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**INFLUENCE OF THE FACTOR OF JAPAN'S GEOGRAPHICAL
POSITION ON ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Japan is an eastern country that is famous for its national cultural traditions and at the same time is a country of high technology. To date, Japan is among the highly developed powers. A distinctive feature of the country of the Rising Sun is the high position in the world economy, despite the fact that the country is poor in mineral resources. Due to the correct solution of economic problems arising from natural conditions and geographical location, Japan in a short time was able to join the club of economically developed world powers and become one of the largest exporting countries. The article analyzes the features of Japan's economic and geographical location. The problems caused by the economic and geographical location of the country and their impact on economic development are considered. Particular attention is paid to the policy of the state, which in a different direction wisely used its weaknesses in geography, and was able to bring its economy to the highest level.

Key words: Japan, economic and geographical situation, kudoka, scientific and technological progress, manufacturing industry.

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Жапон экономикалық дамуына оның географиялық орналасу факторының әсері

Жапония – өзінің ұлттық мәдени дәстүрлерімен әлемге әйгілі болуымен қатар, технологиялары жоғары дамыған мемлекет болып саналады. Қазіргі кезде Жапония жоғары деңгейде дамыған державалардың бірі болып табылады. Пайдалы қазбаларға кедей ел болғанына қарамастан, әлемдік экономикада жоғары орын алуы Күншығыс елінің ерекшелігі болып табылады. Табиғи жағдайлары мен географиялық орналасу жағдайынан пайда болған экономикалық мәселелерді дер кезінде, дұрыс шешуі арқылы Жапония аз уақыттың ішінде экономикалық жағынан дамыған әлемдік державалардың қатарына қосылып, ең ірі экспорттаушы мемлекеттердің біріне айнала алды. Мақалада Жапонияның экономикалық-географиялық жағдайының ерекшеліктеріне талдау жасалынады. Елдің экономикалық-географиялық жағдайынан шыққан мәселелер қарастырылып, олардың елдің экономикалық дамуына әсері қарастырылады. Өзінің географиялық жағдайының әлсіз тұстарын әр түрлі бағытта, тиімді түрде қолдануы арқылы экономикасын жоғары деңгейге көтере алған мемлекеттің саясатына ерекше көңіл бөлінеді.

Түйін сөздер: экономикалық-географиялық жағдай, кудока, ғылыми-техникалық прогресс, өңдеуші өнеркәсіп.

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Влияние фактора географического расположения Японии на его экономическое развитие

Япония – восточная страна, которая славится своими национальными культурными традициями и в то же время является страной высоких технологий. На сегодняшний день Япония входит в число высокоразвитых держав. Отличительной чертой страны Восходящего солнца является высокое положение в мировой экономике, несмотря на то, что страна бедна на полезные ископаемые. Благодаря правильному решению экономических проблем, появившихся вследствие природных условий и географического положения, Япония за короткое время смогла вступить в клуб экономически развитых мировых держав и стать одной из крупнейших стран-экспортеров. В статье проводится анализ особенностей экономико-географического расположения Японии. Рассматриваются проблемы, порожденные экономико-географическим расположением страны, и их влияние на экономическое развитие. Особое внимание уделяется политике государства, которое в разном направлении грамотно использовало свои слабости географического положения и смогло вывести свою экономику на высший уровень.

Ключевые слова: Япония, экономико-географическое положение, кудока, научно-технический прогресс, обрабатывающая промышленность.

Introduction

Until now, Japan, which suffered a severe defeat in the war and suffered immense material and economic damage, is admired by the whole world, because, in a relatively short time, the country has become a first-rate economic power leading in many fields of industry and commerce, science and technology.

The unprecedented rates of industrial development that have been achieved annually by the Japanese economy for three decades are still being studied by economists from all over the world. They are cited as an example and point the way for developing countries. Japan's industrial development and economic growth are interesting as a unique phenomenon of the present, but especially impressive results achieved by Japan, if we take into account the obvious unfitness of the geographical and climatic conditions in which this country had to develop.

This article examines the impact of Japan's economies and geographic location on its economic development. It is necessary to disclose such a concept as the economic and geographical situation.

