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D.V. NIKOLAENKO, PhD, Doctor Habilitatus
Brno, Czech Republic
e-mail: Dr.dmitry.2022@gmail.com
<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-4173-6669>

THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHERS IN THE MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THEIR STATE: FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT¹

The Russian scientific geographical community has consistently supported its aggressive regime throughout the entire duration of the war against Ukraine. The war is redefining the perception of science and altering the representation of the scientific community. Putin's Russia presents a recent illustration of this impact within the Russian scientific community. An in-depth examination of Russian geographical science during the era of Putinism holds substantial relevance beyond mere abstraction. In the case of Ukraine, a distinct practical context exists. The scientific geographical community in the Russian Federation has demonstrated a notable lack of effectiveness. The extensive body of Russian research concerning Ukraine has resulted in the development of a fundamentally incorrect image of the neighboring country. Russia's aggression towards another state consistently presents a "rationale" that appears to be grounded in a systematic analysis. The process of making decisions about wars in Russia is characterized by its duration and collective nature. The involvement of the scientific community is significant in this matter. The area of the prospective victim is thoroughly analyzed. For many decades, Russian geographers have been consistently ahead of the Russian army. An examination of the

¹ Автор висловлює щирю вдячність ВД «Академперіодика» та особисто директору Анні Радченко за допомогу в редакторському опрацюванні матеріалу.
На сайті журналу надано повний переклад статті українською мовою.

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scientific geographical research conducted within the Russian state can provide useful information into the actions and strategies this state may employ concerning neighboring territories. The post-Soviet space does not have an integrated scientific geographical community that functions solely as a professional association. Russian geographers do not function as colleagues. They consistently operate in support of their aggressive state and engage in its military conflicts. The engagement of Russian geographers in the execution of assertive initiatives under Putin's leadership aligns with anticipated trends. The Russian scientific geographical community exhibits a range of strengths and weaknesses. This is as a focal point for Ukrainian experts in the fields of science about science and geographical science to conduct their research.

Keywords: *scientific geographical community, military factor in the development of science, totalitarian state, the evolution of science in Russia, metageography.*

Introduction. Numerous implicit facets are obviously neglected in the advancement of geographical science — one of them is the active involvement of geographers in warfare. War is, among other factors, associated with the evaluation of hostile territory referred to as a “theater of operations.” Ukraine emerged as this “theater” in 2014. Following February 24, 2022, the Ukrainian theater of operations emerged as a worldwide concern.

During the entire course of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Russian scientific geographical community has been engaged in efforts that support the Putin regime. It regards the outcomes of Putin's Russia's aggressive policies as standard practice. The aggressive strategies employed by the Russian Federation regarding Ukraine are significantly impacting the progression of scientific endeavors. The war has created an entirely novel view of science and the scientific community. Historical instances of warfare illustrate numerous examples of how the policies of an aggressive state impact its scientific community. Putin's Russia and the Russian scientific community present a contemporary case study.

The examination of Russian geographical science during the era of Putinism holds implications beyond mere abstraction. In the case of Ukraine, a distinct practical context is evident. A thorough examination of this issue is crucial for successfully combating this aggressive state. It is evident that there are several shortcomings and unsuccessful strategies that have been actively pursued in Putin's Russia. Many failures are specifically linked to the evolution of Russian geographical science, which appears to be aligned with the objectives of Putinism and its ambitious global aspirations to create something unparalleled in the world. The scientific geographical community within the Russian Federation has demonstrated a notable lack of effectiveness and a significant body of Russian research on Ukraine has resulted in the development of a completely faulty image of the neighboring country.

The objective of the article. This article seeks to examine the effects of the Russian Federation's aggression towards Ukraine on the progression of geo-

graphical science within the country. A relationship is evident between Russia's assertive policy and the engagement of its scientific community. Russia's aggression against another state always has a "scientific" justification, and the process of making decisions about wars in Russia is characterized by its length and collective nature. The scientific community is engaged in this endeavor. The area of the prospective victim is meticulously examined. A rationale is presented asserting that Russia's actions in this conflict are "justified" and that "Russia has no alternative." The justification for war, particularly regarding Russia, must consistently incorporate a strategy for the transformation of the territory designated as the target. The objective of these conflicts is to reshape the territory of the prospective adversary into a more favorable and accommodating environment for Russia. Investigating the latest manifestations of this Russian aggressive approach towards neighboring states is crucial.

