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Planned migrations and the formation of new settlements in Vojvodina (Serbia)

Abstract Planned migrations represent the phenomenon of global proportions. Aim of this paper is critically discusses the causes and consequences of the state planned migrations in Vojvodina (Serbia), as well as the formation of new settlements through a planned migration, using different statistical data sources, selected empirical studies and cartographic methods.

Key words; Planned migrations, new settlements, Vojvodina, Serbia

Introduction

Migration is an event in time and space, Regularity of certain types of migration can be manifested in different ways. There are many definitions and divisions in the world literature (daily, seasonal, spontaneous, planned, village-town migrations, internal, external, voluntary, forced,...) (Brettell, 2015; Bara, Lajić, 2009; Hardwik 2015; Petersen 1958,...). Migrations also have own economic, socio-political, demographic, national goals, observed individually, but, most often, these goals are viewed in combination. Planned migration (colonization) stands out as one of the most important types of migration movements (in terms of scope and character) It is „a process in which administrative measures systematically organize the relocation of people mainly for the most rational distribution of population and distribution of material goods to other parts of the province or state (internal colonization), to neighboring countries (external colonization) or to other continents (overseas colonization)”. (Heršak, 1998: 106–107).

The subject of this paper is planned colonization in Vojvodina (Serbia). Vojvodina, as an area of considerable physical and economic potential, has always been attractive to various population groups. From the middle of the 17th to the middle of the 20th century, three large planned migrations were organized towards the territory of Vojvodina, which also have an impact on the current spatial, ethnic, socio-demographic composition of the population. The ethnic factor was an important determinant of migration to and from this geographical region. During that period, a

large number of new settlements were formed, different in ethnodemographic, economic and urban characteristics. Special attention is paid to the development of newly established settlements and their sustainability to this day

Austrian Hunngarian period

After the victory over the Ottoman Empire, the Austria Empire (in the late 17th and early 18th centuries). The Habsburg monarchy initiated state colonization. The main goal of colonization was economic, but it also had a politically strategic and national character¹, Settled by farmers, merchants and craftsmen (Germans, Hungarians, Jews, Slovaks, Romanians). The largest number of German colonist settlements is concentrated in western and central Bačka, southern and central Banat and western Srem The Hungarians inhabited parts of central and north and northwest Bačka, Tisza river area, and parts of Srem (figure 1)². The formation of new settlements was based on ethnic and religious principles. (Bjeljac, Ćurčić, 2020). in some settlements, in order to create a place for new settlers, the Serb population was forcibly evicted. The colonists received land, and in many cases houses. They were inhabited on state property or on private estates of the nobility.

There were two types of new settlements: settlements whose structure shows a certain, regular geometric scheme of the street network, and type of settlement with arbitrarily grouped straight streets (Kojić, 1961).

Period 1919-1933 (Kingdom of Yugoslavia)

After 1918, one of the newly created states was the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Kingdom of Yugoslavia). (Bjeljac, Lukić, 2008). Kingdom of SCS had included territories that had had different historical development as they had been part of Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Serbia and Kingdom of Montenegro. With the formation of the new state, there was a "conflict" of two types of agrarian ownership structure: capitalist and feudal. The complexity of agrarian relations was one of the reasons for initiating agrarian reform and colonization. Vojvodina, as a predominantly agricultural area was envisaged area of colonization. . The goals of agrarian reform and colonization was: economic, socio political, and national. It was organized in the period 1919-1933. year. The subjects of colonization included large holdings in the private sector, land holdings of members of the Habsburg dynasty, municipal and church properties, and state-owned holdings With the agrarian reform, the country was assigned to war veterans-

¹ there was not enough population in the newly acquired territories to be economically productive According to the incomplete census from 1715-1720, there were about 90,000 inhabitants (mostly Serbs) ((Janjetović, Selinić, 2017). One of the main goals was also, the assimilation of the Slavic and Hungarian population

