: approximately 300,000 inhabitants
- Designated cities: over 500,000 inhabitants

In order to attain city status, a settlement must meet several criteria: it must have a minimum population of 50,000, demonstrate high population and employment density, and possess sufficient infrastructure in terms of utilities, education, and healthcare. Official designation requires approval from the prefectural government and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Urban development in Japan is highly advanced, and the country is recognized as one of the most urbanized nations globally. Japan’s population density is extremely high, particularly in major cities such as Tokyo, which is among the most densely populated urban areas in the world. This urbanization is characterized by advanced technology, well-developed infrastructure, and integrated transport networks.

Most Japanese cities are governed by a rigorous urban planning system that divides land into functional zones—residential, commercial, industrial, and green areas. Each zone permits only specific types of activity, ensuring a high degree of order and livability. Due to limited land availability, vertical construction is common, with high-rise buildings and multi-story residences being typical. This approach allows for efficient land use while maintaining urban coherence.

Public transportation plays a central role in Japan’s urban planning. Cities are equipped with highly efficient rail, subway, and bus systems, carefully planned to ensure convenient and rapid mobility for residents. This transport infrastructure is vital for safety and quality of life in urban areas. Urban planning strategies also emphasize minimizing commute distances by closely locating residential areas and workplaces. Decentralized economic centers help improve labor market integration and reduce reliance on central business districts.

Japan is a global leader in incorporating innovative technologies into urban governance. Under the "smart city" concept, artificial intelligence and other digital technologies are widely used to improve urban management and create livable environments. These approaches are particularly significant given Japan's growing population and limited natural and energy resources.

Through the effective implementation of these systems, Japan has succeeded in creating cities that are both densely populated and highly livable. Innovations in architecture and urban design, extensive public transport systems (such as high-speed trains), and eco-conscious construction make Japanese cities exemplary models of sustainable and functional urban development.

China. In the People's Republic of China, cities are strictly regulated by the government and categorized based on administrative and economic criteria. To obtain official “city” status, a settlement must meet the following core requirements:

A minimum population of 100,000–200,000 people;

Demonstrated economic activity and the presence of an industrial base;

A formal administrative application process and approval by governmental authorities;

Authorization from both the provincial and central governments. City status is determined based on population size, regional importance, economic capacity, and a designation assigned by the central government. In China, urban classification is implemented using two primary frameworks. Administrative hierarchy:

- Direct-administered municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai),
- Provincial-level cities,

- Prefecture-level cities,
- County-level cities.
- Economic and strategic relevance:

A widely used but unofficial "Tier system" classifies cities into Tiers 1 to 4 based on factors such as economic performance, infrastructure, investment appeal, and population density. Tier 1 cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen) are global financial hubs. Lower-tier cities are emerging markets with growing economic significance. China's new urbanization model has become a national development priority, designed to drive social and economic progress and to sustain long-term growth. For decades, China had strict internal migration policies (the hukou system), which limited access to public services for residents not officially registered as urban households. This posed serious obstacles for many rural migrants seeking economic opportunities in cities.

Nevertheless, urban migration has expanded rapidly. Over the past 30 years, more than 260 million people have moved to cities across China. With the government's policy shift in 2013, urbanization was elevated to a strategic development goal, aiming to resettle over 250 million rural residents into urban areas as part of a broader modernization effort [Zakirov S.S., 2020, p.114].

Previously, China's economic growth relied heavily on capital investment rather than productivity gains. However, the effectiveness of investment-driven growth has declined both at the national and city levels. In response to global economic uncertainty, urbanization has been identified as a new engine for sustainable domestic growth, reducing dependence on exports and stimulating internal demand. China's urban development strategy now focuses on creating livable, efficient, and inclusive cities, while addressing the challenges of migration, environmental sustainability, and balanced regional development**.**

Results. An analysis of adopted urbanization policies shows that in all countries, governance mechanisms have improved at each stage of development, and in some cases (such as China and Kazakhstan), the direction of development has shifted significantly. At the same time, national urban policies in certain countries exhibit unique characteristics. In China, urbanization is planned based on a "growth pole" model. This approach facilitates the development of economic zones around major cities, management of migration flows, and strategic investment in infrastructure [Hu, J., 2005, p.16]. China's urbanization policy prioritizes not the expansion of large cities, but the development of small cities and rural-urban economies that support the comprehensive improvement of urban livelihoods. The policy is aimed at balanced, parallel urban development across regions.

China's urbanization strategy is regarded as one of the world's largest and most successful processes of urban transformation. Many elements of this model can serve as a practical reference for developing countries, including Uzbekistan. Planned urbanization — involving strategic development pathways, a clearly defined urban hierarchy, large-scale infrastructure investment (especially in inter-city connectivity), the establishment of new cities (especially in peripheral districts and town centers), the development of secondary cities, and the formation of economic clusters and special zones (such as free economic zones, industrial parks, and logistics clusters around cities) — offers an instructive framework. A global analysis of urbanization regulation practices and resulting conclusions reveals that countries such as Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore, and India have adopted goal-oriented urban policies that align with active industrialization, promote the integrated development of cities, encourage the effective utilization of existing potential, continuously improve living standards, create sustainable employment, and implement land reforms in a coordinated manner.

In many other countries, urbanization continues to demonstrate a trend toward sustainable development as a key driver of economic growth and social progress. Japan, South Korea, and Turkey have achieved stable socio-economic growth through targeted state policies and regional development strategies. Major urban centers have been strengthened with improved infrastructure, leading to increased efficiency. In some countries (Japan and Korea), a fully urbanized lifestyle has been achieved, whereas in others rural populations have struggled to fully adapt to urban culture. In the final stages of urbanization, issues such as transportation, social infrastructure, demographic imbalances, housing

shortages, and environmental degradation become more pronounced. A management model focused on integrated regional and urban development yields the most favorable outcomes.

Conclusion. The urbanization policies of countries such as the USA, Sweden, Germany, Japan, France, China and Kazakhstan, which were considered above, can be summarized and proposals and recommendations can be developed based on the comparative aspects of the countries and specific conclusions drawn from them. In general, world experience shows that there are two types of urban policies depending on the stage: the final stage - suburban policy, the initial stage - the continuation of urban policies that contribute to the economic growth of regions and the well-being of the population, as well as the application of two main models of urbanization: the development of large cities, the development of small and medium-sized cities with the transition to parallel development. Analysis of foreign experience in the development and functioning of urbanized areas, analysis of the dynamics of urbanization processes in the modern world can be useful for managing the innovative development of urbanized areas in Uzbekistan. These conclusions can serve as the main principles in shaping territorial development and urban planning policies in Uzbekistan.

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