Research methods and sources of information. Since 1978, I have been involved in scientific research focused on geography. Throughout the Soviet era, the primary scientific interactions occurred with research institutions located in Moscow and Leningrad (Saint Petersburg). I defended my PhD dissertation there in 1983, and then I got my Professor degree in 1999. I held a position as a professor at the Faculty of Geography and Geoecology at St. Petersburg State University for a brief period. Following that, I relocated to the Republic of South Africa.

During the post-Soviet period, there were present significant connections with the Russian geographical community. I have been acquainted with a significant number of Russian geographers who occupy prominent roles in Putin's geographical science for the past 40 to 45 years. During our post-graduate studies, we engaged in significant scientific communication and collaboration.

The research method can be characterized as a form of participant observation conducted over an extended duration. A significant portion of the work conducted by geographers remains unpublished. This has been a consistent practice in the USSR and continues to be prevalent in contemporary Russia. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of Russian geographical science necessitates substantial personal interaction with those who apply it.

The information is derived from a comprehensive collection of publications focused on geographical subjects pertaining to the USSR and the Russian Federation. An understanding of the methodologies employed in conducting geographical research is also present. Concerning the theme of "geography of war and peace," as this concept was articulated in the USSR, I have been acquainted with it since the Soviet era. The research was carried out at the Institute of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

An in-depth understanding of the philosophy of science was crucial in the execution of the research. Following the unsuccessful outcomes of my initial geographical research projects, attention transitioned to metageogra-

phy. It appears to be a structured examination of geographical science intended to enhance the execution of scientific research and address urgent issues more efficiently [1]. During the mid to late 1980s, a variant of metageography emerged, connected to the examination of what I identified as pathological forms of scientific geographical research [2].

Analysis of research and publications. The phenomenon of conflict is examined through a systematic prism within the field of geographical science. There is a significant number of publications by geographers regarding the subject of war. The lack of a prevailing standard for conducting geographical research on war, its consequences, and the involvement of geographers in military activities is evident. The primary characteristic of these geographical studies is that the analysis of military activities is predominantly tied to historical occurrences [3].

The literature on the involvement of the geographical expert community in conflicts is notably sparse. There are only a limited number of examples of such publications that can be referenced. E.g., a monograph exists from the Soviet era detailing the involvement of Soviet geographers in World War II [4].

The English-language scientific literature provides a more detailed examination of the role of geographers in warfare. The example of the notable American geographer Kenneth Olson can be referenced. In his early career, he was called to serve and took part in the Vietnam War. A significant portion of his research is anti-war and focuses on the environmental repercussions stemming from this war. His articles meticulously examine the scientific considerations regarding the involvement of scientists broadly, and geographers specifically, in military operations [5]. The analysis includes not only examples from the Vietnam War but also a thorough examination of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine. The discussion focuses on the historical lessons derived from the Vietnam War and examines the potential contributions of geographers in minimizing environmental losses [6].

In discussing the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine, it is noteworthy to observe the significant lack of scholarly publications pertaining to the Russian geographical community.

Following the onset of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, I decisively shifted the focus of my research. The relativist concept of political geography that emerged in Russia has undergone comprehensive examination. I also carried out a detailed examination of the activities of several leading Russian geographers who advocate for Putinism and examined a variety of scientific inquiries concerning the active participation of Russian geographers in this conflict. Between 2022 and 2024, at least 60 publications have emerged, primarily, preprints. The results are available at ResearchGate.

