

Socio-cultural Risks of Global Social Processes and its Impact on Local Communities

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Abstract

Globalization processes of the Moscow Metropolis are going further and since July 2012 the territory of Moscow has increased tremendously. A new administrative region has appeared because annexing of 148 hectares of territory called now the New Moscow. The new additional territory has gone through not only area-based changes but also solid administrative, infrastructural, institutional, governance and social transformations. Very rapid changes has posed a lot of serious threats for the Local Government and especially for the social institutions. The very large, extended and in contrast less populated territory including towns, villages and countryside can't be governed the same as a huge overpopulated city, even as a part overnight. Before the annexing each town and village had their own Local Government with considerable powers and freedom to dispose of their funding. Also governance of each territorial body was more or less based on the local social needs and community had some influence on decision making process. After changing the status of the territory many complexities appeared, despite the appropriate amendments have been made to the legislation currently in force and fixed in Moscow Government's Statement about the Prefecture of Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region. Integration into the Metropolis system implies tight subordination to the central administration, perpetuating the dependency that afflicts the Local Government and creates social tension. The paper is based on a vast social survey made by the company "WorkLine Research" in cooperation with "Modern East Communication Development" .

Key words: *social integrative risks, Local Government, Metropolis, globalization, sustainable development.*

Globalization is a very complicated and controversial process. One of distinctive features of the modern stage of social development, which covers almost all aspects of people's lives: economic, political, social and cultural. One of the consequences of Globalization is the process of Urbanization, the flow of the rural population into cities. This cities due concentrating resources are growing not only in terms of population but also territorially, capturing more and more nearby areas. Before talking about the social effects on annexing new territories on an example of a New Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region of Moscow it makes sense to consider reasons that formed the basis of the expansion of Moscow. It should be noted that the very idea of expanding the borders of the capital was made by Dmitry Medvedev in 2011 at the St. Petersburg economic forum,

who at that time was the President of the Russian Federation. According to “RIA Novosti”, among the priority problems were planning to be solved by going beyond the existing boundaries of the City at that moment, could be called as follows:

- overcrowding in Moscow, where the population density was at that time 11,000 people per km²;
- insufficient average size of living space for each resident of the capital - 19 m²;
- increasing traffic flows, creating traffic jams inside the city, as the number of residents in 50 years has increased by 2 times while the area of residence has increased by only 20%;
- taking out from the Centre of Moscow the Federal authorities and place the offices on the new territories.

The decision to join 148 thousand hectares, that means increasing the territory of the capital more than twice, was taken in line with the global trends of increasing urbanization. So in the UN report “Cities in the World – Year 2016” says that by 2016 in the World’s Cities lived 55% of the Earth’s population, and by 2030 this proportion can reach 60% of the World’s population, and by 2050 – 80%.

Table 1
Population of the largest cities of Russia as at 1 January 2019 according to the Federal State Statistics Service

S.N.	City	at 1 January 2019	at 1 January 2018	Dynamics%	%
1	Moscow	12 615 882	12 506 468	+	0,87
2	St. Petersburg	5 383 890	5 351 935	+	0,60
3	Novosibirsk	1 618 039	1 612 833	+	0,32
4	Yekaterinburg	1 483 119	1 568 833	+	0,97
5	Nizhny Novgorod	1 253 511	1 259 013	-	- 0,44
6	Kazan	1 251 969	1 243 500	+	0,68
7	Chelyabinsk	1 200 719	1 202 371	-	- 0,14
8	Omsk	1 164 815	1 172 070	-	- 0,62
9	Samara	1 156 608	1 163 399	-	- 0,58
10	Rostov-On-Don	1 133 307	1 130 305	+	0,27
11	Ufa	1 124 226	1 120 547	+	0,33
12	Krasnoyarsk	1 095 286	1 090 811	+	0,41
13	Voronezh	1 054 111	1 047 549	+	0,63
14	Perm	1 053 934	1 051 533	+	0,22
15	Volgograd	1 013 468	1 013 533	-	- 0,01
	Total	33 602 884	33 434 750	+	0,50

Source: Official site of Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (Founder RISS is the President of Russian Federation)

There has also been growth of Megalopolises and Agglomerations, although there are not so many. For clarity of the presentation of the subject matter will give a definition of this concept: "the Megalopolis (from the Greek megalos, megalus - big, large, great and polis-city) is the largest form of urban settlement, formed as a result of the integration of the main city with the surrounding settlements and agglomerations". Thus L.I. Tulenkova in her article says that "today, there is the only one criterion (population) to classify conditionally the city to concept "Megalopolis".

However, this is not quite right. There are different opinions about the population of Megalopolises. Most Russian authors tend to classify cities with population more than 1 million people under this type. There are already 15 such cities in our country, and in the world by 2016, according to the UN, there were 512, and this figure will grow to 662 cities by 2030. At the same time, the official website of Russian Institute for Strategic Studies says: "Cities with a population of more than 10 million people are called Megalopolises."¹ According to the Federal State Statistics Service, there is only one such city in Russian Federation - the Moscow is.