The economic-geographical position (EGP) is a category of economic geography, the most specific for it. EGP is characterized by a combination of geographic, economic and historical features of the territory and therefore is a strategic resource of the state.

Economic and geographical position indicates the country's place on the economic map. The most

important element of geographical research is the establishment and analysis of the links between objects located in space, determined precisely by their location.

To give an estimation to EGP means to determine the position relating to:

- The main centers of the world economy, market (market-geographic position);
- Neighboring countries;
- International transport routes (transport and geographical position);

In economic geography, the position of the territory has to be determined not only in relation to physical-geographical data, that is, to mountains, rivers, seas, etc., which can also have its economic significance, but also in relation to conditions created by human hands in the process of history. For economic geography, the position of the given country (or region, city, generally investigated range) is extremely important for roads, markets, major centers (industrial, commercial, administrative, cultural). The concept of "economic and geographical position" is key for the entire system of geographical sciences.

The concept of EGP was introduced into the science by N.N. Baranskyj, he returned to it many times, expanding and deepening his content. His work was subsequently continued by Nikolai Nikolaevich Kolosovsky and Isaak Moiseevich Maergoyz. A significant contribution to the development of the concept of EGP was made by Saushkin Yu.G., Mashbits Ya.G., Leizerovich E.E. and other scientists.

According to N.N. Baranskyj, EGP is the attitude of any place, district or city to outside of its lying objects, which have this or that economic significance, whether these objects are of a natural order or objects created in the process of human economic activity. (Maergoyz I.M., 1981: 18).

The economic-geographical position is a category of space, since the elements forming it are spatially interrelated, that is, objects located at a certain distance from each other (countries, regions, enterprises, cities, sources of raw materials, fuel, etc.). It is in relation to the territory that the central, internal (deep), peripheral (marginal) and so-called border position of an object are distinguished. They also distinguish between the elements of production and the non-productive sphere: transport-geographical (including maritime), industrial-geographical, agro-industrial, market, demographic, recreational and geographical. (Maergoyz I.M., 1986).

Let us consider the most important components of the situation as a relation to the elements of social production.

Transport-geographical position (TGP) is a position in relation to the routes of communication, taking into account: their capacity, the degree of congestion and the cost of transportation. Therefore, in order to evaluate the TGP, one must understand the technique and economy of transport. TGP very quickly changes due to intensive road construction.

Industrial and geographical position: with relates to energy sources, position relative to the centers of manufacturing industry, as well as scientific and technical bases.

Agro-geographical position – the situation relative to food bases and important centers of consumption of agricultural products. The degree of profitability of the agro-geographical position can be expressed in the form of differential rent, which is created by the agro-geographical position.

Market position (or sales / geographic) is the position relative to the sales markets for consumer goods for industrial purposes (especially the zones for the sale of coal, ferrous metals, etc. – zonal position). This kind of provision is closely related to the pricing policy.

Demographic situation. There can be two divisions: with respect to labor resources; concerning scientific and technical personnel.

Recreational and geographical location. This kind of position is manifested through the factor of time and transport costs of tourists – “economic remoteness”, “psychological distance” have not small importance.

EGP in relation to the territory.

Central functions are functions in relation to the surrounding area. They have a certain hierarchy. The central position – with other things being equal – is the most profitable. The central position gives great savings on communications, on all types of services.

The peripheral and deep position is largely conditional. These two distinct categories of EGP have unequal importance for different objects studied in economic geography. The complexity of their perception and analysis is not the same. A known difficulty in evaluating the EGP of the economic region, including those named above, creates the fact that the economic region is not always a clearly limited object. Peripheral, or marginal, position is an essential feature of the EGP of the region, which has a very tangible effect on the activity, pace, nature and methods of economic development of the area. Correct and profound evaluation of the peripheral position of the district is important for the development of the concept of the district, the choice of ways to develop its economy and the orientation of its economic ties.

Since the peripheral situation proves to be at the same time a border location, it is important for the region that possesses it to assess the international EGP. Such an examination is extremely important for determining the program for using the resources of the district. Here the most important element is the nature of borders, relations between countries.