Research results. *The aggression of the state and its justification in the works of geographers.* The aggression exhibited by Russia towards neighbor-

ing states frequently correlates with specific scientific and organizational advancements. This standard has been established since the time of the Russian Empire. A comprehensive examination of the contributions made by a diverse array of Russian geographers across different historical periods is possible. Their movements consistently preceded those of the Russian imperial army. A significant number of geographers were engaged in military service. The case of N. Przhevalsky is arguably the most well-known. The “Przhevalsky horse” is widely recognized. It is not widely recognized that he held the position of major general within the General Staff and played a significant role in the expansion of the empire’s borders. Another instance is Count D. Milyutin (1816—1912), an individual exhibiting distinct characteristics. He served as the Minister of War from 1861 to 1881. He is regarded as the originator of military geography within the context of the Russian Empire. He demonstrated exceptional capabilities as a professor at the Imperial Military Academy [7—9]. The military geography paradigm he developed was notably advanced for its era and evidently played a significant role in the achievements of the Russian imperial army.

The geographers of Russia, spanning the eras of the Russian Empire, the USSR, and Putin’s Russian Federation, consistently precede their military forces. They evaluate territory of the prospective victim, and present a rationale for the redefined state borders of Russia. This represents a consistent framework applicable across various contexts. The continuity of this concept has been observed over an extended timeframe, suggesting that there is no basis for assuming it has been disregarded in Putin’s interpretation of the Russian state and its scientific endeavors. The execution may vary, yet the fundamental nature remains constant.

The state’s aggression and the alignment of its scientific endeavors with the objectives of impending aggression exhibit a broad characteristic. This situation is not a singular occurrence concerning Russia. An illustrative case of a belligerent conflict and a precisely delineated progression of scientific inquiry can be linked to the Third Reich and the endeavors of the German scientific community during the 1920s to 1940s. Recent fundamental concepts pertaining to the notion of “living space in the East” (*Lebensraum im Osten*) have emerged. Karl Haushofer (1869—1946) is recognized as the most prominent author. His pseudoscientific claims were systematically employed during the Third Reich because the state required these concepts. It’s noteworthy that Karl Haushofer’s writings have undergone numerous republishing efforts in Russia under Putin’s regime.

The situation in Germany following the Treaty of Versailles and the emergence of the Third Reich serves as a famous and extensively documented instance of how aggression can shape a distinct perception of science within a nation [10]. The primary rationale for the conflict initiated by the Russian

Federation against Ukraine was articulated through the “relativistic concept of political geography.” State borders are subject to frequent changes, indicating that alterations should not be viewed as unusual. This concept represents a unique advancement in Russian scientific research. A substantial quantity of scientific literature authored by Russian geographers presents this information [11–13].

The professional activities of geographers who participated in the military criminal actions of their state are frequently not regarded as genuinely criminal in nature. This is purportedly characterized as “merely scientific research.” An illustration is the evaluation of Walter Christaller and his extensive involvement in the formulation of the “Plan Ost” [14]. The theory of central places significantly influenced the developers’ visions for the future territorial organization of Poland and Ukraine in the event of Hitler’s victory [15–18]. The widespread recognition of this theory has led to the author’s perception as not being a Nazi, despite his four-year tenure in the SS and his active involvement in shaping the future of the Third Reich. This perspective on the professional conduct of geographers evidently implicates them in the war crimes committed by their state.

The establishing of the Soviet standard for the expert community in geographical science and its evolution during the era of Putinism. A Soviet standard of geographical science was established in the USSR in the late 1920s. N. Baransky played a significant role in this process. A professional revolutionary dispatched by the Communist Party to advance the field of geographical science. The situation involved systematic repressions, intense critical campaigns, and the persecution of professional geographers. As a result, a completely Soviet interpretation of geographical science was ultimately established [19–21]. The information pertaining to this period of Soviet geographical science was not accurately assessed. This presents a significant challenge for geographers operating within the USSR and the post-USSR context. Only a few highly “cautious” interpretations of past events were presented in the literature [22]. The prevailing stance of the post-Soviet scientific geographical community is as follows: “It is unnecessary to revisit previous events.”

