

THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FROM THE CRITICAL PHYSICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT.

Nowhere in the world ideal physical-geographical spaces for the spacial placement of settlements are to be met. Relatively, we could talk only about the very favourable spaces, favourable, less favourable and unfavourable. In Romania's case, the geographical position and the physical features of the space meet the conditions for the unfolding of some complex and permanent human activities. On the background of a territorial general loan, the disfavoured areas from the point of view of settlements' placement (Curvature Subcarpathians, Tutovei Hillock, South of Dobrogea Tableland, Baraganului Plain, Danube Delta) appear as a result of violent and frequent manifestations of some physical-geographical phenomena that induce severe territorial lack of poises by the economic damage and the loss of human lives they produce. Such regions are defined as critical physical-geographical areas. They are characterized by specific forms of habitation and economic capitalization, that show, of a majority, provisional states, induced as a result of uncertainty.

Introduction

The geographical spaces which are critical because of the physical frame occupy 24.700 km². That is more than 10% of our national area. The critical states are due because of the violent and frequent manifestation of some phenomenos, such as:

- earthquakes associate with some lithological substratum very tectonical (The Curvature Subcarpathians)
- long droughts (The Tableland of South Dobrogea, The Plain of Baragan)
- landslidings (The Hillock of Tutova)
- floods (The Danube Delta).

The analysis of critical spaces

The Curvature Subcarpathians are presented like a relief shape which is characterized by a high level of breaking up (depression areas and peaks which often are more than 800 m. altitude) and powerful erosional processes. This fact was generated a landscape of "bad-land" type. The flat areas are restricted, so the highly process of tectonic influence led in many situations to a selting of the layers almost on a vertical position. The lithological layer which consists of clays and gritstones as well as general tectonic makes possible the erosional processes of this area.

Speaking of this area one can see that is a very high level of rural potential and also a very weak level of communications.

The settlements which are mainly on the edge of the layers or on the side of the mountains have the most critical aspects.

The adaptation consists of achieving some light buildings from local materials such as clay which will be rebuild with smaller expenses after the earthquakes or landslidings.

The confort and as well the esthetics show the traditional characteristics.

The Plain of Baragan and the South Dobrogea's Tableland are regions of the steppe. To some fertile soils are opposite the lack of water and the frequent droughts. The underground waters are about 70 – 80 m. deep and because of them the settlements are around the wells.

The irrigation systems which were built under the communist system are now destroyed, so that these two areas become so called "critical areas". This fact is illustrated by the decreasing level of the agricultural production/ha. (for example in Slobozia the wheat production/ha decreased for 4000 – 5000kg/ha to 900-1000 kg/ha), this production being like the one of some states which are undeveloped from economical point of view.

The progress of these settlements is linked by the possibility of ensuring the irrigation water. This water is used not only for biological needs, but also for the people who already have an agricultural field, due to the latest law measures.

The Hillocks of Tutova belong to the Tableland of Barlad. The rural process of this area is prevailing.

The settlements are usually developing as rows which are like some extensions on the valleys, the homes being exposed to the landslidings, because of a specific structure (clays and sands).

In the Curvature Subcarpathians the way in which the houses are building is typical. The monolithic foundations are from reinforced concrete, but they are only a few. Most of the buildings are damaged or in a very advanced process of destruction.

The Danube Delta is a very special territory in Europe, because of its original shape, an association of landshores within delta, due of its exotic landscape and also regarding the biological variation. Because of all these reasons the Danube Delta is decreed as biosphera rezervation.

Compared with sea's level, the landshore within delta are getting up at altitudes between 2 and 8 m., the land being 13% of all the Danube Delta surface at the medium levels of the river.

The existence of the settlements is exclusively on the landshore within delta, which represents the shore of the delta.

The higher oscillations of the river, especially in spring time, is the most frequent cause of flooding the settlements.

The elimination of flood's effects or theirs decreasing can be done in two ways: technical and adaptation one and the other of spatial point of view.

The technical solution could be the organization of the settlements only on the landshore within delta axis. But in this case the settlements are removing from the main branches, so they are very isolated.

Summary and Conclusions

The settlements which are in the critical geographical areas know a bigger decline than the others.

They are territories of second and third category.

The governmental efforts for supporting this territories are very big. But some results are only in the drying areas by fitting out the irrigations' system and also by giving back the land to their owners.

These areas are counting a demographic decline, which is faster because of a weak economic evolution compared with other regions of the country.

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Fig.1. The critical physical-geographical territories in Romania.



THE MAINS CRITICAL PHYSICAL- GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORIES IN ROMANIA