EGP directly affects to the economic development of the territory. It is divided into such categories as “profitable” and “unprofitable” position. (Zemtsov S.P., Baburin V.L., 2016: 117). Basically it is considered that the territories with “profitable” EGP are developing more and more quickly. But, in the case of Japan, this is completely different. Despite the fact that Japan's economic and geographic situation is unfavorable, it was able to use this for a profitable economic development of the country. There are several factors proving this.

Methods

The research was based on historical-comparative and historical-system methods of scientific research. Economic-statistical analysis and data analysis in the field of economic geography were also conducted. A problem-chronological method was used to study the state's activity in its gradual economic development.

Main body

The area of Japan is only 378 thousand square km., with a population approaching 130 million people. (9th in the world) and its average density of 341 people per 1 sq. km. And this is despite the fact

that about 3/4 of the territory of Japan is occupied by mountains up to 3000 m high and higher. The steepness of the slopes in most cases exceeds 15°, so that the mountainous terrain is practically unsuitable for development. A significant part of the mountain peaks of Japan is volcanoes. Their number is about 150, of which 15 are active. Also, the country is a zone of increased seismic activity – up to 1,500 earthquakes a year. The territory of the country is strongly crossed, which makes it difficult to build roads, create communications. Plains occupy a very small area. The most common of these are small lowlands and plains on the sea coast, as well as narrow river valleys, which are the centers of concentration of life, excessive concentration of population and economic activities. And the limited territory makes the Japanese create artificial islands.

Also associated with the natural conditions, the economic problem of Japan is almost complete dependence on the import of mineral raw materials. In particular, Japan's dependence on imported raw materials is characterized by the following indicators: iron ore – 99%, manganese – 100%, chromites – 100%, bauxites – 99%, copper – 99.9%, lead – 94.1%, zinc – 85, 3%, nickel – 100%, cobalt – 100%, tungsten – 100%, tin – 100%, phosphates – 100%. There are small reserves of coal, oil (reserves – 200 million tons, annual production – about 0.8 million tons – 0.2% of own needs) and gas. (Nikolaev A. V., 2006: 236).

Due to the profitable solution of economic problems that appeared after the natural conditions, Japan in a short time became a country with a high economic position, and one of the largest exporting countries. One of the factors of this development was a truly colossal saving money for the development of their own R&D through the acquisition of foreign licenses and patents. In addition, during this period, the prices for energy carriers and mineral raw materials were relatively low. It was also important that Japan at that time had a cheaper labor force compared with other developed countries. In addition, Japan after the defeat in the war had the right to spend on defense no more than 1% of GDP, which released additional funds for development.

The lack of raw materials in Japan sent it to the path of creating non-extractive and manufacturing industries. Therefore, Japan is considered one of the major importing countries of raw materials.

Japan's economic achievements are primarily related to the development of the manufacturing industry. Japan was forced to increase the volume of imports of raw materials and fuel for the development of industry. Taking advantage of the stability of raw

material prices, and in some years cheapness, Japan decided to import raw materials and organize a full cycle of its processing. Thus, the sphere of heavy industry developed in Japan.

Since the 1950s, Japan began an intensive process of renewing fixed capital in key industries, such as ferrous metallurgy, oil refining, electrical engineering, shipbuilding, the chemical, and textile and food industries. Both the reconstruction of old industries and the creation of new ones were mainly based on imports of foreign technology. Thus, in the period 1950-1971, Japan acquired over 15 thousand patents and licenses abroad. At the same time, as a rule, the technologies acquired abroad were thoroughly elaborated by Japanese companies, brought to perfection, and as a result, in many cases, the equipment produced in Japan by purchased technologies outperformed Western counterparts. In 1960-1970 the technical level of Japanese industry was already one of the highest in the world. The demand for machines, equipment, building materials and other investment goods, which grew from year to year, was accompanied by an increasing concentration of investment and production in the heavy industry.

Economic growth, with an emphasis on the development of heavy industries, in addition to undeniable positive results, had a number of negative consequences. The main among them was pollution in a huge scale of the environment with waste energy and material-intensive industries. Not only was the nature of the Japanese islands under the threat, but also the health of the population. In Japan, there were diseases that had not happened before (“itai-itai”, “minamata”), caused by the accumulation of mercury and heavy metal salts in seafood as a result of the regular discharge of wastewater into reservoirs.

