

**ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ ОБОСНОВАНИЕ ВОЗМОЖНОГО ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОГО
УКРУПНЕНИЯ СУБЪЕКТОВ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
(НА ПРИМЕРЕ АЛТАЙСКОГО КРАЯ И РЕСПУБЛИКИ АЛТАЙ)**

Кобзев В.С.

*Алтайский Государственный Университет, Барнаул, Российская Федерация
E-mail: vyacheslav_kobzev@mail.ru*

This article describes the problems of combining subjects of the Russian Federation, provides a brief description of merging campaigns that occurred in Russia. This article discusses the preconditions of combining Altai Krai and Altai Republic.

The process of combining regions in Russia began since 2003. During a 5 year period there were 5 campaigns resulted in the decrease of federal subjects from 89 to 83. The projects of consolidation among which were the Altai Region and Altai Republic was also introduced.

In order to understand the is the necessity to consolidate the Altai Region and Altai Republic, we should explore the legal framework regulating the consolidating process, analyze the experience of already united regions to find similarities and differences in administering economic, social, cultural policy of the regions.

The issues of consolidating regions are regulated by the Federal Constitutional Law «On the consolidation procedure and formation of new subjects in the Russian Federation » dated by December 17, 2001.

According to the law, the consolidating initiative belongs to the subject, the territories which form a new subject. A joint proposal of the legislative bodies and the subjects' authorities is sent to the President of the Russian Federation. The proposal must be justified and contain the suggested name, status and borders of the new subject, as well as the forecast of socio-economic and other consequences associated with the formation of a new subject. The President notifies the Federation Council, the State Duma and the Government of the Russian Federation about this proposal and holds necessary consultations. Then the issue of consolidation shall be submitted to the referendum.

Having made appropriate decisions on the referendum, the President of the Russian Federation shall submit the draft of the Federal Constitutional Law to the State Duma. Then it should be accepted by the State Duma and the Federation Council.

Analyzing the experience of consolidating campaigns which took place in the Russian Federation it is possible to single out the consolidation which gave the positive results and those ones with the negative or neutral experience

The positive example is the consolidation of the Taymyr and Evenk Autonomous Okrugs with the Krasnoyarsk Region allowing to implement large investment projects, namely Vankor oil field with the pipeline construction to the Port Dikson and Boguchany hydropower station. It is the two large investment projects which greatly contribute to the present development of Evenk and Taymyr territories. The consolidation has become a model of public-private partnership, where the interests of the federal government, regional authorities and business met.

Unfortunately, all the rest consolidating campaigns gave a negative or neutral result. That involved combining Perm Oblast and Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug to the Perm Region, Kamchatskaya Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug to the Kamchatky Region, Irkutsk Oblast and Ust-Orda Buryat Autonomous Okrug, Chita Oblast and Agin-Buryat Autonomous Okrug to the Zabaykalsky Region.

The main reason for such a consolidation is the redistribution of resources and ensuring the same

level of life through the joining process of economically strong and weak regions. The issue of consolidation is usually put by federal authorities and the failure of the campaign may be attributed to the lack of the economic union beginning, i.e. the existence of common for both areas industries engaged in economic activities. On the whole, the socio-economic situation of the regions has improved, but not due to the implementation of major economic projects, but due to new revenues from the federal budget as subsidies.

The consolidation of the Altai Region and Altai Republic has its own characteristics.

The given-above examples describe the consolidation of a Region or Oblast with an Autonomous Okrug, which together accounted for the phenomenon of compound subjects (not full independence of the Autonomous Okrug of the maternal territory). The Altai Region and Altai Republic are totally independent of each other subjects.

Currently, the Altai Region and Altai Republic have such joint executive bodies as Rosprirodnadzor, Rosselkhozadzor, Roskomnadzor, the department of state road supervision, united customs and others.

The Altai Region and Altai Republic are subsidized subjects. The Altai Region receives subsidies from the federal budget in the amount of 28,177,757 thousand rubles (40.7% of revenue sources). The Altai Republic receives subsidies from the federal budget in the amount of 9,136,963 thousand rubles (78% of revenue sources). Thus, in case of consolidation it is the Altai Region that will perform the role of a locomotive. The creation of a single fiscal space can lead to the fact that the Altai Region will be unable to ensure the current level of budgetary provision in the region without significant losses in other areas of its own. This can result in the deterioration of living standards of the population of the joint regions. To solve this problem, the region will need to receive funds in the amount not below the level prevailing at the time of consolidation in the Altai Region and Altai Republic taken together.

The major rallying point may be tourism. Every year, the Altai Republic is visited by about one million tourists. Tourism in the Altai Republic is one of the main industries in the region, as well as an important source of income. Currently, the sector is actively developing. In the Altai Region tourism is also increasing its potential. The balneological resort of the federal significance Belokurikha, Sky-blue Katun, gaming zone Siberian Coin make a great competition to the Altai Republic in the tourism sector. The consolidated subjects will be able to conduct the single policy in the sphere of tourism and avoid any competition between them. However, in the opinion of the author, the situation is twofold. On the one hand, the single policy in the tourism sector will create a pow-

erful tourism cluster with a large flow of tourists, well-developed infrastructure and a large number of jobs. On the other hand, it can lead to an almost complete cessation of funding for other tourist destinations, such as salt lakes in Slavgorodsky, Zavjalovskiy, Romanovskiy and Egorjevskiy Districts.

Another combining factor may be pharmaceuticals. The Altai Mountains are rich in a great variety of medicinal plants and the region develops maral farming that gives the raw material for the production of such large Altai Pharmaceutical manufacturers as Evalar and Malavit.

Energy can also serve an essential factor for the consolidation as the Altai Republic possesses considerable energy resources. Hydropower potential is estimated at 80 billion kWh. The Altai Region financial assistance could contribute to the construction of the dam which would reduce the coal burning in thermal power plants bringing a positive impact on the environment and reducing the cost of purchasing fuel for the subjects.

Thus, the problem of the Altai Region and Altai Republic consolidation remains relevant until now. The attempt to consolidate was already taken in 2007 but failed because of the activities of Altai natives. Possibly, the question of unification will arise again soon as there is an administrative and economic background for it, but the author's opinion is that the consolidation of these regions in the near future is not justified and can lead to mistakes.

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