² during colonization, as part of the official state policy was the process assimilation of the Slavic population

volunteers from the First World War, originating from the economically underdeveloped areas of Croatia, central Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. (Bjeljac, Lukić, 2008), According to various estimates, the number of colonists was about 100,000 (Erić, 1958). The process of colonization involved not only the establishment of individual farms and areas settled by migrants within the existing villages and towns, but also new settlements were formed. This was determined by the specific features of land and the size of the areas available for settling, as well as by the tendency to concentrate large number of colonists, especially in the areas where national colonization goals were pursued. Due to this, new settlements were established along the borders, and a number of them were established close to the settlements of ethnic minorities, along their boundaries. (Bjeljac, Lukić, 2008; Erić 1958) Upon arrival, before they managed to build their own homes, the settlers had lived in the former workers' auxiliary facilities at large estates and farms. The colonists build homes in their own way not considering building standards and the government did not regulate that area in order to make settlements uniform. The construction of houses was very slow due to the lack of material resources and construction materials, (Micić, 2013). According to research (Bjeljac, Lukić (2021), 99 distinct, small or large, grouped colonist settlements (farms, hamlets, parts of rural or urban settlements) were established as a result of the colonization conducted in 1919–1933. Almost all of them emerged during the first decade of the planned migration, More detailed research indicates (Bjeljac, Lukić, 2021) that 41 new settlements were built. The largest number is in north-western Bačka and northern and eastern Banat (figure 1). It is characteristic that the settlers in these settlements were originally from the same regions. According to Census in 1931. year, the colonists accounted for 6.1% of the total population of Vojvodina.

At the beginning of the Second World War, the Hungarian and German occupation authorities annulled the results of the agrarian reform in Vojvodina. Hungarian occupation authorities forcibly evict Serbian colonist villages in Bačka (about 30000) and interned them in Hungarian concentration camps (Barcs, Sárvár, Nagykanizsa) The goal was to create space for the planned settlement of Hungarians from Romania (about 20000 colonists). (Janjetović, Selinić 2017).

Period 1945-1948 (FNR Yugoslavia)

At the end of the Second World War, between 210,000 and 300,000 Germans and 20000 Hungarians, emigrated from Vojvodina. (cooperation with the occupying authorities, participation in the war on the side of the occupying forces, for war crimes (Bjeljac, Radovanović, 2016).

Immediately after the end of the Second World War, the temporary government of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia (FNR Yugoslavia) passed the Law on Agrarian Reform and Colonization. That document represents the foundation for alteration of