If we consider a city with a population more than 10 million people to be a Megalopolis, as to the UN, there were thirty-one (31) cities in 2016 in the world, and by 2030 it is planned to increase their number to forty-one (41).

Moreover, recent years have clearly demonstrated that Megalopolises are rapidly moving beyond their territories and are turning into a new special product of modern urbanization - agglomerations. What is behind this concept, which is increasingly being analyzed by sociologists around the world? Andrei Margolin in his article gives the following definition, referring to the National Report: "Urban Development: Best Practices and Current Trends", Moscow, 2011:

*Agglomerations are "a system of compactly located and economically interconnected territories, united by sustainable labor, cultural, domestic and industrial ties, a common social and technical infrastructure, pooled land resources"*²

Probably, this very definition formed the basis for the project of creation the Moscow agglomeration, carried out for a year after the speech of Dmitry Medvedev at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in 2011. The idea was to radically change the focus of the development of the Moscow agglomeration - from the center outside the Moscow Ring Road and create a comfortable, modern, large-scale and competitive Megalopolis.

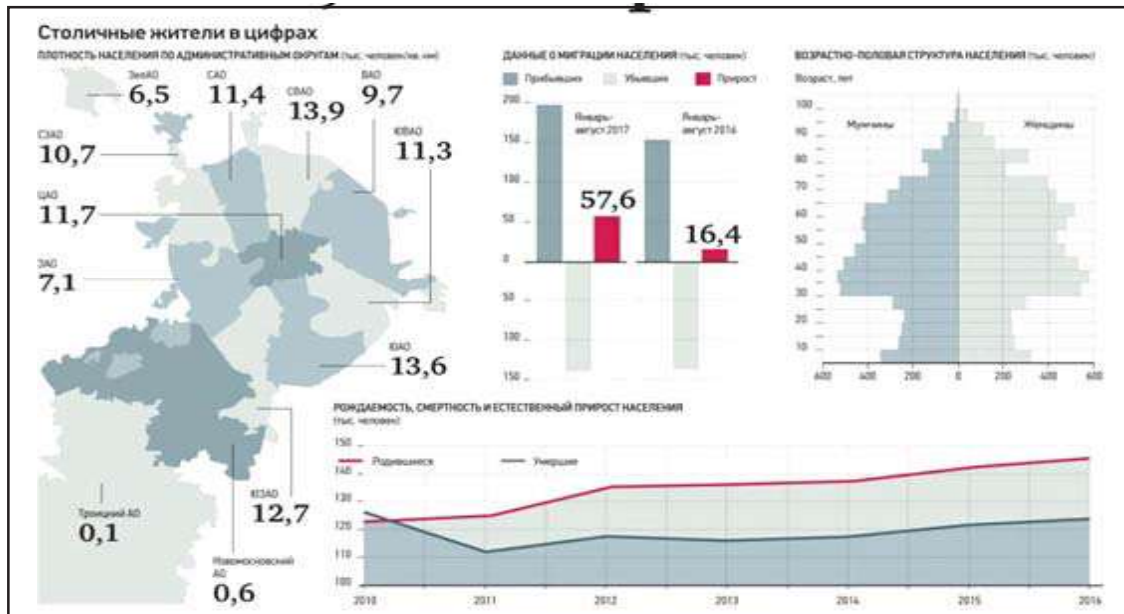
7 years have passed since the launch of the New Moscow project. Did the plan work? Were the key problems of Moscow mentioned at the beginning of the article resolved?

The average living space for each resident of the capital has not undergone major changes.

5 years after the launch of the New Moscow Project, the mayor of the city, Sergei Sobyenin, at the board of the Moscow construction complex on August 11, 2017, gave the following assessment of the situation:

"Housing in Moscow is the worst in the country and in the world. We have only 19 square meters. This is less per capita than in all regions of Russia. In addition, the condition of those houses were built 50-60 years ago is deteriorating and will become emergency in the coming years. Therefore, at the request of Muscovites, a renovation program for the Moscow housing stock was created. Now, instead of emergency buildings, Muscovites will receive new comfortable houses."³ So far, by the end of 2019, the program for the resettlement of dilapidated housing in Moscow has not yet been implemented.

The population density in "Old" Moscow did not decrease as expected, but increased, as a result so we can speak of a critical imbalance. The population density, and hence the development in different districts, can now differ by more than 100 times.