What factors contribute to the ongoing relevance of this reaction? The discussion revolves around a novel form of scientific community established in the USSR. The geographical science of the Soviet Union exhibited distinct characteristics when compared to the geographical science practiced in other regions outside of this state. The primary distinction lay in the level of specificity within the scientific community. The scientific community operated under a consistently totalitarian framework, actively overseeing developments within their field [23].

The outcome was the establishment of a precisely delineated geographical community concerning the relationship between humanity and society.

Physical geography experienced challenges as well. This occurred later after the well-known “fighting with cosmopolitans” took place. During this period, the scientific community associated with physical geography aligned itself with the overarching totalitarian standards of the Soviet regime. One can cite the overlooked scientific avenue associated with the investigations of A. Grigoryev [24, 25]. An intriguing, highly efficient, and innovative scientific methodology provided a substantial contribution to the comprehension of the geographical aspects of nature. Instead of this, A. Grigoryev faced accusations of “cosmopolitanism” [26, 27]. A particularly noteworthy avenue of inquiry in natural geography has been suspended. The alternative presented was the “constructive geography” proposed by I. Gerasimov, who notably took on the role of the most vocal critic of his “cosmopolitan” counterpart. Subsequently, he took over the position of director at the Institute of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences. I. Gerasimov epitomized the Soviet identity, viewing the incorporation of political accusations into scientific discourse as entirely conventional [28].

The primary casualty of the Soviet totalitarian transformation of science was the operational standard of the scientific geographic community. The permanent establishment of the “supervisors” has been achieved within the scientific community. This refers to the Department of Social and economic geography at Moscow State University. The leadership was provided by Yu. Saushkin [29]. In the realm of physical geography, V. Preobrazhensky served as the deputy director for science at the Institute of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences, effectively acting as the “party organizer” of Soviet geography [30].

Russia under Putin has developed a distinct perspective on geographical science and the scientific geographical community. This does not constitute a direct replication of the Soviet standard. Numerous elements are emerging that warrant attention. Some of the professional geographers experienced no instances of repression because they possessed a Soviet heritage and embraced the “new social order” of Mother Russia with great enthusiasm. Individuals dissatisfied with the conditions in Russian science departed from the country some time ago. The individuals who stayed demonstrated complete readiness to operate in alignment with the new standard. The actions of the Russian Federation have been given a “scientific” geographical rationale by Russian researchers. Both Russia and Russian geographical science began to “rise from their knees.” This sequence of events led them to Ukraine in 2014, followed by another visit on 24.02.2022.

The integration of the Russian Authorities with the scientific geographical community of Russia occurred by 2010 at the latest. In 2009, V. Putin assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Russian Geographical Society (RGS). S. Shoigu, who previously held the position of Mi-

nister of Defense of the Russian Federation, assumed the role of President of the RGS. Since that point, efforts commenced to modernize the Russian scientific geographical community.

The primary feature of Putin's scientific-geographical community appears to be linked to the lack of freedom, alongside a profound sense of relief experienced by this community stemming from that very absence. This is a deliberate statement. The totalitarian Soviet scientific-geographical community had no requirement for freedom. Cognitive activity was unnecessary beyond the confines of strictly regulated scientific parameters. Terms such as vassal, serf, and servant are fitting for its characterization. This does not align with the characteristics of a scientific community as understood in the Western context and is primarily related to its distinct characteristics. The emergence of Putinism, coupled with a significant emphasis on geographical science in Russia under Putin, has contributed to the resurgence of its totalitarian foundations. The rhetoric of the Soviet era has been supplanted by the rhetoric characteristic of Putin's administration. Russian geographical science has experienced a significant revival.

Specifics of the activity of the Russian scientific geographical community. The evolution of science in the USSR and the Russian Federation can be viewed through the lens of paradigm shifts, as articulated by T. Kuhn [31]. The latest advancements in Russian science exhibit an exclusively distinct approach to development. Or, more accurately, modifications. It can be characterized, instead, not as the supremacy of scientific paradigms, according to T. Kuhn, but as a coherent state-bureaucratic mandate. Scientific organizations exhibit a distinct structure, their ratings are strongly outlined. Certified experts are available and they continue in this state until their demise. This situation existed prior to Putin's leadership. However, post-2010, the situation became established as a standard reference.

