

## Some Aspects Of The Relationship Between Nature And Society In Geography

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**Abstract:** Nature and society, which are in constant connection, movement, change, development, are a whole complex system. Therefore, it is not possible to place them opposite each other or one above the other. A similar relationship exists between natural and socio-economic geography, where natural conditions and resources must be studied in terms of the development and deployment of productive forces, and economics in terms of the impact of production on nature. Therefore, it is always necessary to take into account man in natural geography, and nature and ecological consequences in economic geography.

**Keywords:** nature, society, geography, territory, natural environment, geographical environment, biotic, abiotic, anthropogenic, regional natural complexes, regional production complexes.

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### Introduction

One of the most important general theoretical problems of modern geography is the question of the relationship and connection between society and nature. It is this issue that unites natural and socio-economic geography, requiring their interrelated development. "One of these ambiguities is that no one doubts that a number of natural sciences are called "natural geography". But how can the second part of it, that is, the science that studies human or social issues, be expressed in one word? Clearly, the word "economy" is not appropriate here at all, and it cannot be an alternative to nature. There can be economics and life, economics and politics, but the unity and pairing of nature and economics are not compatible at all. Therefore, from the point of view of this logical reasoning, there is a reason to call the set of unnatural geographical sciences human, social geography or, more precisely, social geography" [1].

**The study of the subject.** The changes taking place in nature and society over the last quarter of a century require a new approach to the relationship between society and nature, which is one of the most important general problems of geography. Therefore, the study of regional problems of nature and society, which ensure the interdependent development of the system of geographical sciences, is of

great theoretical and practical importance. This situation determines the relevance of the topic under study. Well-known geographers S.V. Kalesnik, E.M. Murzaev, Y.G. Saushkin, A.M. Ryabchikov, A.S. Soliev, L.A. Alibekov and others were used in this research.

**Purposes and objectives of the work.** The main purpose of the research is to analyze the relationship between society and nature, which is one of the most important general problems of geography, and the various natural, social, economic factors that serve as the object of study of geography and natural and socio-economic geography. In order to achieve the goal set in the work, it is planned to perform the following tasks: a) comparative analysis of the views of geographers on certain laws of nature and society; b) study the impact of natural conditions and resources on the development of productive forces; c) to study the territorial aspects of man and nature and the relationship between society and nature.

**The main part.** It is known that in the XVII-XVIII centuries, when great geographical travels and discoveries were made, geography was the only science about the world's population, economy and nature. It is provided scientific information about the natural conditions and resources necessary for human economic activity in the developed areas, as well as about countries near and far. There is debate among scholars about the role of geography, no matter how sharp they may be, the description of the Russian geographer A.A. Kruber that "the task of geography is always to describe the landscape and study its properties" has been endorsed by many scholars because it clearly and accurately expresses the content and essence of science. [2]

Another Russian geographer, Y.G. Saushkin, later added that "the task of the geographical sciences is to describe the appearance of the earth, to change and make fuller use of the natural environment in a particular area, to study the territorial organization and characteristics of productive forces" [3]

Indeed, for many years, geography has been concerned with describing the earth's surface, as any information about the still poorly studied crust in those times was of great practical and theoretical importance. For modern geography, as the relationship between man and nature and society and nature has become a major philosophical issue, the study and interpretation of the phenomena and laws of nature and society in a territorial context has become important. Evaluating the past, present and future of geography, Y.G. Saushkin's main task in the future is to explore the earth's surface from the smallest part to the entire planet. However, it should also be borne in mind that the assimilation should be carried out in all its aspects, based on new methods and theories. [4]

As noted above, while the issue of the relationship between nature and society unites geography as a single science, it also led to the separation of geography as an object of study of nature and society into natural and socio-economic geography, i. e. two main branches. In other words, there are no and cannot be general geographical laws that apply equally to natural and socio-economic geography. At present, one of the main tasks of socio-economic geography is to study the formation, development, location laws and their interrelationships in these territorial-industrial complexes.

It should be noted that regional production complexes, as a reflection of the history and economy of society, are formed and developed in a relatively short period of time on the basis of its laws, but regional natural complexes, on the contrary, are formed and developed over centuries. In fact, both natural and industrial complexes are regional complexes and an important factor connecting natural and economic geography, which is why "natural geography is recognized as the science of regional natural complexes, economic geography - the science of regional industrial complexes". [5]

Well-known geographer A.S. Soliev, defining the current tasks of socio-economic geography, wrote: "Theoretical and practical significance of this science is, first of all, the creation of scientific ideas and concepts about the international division of labor, globalization of the economy, integration processes, ways of regional policy in different countries, environmental problems of regional production, urbanization and urban development".[6]

In fact, as a biological organism, both man and the human society he has built are an integral part of nature. Whenever we talk about the relationship between nature and society, we have to use the term nature in a narrow sense, that is, as a synonym for the geographical environment, because the geographical environment is the part of nature that interacts with society. Mankind seeks to assimilate more of the natural environment in order to meet its needs, which in turn leads to an expansion in the composition and size of the geographical environment. Experts write that in the future, the geographical environment may also merge with the geographical crust.