1973 The energy crisis hindered the development of the Japanese economy. Having led to a sharp rise in prices for raw materials and energy in world markets, it undermined the foundations of the previous mechanism of economic growth based on involving in production in ever increasing volumes of raw materials, fuel and energy. But also the energy crisis positively influenced, giving significant acceleration to the processes of restructuring the Japanese economy, and also changed the very approach to this problem. Since the 1970s, the creation of a structure with low energy and material intensity has been proclaimed as the main direction of development of the Japanese economy.

Together with this, after the energy crisis of 1973-1974, the radical restructuring of Japan's energy

industry began. Its main direction was the maximum reduction in the dependence of the country's energy balance on oil through the development of alternative energy sources – coal, hydrogen, geothermal energy, tidal energy, solar energy, wind, and the development of nuclear energy. It is important to say about this direction, in connection with the fact that the activities of Japanese industry are directly related to energy. Work on alternative energy sources was integrated into the national program “Sunlight” and became an object of priority financing from the state. Thus, it can be concluded that Japan's poverty in mineral resources has a significant impact on several industries developing the Japanese economy.

By the end of the 1980s, significant changes had taken place in the industry structure of Japanese industry. First, the share of machine-building industries (primarily electric machine building) increased significantly, from 33.4% in 1973 to 38.2% in 1989. Secondly, the share of energy- and material-intensive industries has decreased. In general, the share of raw-material-type industries declined from 42.7% in 1973 to 37.0% in 1989, while the share of processing branches rose from 57.3% to 63.0%, respectively.

Rising commodity prices on the world market and a small amount of Japan's own raw materials made it develop in a different direction. Thus, the main factor in the development of the Japanese economy in the 1970s was scientific and technological progress. An important feature of the development of Japanese industry in the second half of the 1970s and 1980s was a significant increase in the technical level of production based on the intensive use of scientific and technical progress (STP). And this process took place in all sectors – old and new, stagnant and fast-growing.

According to the calculations of the Office of Economic Planning of Japan, if during the period 1971-1975 the contribution of the factor STP to the economic growth in industry averaged about 20%, then in 1976-1980 – about 70%, and in 1981-1985 and 1986-1990 biennium – about 60%. This allows us to conclude that after the crisis of 1974-1975 in Japanese industry there was a transition from an industrial to a postindustrial system of productive forces based on a sharp increase in the use of NTP achievements. (The economy of Japan., 2008: 49).

Thus, the Japanese industry, through the introduction of scientific and technological progress, achieved high results in the areas of raw materials and energy saving.

The second half of the 1970s and 1980s became a period of deep and large-scale restructuring for

the Japanese industry. By the end of the 1980s, the image of the Japanese industry had radically changed. If in the mid-1970s it was mainly formed by the medium-level science-intensive industries (automotive, consumer electronics, shipbuilding, steel production), in the late 1980s and early 1990s – by primarily high-tech industries. At that time, Japan accounted for about 2/3 of world production of robots, almost half of CNC machines and products of pure ceramics, about 3/4 of the world's output of ultra-large integrated circuits, 60.0 to 90.0% of the production of individual types of microprocessors, etc. Japan's share in world exports of high-tech products reached 24.0% and was equal to the United States share. All of the above is indicative of Japan's economic development.

Another disadvantage of the geographical location of Japan is that it is a small country by area. This factor pushed Japan to improve its infrastructure. Compared with other developed countries, in Japan there are many more territorial disproportions. The territorial concentration of Japan's industrial forces is surprising, compared to the countries of Western Europe, close in area to Japan. The bulk of the population and workers in the industrial sector are located on the Pacific belt.

Because of the small territory and environmental damage, Japan began the process of exporting plants abroad. The term “kudoka” (lit. “leaching”, “emasulation”) in Japanese economic literature is used to designate the process of exportation of production abroad.