Lifelong experts in the Russian Federation always provide "scientific confirmation" of the initiatives of the authorities. There is a complete absence of expert independence in any capacity. This should not be perceived as pressure from the authorities on Science. This represents a systematic integration of the governing bodies and scientific principles. This location is devoid of any violence. The relationship between Putin's Russia and the scientific geographical community in Russia is characterized by an excellent level of harmony. Examining dystopias can provide valuable insights into the thesis. This does not align with the themes presented in "1984" by George Orwell but refers to "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley. We are observing a phenomenon that represents a new dimension in the interactions between a totalitarian state and its scientific community. The Soviet approach to organizing science became a predecessor to the totalitarian model of scientific organization established under Putin.

The work of Russian geographers exhibits distinct characteristics. Merely a subset of its expressions. A Russian scientist, throughout his scientific career from postgraduate studies to retirement, can experience a range of historical periods. These can represent various interpretations of the Soviet era, a distinct sense of “timelessness” associated with the 1990s, and the Putin era characterized by the notion of “raising Russia from its knees.” Individuals with extended lifespans may observe the potential decline of Putinism alongside the significant likelihood of the Russian Federation fragmenting as a unified entity. This will also represent a new phase in the evolution of Russian science.

Interestingly, a Russian scientist residing in a constantly evolving historical context may dedicate his entire career to a single organization. The scientist observes the alterations in the external environment of his Russian state while maintaining consistency in his professional biography. He is capable of engaging collaboratively with any period while remaining within a single Institute. Irrespective of the circumstances within his Russian state, a scientist in the field of geography can provide a “scientific justification” for any situation and persist in advancing his career effectively. All external changes may present opportunities for him, including the rise of Putinism and the war crimes associated with this regime.

The personnel rotation policy implemented in the Russian Federation allows for the replacement of highly qualified scientists in their roles solely in the event of an individual’s natural death. The selection of this rotation option is primarily contingent upon the level of qualification attained, as indicated by the diploma obtained in the Russian Federation. This phenomenon results in a distinct aging of the scientific community within the Russian Federation and establishes a well-defined framework for decision-making in the realm of science. The sufficiency of these decisions prompts significant skepticism. Russian experts analyze the world with perspectives rooted in the past, specifically from 20 to 40 years ago.

For example, V. Kotlyakov served as the director of the Institute of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Sciences for many years, having been born on November 6, 1931 [32]. In 1954, he obtained a diploma from Moscow State University and has been employed at the Institute of Geography ever since. Since 2015, he has held the position of scientific director at this institute, indicating a departure from administrative routine. He has reached the age of 94 years. He has worked at the Institute of Geography for a total of 71 years, from 1954 to 2025.

The involvement of a geographer in the “scientific substantiation” of a historical period that may have culminated in a significant catastrophe for Russia does not serve as a foundation for a critical evaluation of his professional competence. The essential component of his professional activity, linked to the previous and calamitous period, is unequivocally overlooked. The only

remnants from the past consist of artifacts, specifically diplomas of varying levels. This establishes a precisely delineated standard for “marketing” within the realm of scientific activity in the Russian Federation. This results in a total lack of responsibility for the research content produced.

The current situation reflects not merely the evolution of scientists towards totalitarian science but rather their organic adaptation to a particular historical period and the unique demands it places on scientific inquiry. The adherence to totalitarian science and its standards represents a foundational condition among numerous Russian geographers. Following the establishment of a new standard for the era, it gains dominance and receives full acceptance from the Russian scientific community. This is clearly observable during the Putin era. The scientific geographic community in the Russian Federation is deeply engaged in two primary activities: a) the extensive promotion of Putin’s worldview and b) the development of scientific innovations that support and facilitate the aggressive policies of the Russian Federation.