Earlier, for example, in the XVII-XIX centuries, great attention was paid to natural conditions, and even it was believed that people's character, behavior, lifestyle, development of the state, etc. are determined by the natural conditions of the country, geographical location. As an example, A.S. Soliev - our compatriot, the great scholar Abu Rayhan Beruni, who lived and worked in the XI century, gave the following opinion: "The difference in the structure, image, nature and morals of human beings is not only due to the diversity of their lineage, but also due to the diversity of their soil, water, air and land".[7]

Indeed, peoples living in a hot or cold country, desert or oasis, mountain or plain, differ from each other in customs, behavior, and attitudes, but the development of society, socio-economic development, or political system of a country depends only on natural factors. Because society is a set of historically decided cooperation activities of people.

Everything in society (material and spiritual wealth, the creation of the necessary conditions for human life, etc.) takes place in the course of a particular activity. The activities of people and the social relations between them constitute the basic content of society. Society cannot exist without material production, and it is in production that society's connection with nature is manifested. The development of society is a natural-historical, legal process.[8]

The idea that society is a part (component) of nature or a geographical environment requires proof because society is a product of production relations, not nature. In the early stages of the development of society, people mainly used natural resources necessary for life (wild plant fruits and animals, fertile soil, etc.). Later, with the development of productive forces, natural resources (metal, wood, heat sources, etc.) became the means of labor and became increasingly important.

Nature and society (primarily the productive forces) are interconnected and constantly interact with each other. For example, people use the forces and resources of nature during the production of material resources necessary for life, while changing the direction, speed and boundaries of the development of natural complexes. The natural environment, in turn, constantly influences the development of society, the form of economy, and the location of the productive forces. For example, proximity to the sea has a positive effect on economic development.

However, some natural geographical laws are also to some extent specific to economic geography. For example, vertical zoning in nature is distinguished not only by its natural features, but also by the fact that vertical zones are governed by economic, territorial division of labor, and specialization can be affected by changes in natural conditions by zones.

Well-known Russian scientist, academician S.V. Kalesnik writes that since the emergence of human society, the earth's crust has become a geographical environment. Without a society itself, there

can be no geographical environment, or conversely, a society cannot have a geographical environment where people are not integrated into society.[9]

The nature or geographical environment that surrounds human society changes directly as a result of the impact of human beings on nature and vice versa. At the same time, the interaction of nature and society is also influenced by the development of science and technology, changes in the socio-economic system of society. While some aspects of production have served as a natural factor for development in a particular period, they are manifested as a historical effect of production in another period.

For example, a mill built taking into account the natural flow of a river is a product of the natural needs of that period. If that river is blocked by a dam and the water is properly managed, moving the hydroelectric turbines, it is now not only a part of the geographical environment, but also a historical result of production. Therefore, a correct understanding of the relationship between nature and society is extremely important.

Sometimes exaggerating the role of nature in the development of society, they concluded that its laws also apply to society, or conversely, they concluded that the laws of society also apply to nature. In fact, both conclusions are wrong, because in development nature and society have their own laws and it is impossible to apply them to each other.

Therefore, in any case, nature and human society develop according to their own laws. In general, writes Professor A.S. Soliev, "it is also wrong to place too much emphasis on this or that nature and society, which must be in constant balance as two phases of the scales. If the "stone" of nature weighs on this scale, its economic capacity is low, that is, part of society is relieved. This situation existed in the past, and now the impact of society on nature is increasing. It is true that nature serves society in a sense submits to it, but society must also respect nature, preserve it, and treat it properly". [10]

The existing connection and interaction between nature and society should be studied not by applying existing laws to each other, but by studying these laws and using them effectively and rationally in human relations with nature and in economic activities. The first of these cases is called the influence of society on nature, while the second can be called the influence of nature on society. Processes are closely interrelated, because man can often adapt his economic activity to the existing natural conditions and change it according to his own requirements, but these changes should not contradict the laws of nature.

Nature creates the conditions for the development of society in the first place, and these conditions may be favorable or unfavorable, but the conditions created do not play a decisive role in the development of society. For this reason, it is not correct to link the country's development or backwardness with the existing favorable or unfavorable natural conditions. It is known that the development of a society, country or region depends not only on natural factors, but also on a number of historical, political, technological and other factors. Consequently, it is wrong to attribute the level of development of a society solely to natural factors, to ignore other factors, or to overestimate their role.

The existence of the laws of nature does not depend on the will of men, nor can they be changed or a new law created. It is therefore important to never forget that not recognizing them or doing the opposite can lead to negative consequences. Studying the existing laws of nature and using them wisely can change the geographical environment for the better, but not knowing them or not using them properly can also hinder the development of the geographical environment.