The export of capital by Japanese companies for the purpose of setting up enterprises abroad has become quite widespread in the 1970s. Then the main direction of foreign investment was the Asian countries, where Japan transferred one after the other “lower” floors of its industrial structure (production of textiles, food products, garments, metals, chemical fertilizers, various household electrical and electronics, etc.), mastering and developing on its own territory more and more complex types of production. (Lebedeva I.P., 2012: 8). There are positive aspects of the export of factories abroad for Japan such as: harm reduction of the environment; cheapness of labor abroad; the emergence of additional income; opening new markets for goods and services; strengthening economic and political influence;

The term “kudoka” arose precisely in the second half of the 1980s due to the huge scale of capital export abroad. Since the early 1980s, investments in the creation of enterprises in the

United States and Western European countries have quickly become a way to alleviate trade disagreements and overcome the barriers that have been built in the way of Japanese goods, as well as the establishment of various forms of cooperation between Japanese and Western firms. The creation by Japanese companies of enterprises abroad was sharply accelerated in the mid-1980s as a result of the rapid appreciation of the yen against the US dollar and other world currencies.

In fact, Asian countries have although become the second production base in Japan, which supplies not only a wide range of consumer goods to the Japanese market, but also details and components for a number of assembly plants in Japanese industry. However, the priority object of foreign investment of Japanese firms were developed countries like the USA, China, and Western Europe.

Over time, the process of “kudoka” revealed a number of negative aspects. They can be considered on the example of the automotive industry. In the automotive industry, the removal of production abroad was significant in the 1980s, and by the beginning of the 1990s foreign branches of Japanese companies produced 3 million cars a year, which was just under a quarter of domestic production. However, during this period, in parallel with the development of foreign production, the scale of domestic production of cars continued to grow. At this stage, foreign production only supplemented the domestic capacity.

However, at the turn of the 1980s-1990s there was a “breakdown” of this model, and in subsequent years, the growth of foreign production of Japanese automotive companies was accompanied by an absolute reduction in domestic production. In other words, in the 1990s, the removal of production abroad by automotive companies literally became a process of “washing away”, “emasculating” automobile production from the industrial structure of the country. A powerful impetus to the development of the “kudoka” in the automotive industry was given by the acquisition of large blocks of shares of Japanese firms by foreign companies. As of 2005, of the eight largest automotive companies, only one – Toyota – has retained its independence from foreign capital, the rest have become dependent companies of foreign companies.

Among the most obvious social and economic consequences of the “kudoka” in the automotive industry are mass layoffs, the destruction of the existing system of production linkages between parent companies and their many subcontractors among small and medium-sized firms, and a

reduction in the absolute size of the central and local budgetary tax base.

The consequences of the “kudoka” and of the subcontracting enterprises working on the assembly plants of the parent companies are very dramatic. Reducing the volume of orders, not to mention the closure of assembly plants of parent companies, not only puts subcontractors in an extremely difficult situation, but also impacts on the lives of local communities in general.

Finally, as a result of the “kudoka”, the absolute size of the tax base is reduced, which is especially sensitive for the budgets of those cities and regions where the assembly plants of parent companies are located.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Japan has proved the main essence of the post-industrial society – not necessarily the country should have a rich source of raw materials in order to prosper. Japan, despite its unfavorable economic and geographical situation, achieved striking results. In comparison with Japan, the economic and geographical position of Kazakhstan is much better. Therefore, Kazakhstan has great opportunities for development.

Due to the fact that Japan at various times, in different directions, competently used its weaknesses in geography, it was able to bring its economy to the highest level. The development of the economy was greatly influenced by the following factors: effective use of foreign economic assistance; massive renewal of fixed capital; expansion of the domestic market; wide use of foreign scientific and technical achievements, purchase of patents.

The country’s economy functions not on its own energy and raw materials base, but on imports, lives and develops through the processing of imported resources and the export of high-quality products with “added value”, the revenue for which more than covers the cost of imports and is a source of capital accumulation. Rich Japan is increasingly becoming an exporter of not only goods, but also capital. Keeping the role of world leader in many important areas of scientific and technological progress, Japan at the same time demonstrates an extremely high degree of adaptation to the constantly changing conditions of economic development.

Thus, the unparalleled “Japanese phenomenon” has shown the path from the post-war weak state to the level of the post-industrial state.

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