The collection of publications throughout the entire duration of a Russian scientist’s career can experience significant fluctuations regarding the citations they receive. Following the dissolution of a significant historical period, the multitude of publications associated with its “scientific justification” ceases to exist. Their reference is rendered inappropriate. Later, a fresh set of publications emerges, aligning with the current historical context, and the references begin with it. This exemplified the situation with the collection of Soviet publications. It is plausible to conclude that a similar pattern will emerge with the collection of publications from the Putin era.

Following 1991, Soviet and Russian geographical science developed comprehensive images of the world. An intriguing instance can be observed in the formation of the Soviet worldview. This collection comprises twenty volumes from the series titled “Countries and Peoples” [33]. Putin’s geographical science has constructed a distinct representation of the world, which contrasts significantly with the Soviet perspective. It originates from Russian geographers and has since been extensively reproduced by the famous propaganda associated with Putin. Understanding the ways in which the diverse geographical community of the Russian Federation, including the extensive network of geography teachers, contributes to the formation of this world image is essential. Without this understanding, one may face unforeseen aggression from the Russian Federation.

In specific contexts, the outlined behavioral model of the Russian scientific community results in its involvement in the war crimes perpetrated by the state. Within the Russian scientific community, engagement in military criminal activity is regarded as an external phenomenon, separate from the core functions of the scientific sector. The scientific community of the Russian Federation adapts to the prevailing trends of its time. Where the trends take it, there it will end up.

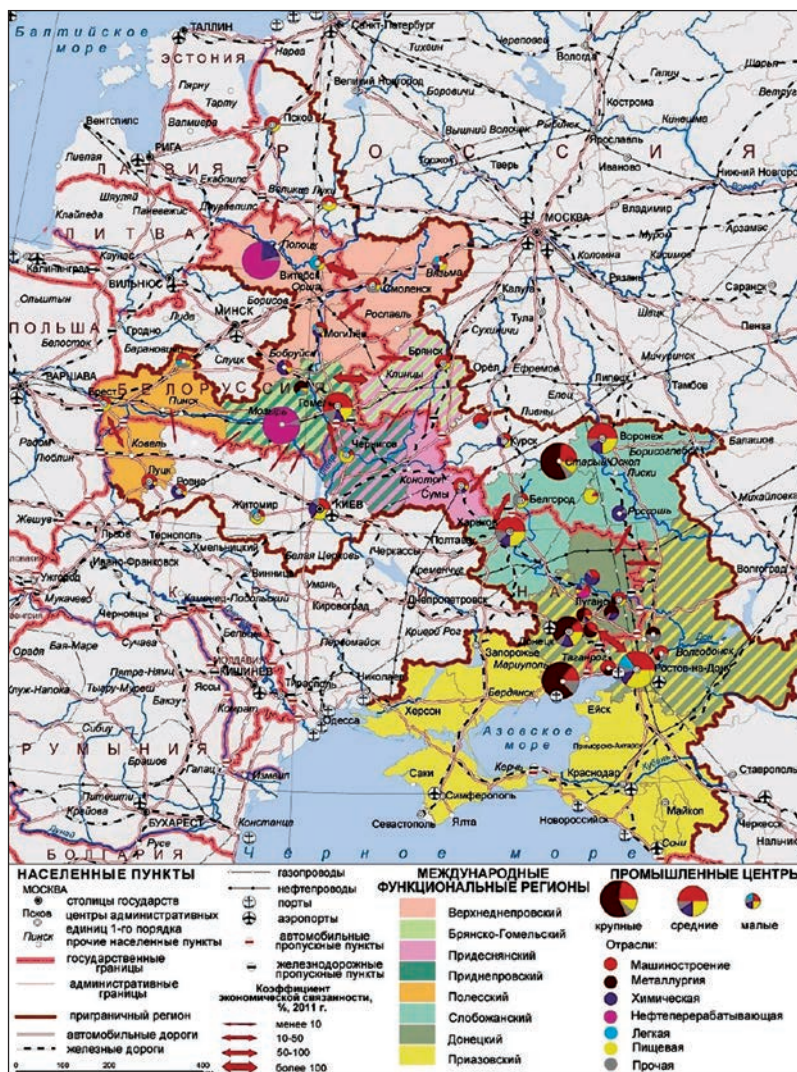
In the USSR, a framework for scientific activity was established, encompassing both open and closed forms of research. This standard has undergone a transformation in the post-Soviet context. An illustration can be found in the Russian scientific geographic community. It engages in the “scientific justification” of Putinism, frequently through various reports on numerous projects that remain unpublished. This situation is regarded as standard practice. This represents a nuanced form of collaboration between a Russian scientist and his government, highlighting a direct connection to the involvement of white-collar individuals in the military criminal activities.