As another Russian scientist, A.M. Ryabchikov, noted, "to see only its negative aspects in the interaction of man and nature means a one-sided approach to the issue. It is known that the use of nature on a scientific basis further increases its potential. For example, if a person uses high-quality

plant varieties for efficient land use, productivity will increase. In the process of using nature and its resources, man strives to create favorable conditions for his life". [11]

With the development of society, people identify and study the laws of nature and act on them. In particular, the thermal energy of oil and coal has been used to generate electricity, drain swamps, irrigate lands, plant high-quality crops, build airplanes and rockets, and so on.

It should also be noted that even at the unprecedented level of development of today's society, there are many laws of nature that have not yet been determined or need to be determined. The process of identifying and studying them has continued at all stages of the development of society and will continue to be a topical issue. For example, even now it is impossible to accurately predict the weather or earthquakes and their consequences.

Once people have identified and studied this or that law of nature, they will be able to direct certain processes and use it in the direction they want, but this does not mean that people can change nature at will. At all times and in all circumstances, nature develops within its own laws, and human activity can slow down or accelerate natural processes in certain areas. For example, man can accelerate the degradation of the soil layer by increasing the number of livestock in the desert.

As a result, the migration of sands under the influence of human activities is accompanied by a thinning of the plant layer. Conversely, if the number of livestock in the desert is reduced, vegetation will be restored, sand migration will slow down, and the soil layer will gradually return to its original state. However, in both cases, the negative and positive changes take place on the basis of the laws of nature.

By mastering certain laws of nature, man can strengthen or weaken, eliminate, or renew their sphere of influence. For example, deforestation in a certain area or, conversely, afforestation in favorable conditions, drying of wetlands or irrigation of arid lands. It must not be forgotten that "no matter how strong man's influence on nature, the laws of society can never and in any case be applied to nature". [12]

The laws of society differ from the laws of nature in their origin, speed, duration and other aspects. At first glance, nature may seem passive, weak, vulnerable to society. But, in fact, this is not the case, there is no power more powerful when nature is aroused and awakened. For example, floods, typhoons, fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts can destroy any developed country, society.

People who claim to "conquer" nature can do great harm to it with their life activities. For example, one of the most important resources of nature is land - it is necessary for human habitation and for all economic sectors, but the savage use of land leads to negative consequences (desertification, salinization, increased soil erosion, etc.). In other words, one must not forget that man can have a strong influence on the geographical environment and then it can endanger humanity.

To date, the interaction of society and nature has become one of the most important problems of all mankind. Anthropogenic changes are leading not only to social development, but also to the pollution of nature, the depletion of natural resources, the deterioration of the geographical crust of our planet. That is why improving the use of nature, pursuing a science-based environmental policy, the formation of ecological culture is one of the most important issues of our time.

There are certain boundaries in nature, both in society or in every country. However, the difference is that the boundaries of nature are relatively stable and stable, they can not be strictly defined. Administrative boundaries are strictly defined, even if they are variable. Therefore, while the study of the laws of society must take into account the administrative boundaries, the natural geographical laws can not be studied within the borders of the country.

While a number of natural sciences study certain components of nature (rocks, water, soil, flora and fauna, atmospheric air, etc.), geography studies all these issues as a whole, natural-territorial

complexes or geosystems; explores the laws of their emergence, development, territorial distribution, and identifies ways to rationally manage these systems. Therefore, the study of nature conservation and the rational use of natural resources is a key issue in modern geography.

As the well-known Uzbek geographer L.A. Alibekov writes, “it is a question of the growing role of geography in the study of nature as a whole (geographical crust, geographical environment) and the study of socio-economic systems, as well as modern problems of nature protection and efficient use of its resources. Therefore, without denying the importance of all natural, social and technical sciences in the development of various aspects of these problems, it is necessary to emphasize the leading role of modern constructive (ie, rational change of nature) geography” [13]

Nature and society, which are in constant connection, in motion, in change, in development, are, as a whole, a whole, a whole complex system, so that they cannot be opposed to each other or put one above the other. “A similar interaction exists between natural and socio-economic geography, natural conditions and resources must be studied in terms of the development and deployment of productive forces, and economics in terms of the impact of production on nature. Therefore, in natural geography we must not forget about man, and in economic geography we must not forget about nature and its ecological consequences”. [14]

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this duality often has to express a single general geographical perspective in solving problems of nature and society. The opinions and conclusions expressed are based on the personal opinions of the authors, and it is natural that they have certain shortcomings, because, as academician V. V. Barthold said, “Every researcher finds something that the previous ones didn’t notice, but each new interpretation can undoubtedly increase the number of errors. We think that the question of who interpreted it more correctly and who made the most mistakes should be left to the future”. [15]

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