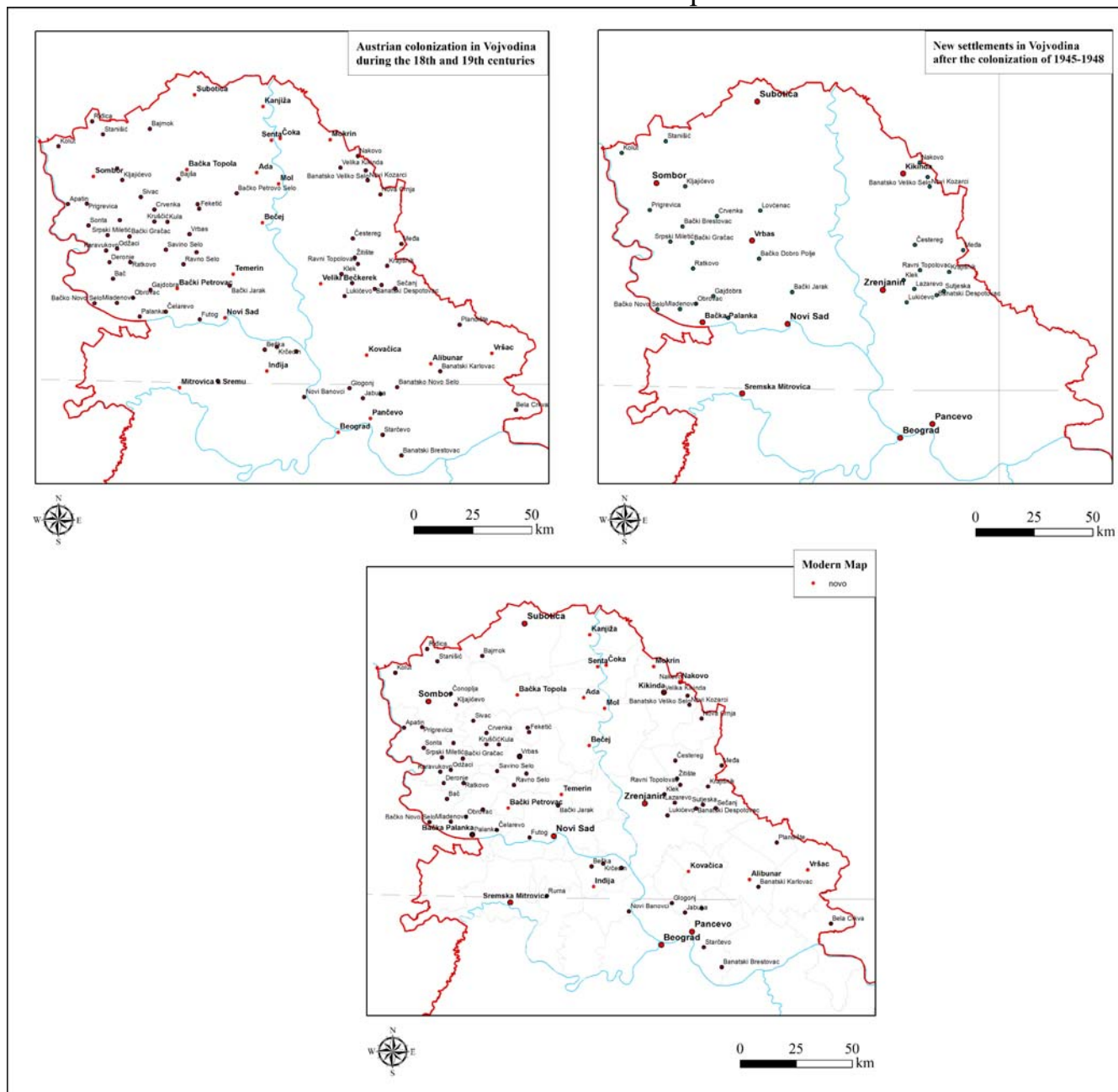
the existing structure of ownership in agriculture and colonization. In relation to the previous colonization and agrarian reform, it differed in the manner of implementation, goals and final results. There was a complete expropriation of private property, as well as property of banks, companies, church property. Each Yugoslav republic had its own number of colonist families and had its own region of immigration in Vojvodina. Landless people, People's Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia and members of the Yugoslav Army, with families and and victims of fascist terror had priority in the allocation of land. According to various studies, the number of colonists was between 210,000 and 240,000 (Bjeljac, Terzić 2016), and they settled in mostly abandoned 114 settlements. In 30 settlements, settlers represented over 75% of the total population (figure 1). In 12 settlements, the number of colonists made up over 90%. In relation to the total number of colonists in Vojvodina, in these 12 villages settled a little more than one-third of the colonists (35,58%). Ethno demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the colonists can be viewed as a criterion for the formation of new settlements, because compared to the previous period, the national, ethnographic, demographic and socio-economic and urban structure of the settlement has completely changed.

Conclusion

These colonizations affected changes in the network of settlements (formation of new settlements), demographic changes (population, natural increase, internal and external migrations, population structure (national, socio-economic, gender, age, education, etc), as well as economic, ethnographic and political changes. The analysis is based on 71 newly formed settlements, located in 23 municipalities in Vojvodina. Today, 62 settlements have survived. Over time, seven settlements established during the planned migration agglomerated with nearby larger settlements through the process of urbanization. In the total number of inhabitants of Vojvodina, the population in these settlements is 6.75%. Compared to the census periods of 1948 and 2011, only eight settlements recorded a constant increase in the number of inhabitants. (Kljajićevo, Prigrevica, Bački Jarak, Sirig, Čelarevo, Stajićevo, Veternik and Stepanovićevo). These settlements represent mixed housing suburban zone (residential suburban zone, with characteristic daily migrations), which are located in the gravity zones of the cities of Novi Sad, Subotica, Sombor and Zrenjanin. Since their inception, they also represent important economic centers (Prigrevica-spa tourism; Čelarevo - beer industry; Stajićevo-eco tourism; Bački Jarak and Stepanovićevo- crafts; entrepreneurship; Sirig, Kljajićevo-food industry; agriculture). Veternik had the largest population of those settlements (with metal industry, enterpreneurships, crafts, trade construction industry; agriculture; trade)

Other settlements are in the process of depopulation. (30.65% of settlements have up to 1000 inhabitants). Migrations village to town are very strong. Agriculture is the main activity.

Figure 1 – Maps of new settlements during Austrian colonization, after colonizations 1919-1933 and from modern period³



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³ Authors of maps in Figure 1, are Dr Radmila Jovanović (1., and 3) and Dr Milovan Milivojević (map 2)

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