

CONTEMPORARY STAGES AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY POLICY

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Abstract: The article examines the modern stages of state environmental security policy and the globalization of environmental problems. Particular attention is given to urbanization, the Aral Sea crisis, international cooperation, and the humanistic principles of environmental protection.

Introduction.

Initially, as a biosocial being, humanity underwent a stage in which simple tools were used to address the contradictions arising from relations between humans and nature. In the subsequent stage, based on the use of natural energy sources and the development of methods for generating energy artificially, the historical necessity and social demand for state environmental policy emerged. Indeed, the formal recognition of human "dominion" over nature necessitated the development of political methods and instruments for organizing environmental relations. During the third stage, marked by the Scientific and Technological Revolution and the development of electronic computing machines, cybernetic systems, and computers, the "despotism of industrial pressure" associated with human "dominion" over nature intensified. Under these circumstances, it became increasingly evident that ecological contradictions could be addressed only through political means. The fourth stage, corresponding to the contemporary period, is characterized by the principal task of environmental policy: overcoming the contradiction between society's continuously growing needs and the limited capacity of nature, thereby restoring the ecological balance of the biosphere. Indeed, at this stage, the universal humanistic essence of environmental policy is reflected in its development trends.

I. V. Bestuzhev-Lada, a researcher of sociological problems in ecology, classified the social-spatial characteristics of environmental policy from the perspective of urbanology and introduced the concepts of the "urban syndrome" and the "rural syndrome" into scientific discourse. According to his view, the level and characteristics of the organization of socio-economic, political, and cultural life in cities have led to the dominance and predominance of the "urban syndrome" in environmental policy. Although classifying the social-spatial characteristics of environmental policy in this way is methodologically significant, it is inappropriate to absolutize these categories or treat them as mutually exclusive opposites. In certain circumstances, depending on the characteristics of "environmental comfort," a state may address the problem using its domestic resources, or through socio-economic and political cooperation among countries within the same region.

Uzbekistani scholars have also conducted distinctive research in the field of ecology and arrived at a number of important conclusions. For example, D. Rasulov's monograph, Issues in Urbanization and the Development of Environmental Culture, clarifies the patterns of correla-

tion between urbanization and the development of environmental culture. In particular, the author argues that "in a highly urbanized environment, the intensification of human activity inevitably exerts a negative impact on the ecological balance of the biosphere through abrupt changes in the orderly and cyclical development of the 'nature–society' system."

Indeed, when the balance between urbanization and nature's capacity for self-restoration, including restoration facilitated by human intervention, is disrupted, the humanistic substance of environmental development is undermined from an ecological perspective. Consequently, a trend toward reducing the significance of urbanization-driven factors has emerged in developed countries. For example, in Germany, the reduction of urbanized areas has been identified as a strategic direction of state policy.

The trends in the emergence of global environmental problems demonstrate that such problems initially arise at the local level and gradually acquire universal significance as their scope of impact continues to expand. Two trends can be observed in the emergence of these problems in specific locations and the subsequent expansion of their geographical and institutional significance: centrifugal and centripetal tendencies. Numerous examples of these processes can be found in the history of environmental development.

For example, environmental problems associated with the progressive desiccation of the Aral Sea initially emerged in specific geographical areas. However, their scope has since expanded, making cooperation among Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan, and other states in the field of environmental policy a historical necessity. Accordingly, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, placed this issue prominently on the agenda during the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 19, 2017, as well as at meetings of the European security cooperation bodies. According to information published on the official United Nations website (un.org), Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed his support for draft conventions concerning the use of water resources in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river basins and called upon the international community to prevent the complete desiccation of the Aral Sea.

"One of the most acute environmental problems of our time is the Aral Sea disaster, to which I would like to draw your attention once again. In my hands, I hold a map illustrating the Aral Sea tragedy. I believe that no further explanation is necessary. Addressing the consequences of the sea's desiccation requires the active consolidation of international efforts," stated Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Taking into account the humanistic essence of state environmental security policy and drawing on the historical trends in its development, the following analytical conclusions can be formulated:

1. Ensuring the environmental security of societal development corresponds to the degree and nature of its humanization.

2. Archaeological and ethnographic research findings demonstrate that even during the earliest periods of human history, society possessed rudimentary and spontaneous elements of environmental policy.

3. Analyzing the environmental teachings of religions in relation to the stages of their historical development represents a distinctive approach to examining the stages, genesis, and retrospective foundations of environmental policy.

4. In the contemporary period, the theoretical and methodological foundations for classifying and historically periodizing environmental policy according to its specifically humanistic character remain insufficiently developed.

5. Under conditions of increasing globalization of environmental problems, the growing prominence of political factors in addressing these challenges, together with the ongoing processes of international integration, constitutes a new stage in historical development.

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ARTICLE INFORMATION IN OTHER LANGUAGES

РУССКИЙ

В статье рассматриваются современные этапы развития государственной политики экологической безопасности и глобализация экологических проблем. Особое внимание уделяется урбанизации, проблеме Аральского моря, международному сотрудничеству и гуманистическим принципам охраны природы.