Actions taken by the Putin administration and the expert contributions of the Russian scientific geographical community. The participation from the scientific community in critical response to certain state initiatives is largely absent in Russian science. In this context, a notable disparity exists between the engagement of the scientific community in Russia and that of Western countries. An instance is the engaged involvement of the extensive scientific community in the USA opposing the war in Vietnam and the associated ecocide [5]. The foundation of this difference lies in the comprehension of expert independence. In Putin's Russia, the independence of experts has diminished to a level even less common than during the era of Soviet science. This outcome is influenced by factors beyond mere pressure from authorities on the scientific community. This outcome reflects the progression within the Russian scientific community over time.

In Russian science, the validity of expert scientific opinion is contingent upon the endorsement of an organization's decision. The prevalence of what can be characterized as the “bureaucratic paradigm,” where any government initiative must obtain endorsement from a specialized scientific body, persists. The result is that many initiatives launched in Putin's Russia frequently face challenges during the implementation phase.

The involvement of Russian geographers in providing a “scientific justification” for the initiatives of the Putin era is a notable occurrence. This represents yet another iteration of the prevailing framework governing the interactions between the state and its scientific community. The Putin administration has demonstrated a significant focus on geographical science, and it appears to be an unusual advancement in Russian geographical science because of this. The composition of the Board of Trustees of the Russian Geographical Society warrants careful examination due to its surprising nature. The individual serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is Putin himself. The board comprises 33 individuals, predominantly consisting of oligarchs and numerous high-ranking officials from the Russian Federation.

In contrast to the circumstances in the USSR, the current state of the Russian scientific community appears to have become increasingly subservient. Instances can vary significantly. An instance in ecology pertains to the development of the Crimean Bridge and the blatant misrepresentation of the ex-



Russia's strategy for the advancement of "new territories" within the post-Soviet region

Source: [34, p. 17].

pert assessment regarding the significant environmental risks associated with this project. A more general example is related to the beginning of a full-scale war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine based on "scientific justification." It serves primarily to validate the rationale behind the authorities' initiative. The work presented appears to lack genuine scientific precision.

Pre-war Russian plan for post-war development of the occupied territories of Ukraine. A noteworthy instance involves a collaborative analysis con-

ducted by a team of Russian experts focusing on Ukraine and Belarus. Published in 2013, it can be regarded as the infamous “plan” frequently referenced by Putin. Cartographic representations also exist that illustrate the Russian perspective on Ukraine’s future. The discourse utilized a codified language, yet the geographical patterns of Russian aggression towards Ukraine align remarkably with these outlined strategies (see Figure below).

The rationale for the conquest of Ukraine was articulated by prominent Russian scientists with extensive academic credentials and numerous publications. Their ratings are remarkably high. In truth, these individuals are professionals who have ceased their progression in development — they lack the capacity to possess an independent expert opinion as defined by the parameters of the situation. The issue does not stem from the influence exerted by authorities on scientists — it is evident that the scientists exhibit such characteristics.

In the period of 2009—2010, as Putin’s expansionist agenda in the post-USSR began to take shape, there was a concerted effort to detect scientific innovations aimed at the “revival of Russia.” At that time, Russian scientific experts sanctioned by the authorities were already positioned in this context. At this point, their ages ranged from approximately 57 to 60 years. At this point, they had been engaged with a single Institute for over 35 years. Their progression within the internal institute encompassed a complete trajectory from graduate student to professor.