Infographic 1. Capital residents in numbers. Source: Evening Moscow

Table 2. Positive and negative factors of urbanization affecting the development of a Megalopolis

Positive Factors	Negative factors
• Concentration of people, industry, science, territories of recreational, health and sports nature, agricultural land; • The emergence of additional sparsely populated spaces, making it possible to resettle the overpopulated territories of the "old city"; • Residents' activities diversification; • Innovative development of territories; • Development of infrastructure in the affiliated territories; • Development of social services and cultural facilities in the affiliated territories.	• Environmental pollution; • Deficit of the basic budget; • Consumption of fixed capital; • Rapid construction of densely populated sleeping areas and infrastructure is not in time; • Lack of specialists from the social sphere in the affiliated territories (doctors, teachers, social workers, etc.); • The need for a competent managerial staff together with a lack of authority in decision-making by the administrative authorities; • The psychological gap in identity among residents of the affiliated territories, since they do not feel like full-fledged townspeople, metropolitan residents.

Other problems were planned to be overcome with the help of the New Moscow Project were not resolved:

- The federal authorities did not move to New Moscow (Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region of Moscow);

Table 3
The largest urban agglomerations in the world

S.N.	Name	Country	Population thousand pers. (2015)	Area, m ³
1	Tokyo-Yokohama	Japan	37843	8547
2	Jakarta	Indonesia	30539	3225
3	Delhi	India	24998	2072
4	Manila	Philippines	24123	1580
5	Seoul-Incheon	Rep. of Korea	23480	2266
6	Shanghai	China	23416	3820
7	Karachi	Pakistan	22123	945
8	Beijing	China	21009	3820
9	New-York	USA	20360	11642
10	Guangzhou-Foshan	China	20597	3432
11	Sao Paulo	Brasilia	20365	2707
12	Mexico	Mexico	20063	2072
13	Mumbai	India	17712	546
14	Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto	Japan	17444	3212
15	Moscow	Russia	16170	4662
16	Dhaka	Bangladesh	15669	360
17	Cairo	Egypt	15600	1761
18	Los Angeles	USA	15058	6299
19	Bangkok	Thailand	14998	2590
20	Calcutta	India	14667	1204
21	Buenos Aires	Argentina	14122	2681
22	Teheran	Iran	13532	1489
23	Istanbul	Turkey	13287	1360
24	Lagos	Nigeria	13123	907
25	Shenzhen	China	12084	1748

• Low-rise construction for the middle class has been replaced by modern multi-apartment buildings, and schools have turned into huge multi-thousand boarding schools where children are brought from the far borders of Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region;

- A labor migration of a daily nature did not stop, but intensified, due increasing the number of residents of the Administrative Region who continue working in “old” Moscow;
- Traffic problems on the main routes of the New Moscow were added to traffic jams inside the “old” Moscow.

The reasons for this situation are understandable. The fact is that any spasmodically growing metropolis absorbing small and large agglomerations, by definition, has not only advantages due to the integration of human and other resources, but also the “reverse side of the coin” - the negative. Highlighting the positive and negative factors of urbanization (see Table 2), which affect the development of the Megalopolis, we clearly see that Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region has not yet become an organic part of the “Big” Moscow. It is obvious that negative factors of influence on the development of the Megalopolis after the accession of new territories so far prevail. As attested to not only by the analysis of open sources, but also by the large cycle of

studies that were conducted in 2015-2017 in the territory of "New Moscow" at the request of the authorities of Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Region, where the author of the article was directly involved in the collection and analysis of data.

From the data shown in table 3, one may get the impression that third world countries are confidently overtaking Old Woman Europe and other territories of the world's advanced economies. However, this is not quite true.

As authoritative sources on the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies website write: "The trend for large agglomerations is largely outdated, reflecting the industrial type of development. It is for this reason that the forecast indicates the fact that by 2030 neither an increase in the number of large Megalopolises is expected in either Europe or North America".

And although, as Andrei Margolin writes in his article: "The concept of urbanization has gradually evolved from apocalyptic to pragmatic," however, the facts set forth in the already mentioned UN report indicate that the increase of Megalopolises is not the most positive trend of modernity:

- Firstly, this pattern is representative for developing countries and, first of all, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries (they are shown in bold italics in Table 3).
- Secondly, the developed countries of Europe have already passed this period of their development and even figured out the consequences of the social effects of the urbanization process.

Unfortunately, Russia is gravitating towards the trends of the countries of Africa and Asia, lagging behind the leading countries of Europe in social terms, as the megalopolises in our country are growing, and small and medium-sized cities of Russia are becoming smaller and are losing resources. The accession of new territories to Moscow in the form of two combined districts of the Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Administrative Region is a vivid example of the reflection of urban trends of the East on the life of our capital.

Notes and References

¹ Andrei Margolin article "The Development of Urban Agglomerations as a Factor in Increasing the Global Competitiveness of the State". Moscow 2015 <https://pa-journal.igsu.ru/articles/r102/3590/>

² An article on the speech of the Moscow Mayor at the board of the construction complex of the city "Sobyanin: Provision of housing in Moscow is the worst in both the country and the world" dated 11.08.17 <https://rg.ru/2017/08/11/reg-cfo/sobyanin-obespechennost-zhilem-v-moskve-huzhe-vseh-i-v-strane-i-v-mire.html>