

Abstract

The dissertation thesis covers the theme of the relationships between the changes of administrative borders and the peripherality of space on the territory of Czechia since the mid-19th century. The author first defines the fundamental objectives and discusses the bases of the research of changes of administrative borders in Czechia in the process of polarization of space, as well as the general background and approaches to the issue of borders and regions, while emphasizing the concept of inner peripheries and internal borderland.

The thesis attempts to contribute to the debate regarding: the importance of administrative borders of regions of different scales in the polarization of space; identification, analysis and evaluation of areas that changed their administrative affiliation at the level of mesoregions (regions) and microregions (districts) on the territory of Bohemia and the Vysočina Region in particular; evaluation of the degree of stability of administrative regions and stability of centers of these regions; and to assessment of the importance of the borders of regions in the context of problems associated with the development of peripheries. Discussion of changes in administrative borders and related development of territorial administration and local government places focuses on the period of "modern" administration after 1850 until the present time, specifically at various scale levels and especially in changing historical and social contexts. Attention is given to groundbreaking periods of eight administrative reforms. The thesis tracks the motivations and the progress of changes, the starting points and alternative proposals of the administrative structure, as well as the resulting solutions of the reforms (selection of centers, number of units, administrative authorities, representation). The following part of the thesis introduces the methodology for assessing the administrative affiliation of regions in the GIS environment. It is based on the processing of Czechia's historical administrative borders in the GIS environment and the subsequent identification and classification of territories that changed their territorial affiliation to higher administrative units. The coverage of changes in various chronological horizons captures the main stages of both the development of the administrative structure as well as of the entire country, and reflects the available data base (1928–1938/1939 provincial system, 1949–1960 regional structure, 1960–2000 regional structure, and from the year 2000 until today), and, in terms of scale, the microregional (districts) and mesoregional (regions) levels. Resulting database of administrative borders covers territory of Bohemia and a part of Moravia and may be utilized for the conversion of spatial data from historical sources, the creation of reconstruction maps of boundaries and administrative units all the way to the level of individual cadastral units. Using this database and its cartographic visualization, it was possible to identify territories near especially regional borders, which frequently changed their affiliation to hierarchically higher centers, went through specific developments in terms of territorial administration and form relatively large areas of inner peripheries – internal borderland. The author defined a total of 28 microregions of interest on the territory of Bohemia and the Vysočina Region that meet these criteria. For each territory, a reconstruction map and a diagram of changes in administrative borders and territorial affiliation (from 1868 to the present) was created. The microregions of interest were subject to several analyses with a view to their classification. The author used cluster analysis and assigned scores to the peripherality of territories and the phases of institutionalization according to Paasi (1986). In the final part of the thesis, the author discusses the

effects of the boundaries of administrative regions on the basis of “hard” data (transport accessibility and services in peripheral areas) and evaluates the forming of relations and linkages in the area of inner peripheries compared to other territories within Czechia (cooperation within local action groups and club activity on the basis of membership in the Football Association of the Czech Republic).

Presented research results demonstrate that the effects of administrative borders are similar to those in the case of national borders. It is therefore possible to view the areas of inner peripheries as internal borderland.

Keywords: border – borderland – periphery – outer and inner periphery – internal borderland
public administration – local administration – regional development