This indicates that a scientist may ultimately face defeat alongside their governing regime. The scientist engages in this conflict well in advance of its commencement. A “white collar” evaluates the territory of a potential adversary and is required to articulate an assessment concerning the likelihood of success or failure in a prospective conflict. The scientific community, approved by the Russian state, provides a “scientific validation” of the feasibility and potential success of a military conflict against Ukraine.

Conclusions. 1. The Russian scientific geographical community exhibits distinct characteristics that are important. The operational dynamics of the geographical expert community in Western countries exhibit significant differences.

2. The characteristics of the Russian scientific geographical community can be understood through an analysis of the totalitarian and aggressive tendencies of the Russian state. A specialized geographical community is established, which actively engages in scientific projects designed to address expansionist demands.

3. For many decades, Russian geographers have maintained a position of advancement relative to the Russian army. The examination of the diverse scientific geographical research carried out in the Russian state provides valuable insights into its potential actions and behaviors concerning neighboring territories.

4. The post-Soviet space lacks a cohesive scientific geographical community that functions solely as a professional association. Russian geographers

represent genuine challengers. They consistently operate in alignment with their assertive stance and engage in its conflicts.

5. The engagement of Russian geographers in the execution of assertive initiatives under Putin's leadership aligns with anticipated patterns. It represents a logical and expected choice for the advancement of geographical science within the Russian Federation.

6. The Russian scientific geographical community exhibits a range of strengths and weaknesses. It is rather foreseeable. This serves as a focal point for examination by experts in Ukraine and West.

7. Ukrainian geographical science obviously requires reform. In analyzing the directions of reform, one must take into account the closeness to two influential totalitarian states, namely the Russian Federation and Belarus, as well as the unique characteristics of their scientific geographical communities.

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Д.В. Ніколаєнко, доктор географічних наук

Брно, Чеська Республіка

e-mail: Dr.dmitry.2022@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-4173-6669>

УЧАСТЬ РОСІЙСЬКИХ ГЕОГРАФІВ У ВІЙСЬКОВІЙ АКТИВНОСТІ СВОЄЇ ДЕРЖАВИ: ВІД МИНУЛОГО ДО СУЧАСНОСТІ

Протягом усього часу війни проти України російська наукова географічна спільнота активно працює на свій агресивний режим. Війна формує новий образ науки та новий образ наукового співтовариства. У випадку путінської Росії та російського наукового співтовариства дано новий приклад цього впливу. Детальне дослідження випадку російської географічної науки епохи путінізму має не тільки абстрактне значення. Для України є явний практичний контекст. Наукове географічне співтовариство РФ виявилось дивно неефективним. Величезний масив російських досліджень в Україні призвів до формування абсолютно неадекватного образу сусідньої держави. Агресія Росії проти іншої держави завжди має «наукове» обґрунтування. У Росії процес прийняття рішень щодо воєн носить тривалий і колективний характер. До нього активно залучено і наукове співтовариство. Територія майбутньої жертви ретельно досліджується. Дослідження саме масиву наукових географічних досліджень, які проводяться в Росії, може допомогти в розумінні того, що і як робитиме ця держава щодо сусідніх територій. Немає єдиної наукової географічної спільноти пострадянського простору як суто професійного об'єднання. Російські географи — не колеги. Вони завжди працюють на свою агресивну державу та беруть участь у її війнах. Активне залучення російських географів до імплементації агресивних путінських проєктів не є чимось несподіваним. Російська наукова географічна спільнота має і сильні, і слабкі сторони. Це об'єкт дослідження для експертів з наукознавства та географічної науки в Україні. Українська географічна наука явно потребує реформування. В обговоренні напрямів реформування важливо враховувати сусідство з двома харизматичними тоталітарними державами (РФ та Білорусь) та специфікою роботи їхньої наукової географічної спільноти.

Ключові слова: наукова географічна спільнота, військовий фактор розвитку науки, тоталітарна держава, еволюція науки в Росії, метагеографія.