

A CARTOGRAPHIC AND GRAPHIC INTERPRETATION IN THE STUDY OF REFUGEE PROBLEM IN RUSSIA.

Dr. A. Emelyanov
108 Respublicanskaya St.
Pedagogical University
Yaroslavl. RUSSIA.

Abstract

In the times when the use of maps becomes wider and wider, new methods of compiling them emerge. In the meantime classical methods live on beside modern ones. Using the data from the Federal Migration Service as the basic one, we look into the problems of cartography, graphic reflection of the very up-to-date problem of refugees.

The analysis of cartographic literature, maps, atlases, published both in Russia and some other countries, shows a rather thorough and diversified treatment of using cartography in scientific studies. The graphic method is represented less widely, being more expressive though in iconics. The graphic method is especially widely used in statistics. /8/

The Russian cartography, based on the latest achievements, uses the classical approach to graphic picturing of the statistic information, suggested for example by a British economist W. Playfer in the Commercial and Political Atlas. /6/

While studying of the refugee problem in Russia, we try to simplify the comprehension and perception of the huge data from the Federal Migration Service by using maps and graphics.

The territory of the former USSR is evidently becoming a transit shelter for the migrants heading for Western Europe, Canada and the U.S.A. More than half a million people are staying in Moscow presently without a definite legal status thus violating the visa regulations. Representatives of 39 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America appealed to the Regional representative of the Supreme Commissar of the UN for Refugee Problems in Moscow (functioning since 1992) to help them find

shelter. /3/ Showing the geography of refugee influx into Russia from Afganistan, India, Sri Lanka, Iran. Iraq, China, Vietnam, Zair, Angola, Somalia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Bangladesh, Cuba, Peru, El Salvador, Malawi and other countries we widely use the 'movement lines' method. (see Figure 1)

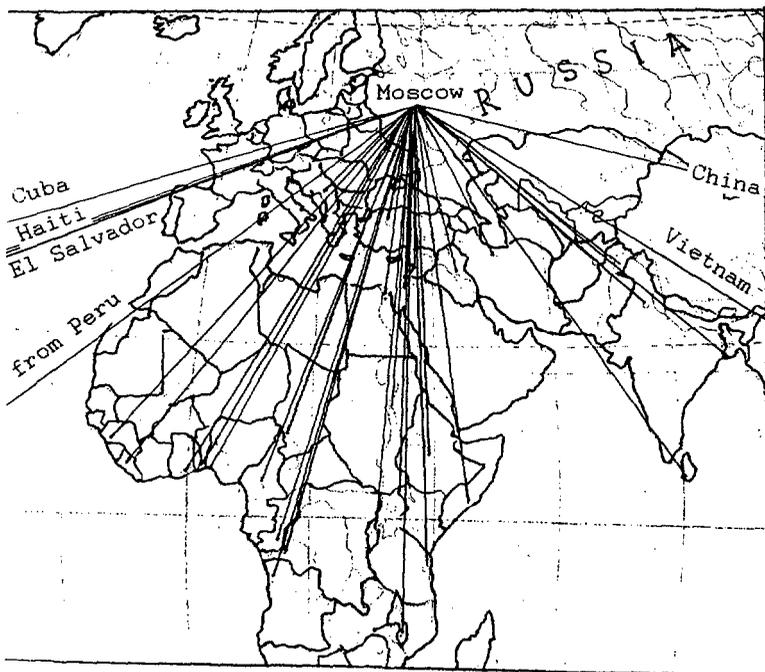
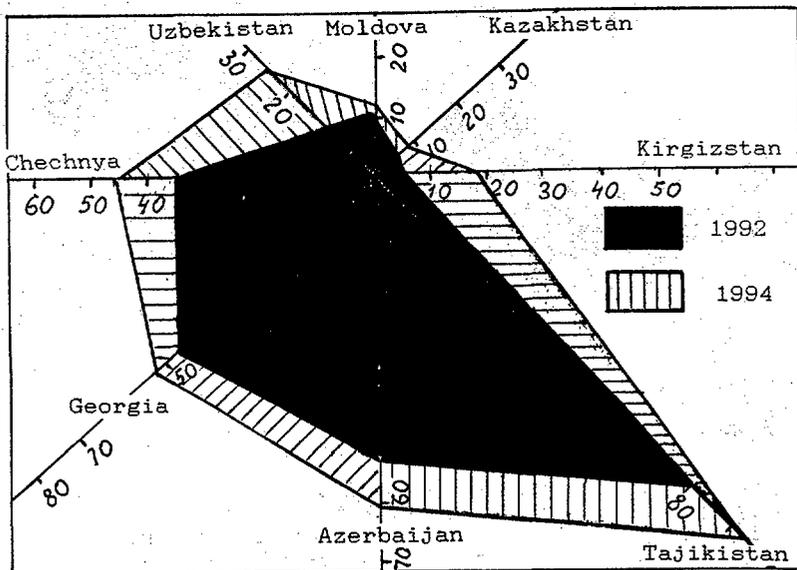


Figure 1. Geography of the forced migration into Russia from the Asian, African and Latin American countries in 1994.

Worsening of the socio-political situation in the 'nearest foreign lands', economic crises, growing geography of inter-ethnic conflicts gives rise to the forced migration to Russia. Presently some 2 mln refugees, forced and economic migrants have come to the Russian Federation causing acute state problems.

According to the Federal Migration Service, the nature of forced migration is gradually transforming from a reflectory (i.e. military conflicts) to a

evolutionary one, the latter connected with complex reasons. It could be national discrimination (the Baltic States, the Western Ukraine), ethno-cultural, religious differences (the Central Asian states, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan). A dramatic drop in the standard of living, overpopulation in a number of the CIS countries push out not only the Russian-language population, but also their native ethnic representatives. /3/ The cruel, senseless, to our mind, war in Chechnya, rightfully condemned in all the civilised world, increased the influx of refugees dramatically. Its consequences can be compared in scale of movement of civilians and military to the situation in the former Yugoslavia. The scale of the inner migration from the republics of the former USSR, including the territory of the former Chechen-Ingush ASSR, is vividly shown by means of the 'wind-rose'. (see Figure 2)



1cm : 15,000 people

Figure 2. The number of refugees from certain territories of the former USSR in 1992, 1994

A new trend in cartography is geoinformatic cartography, the idea of which is an automatic compilation and use of maps based on geoinformatic systems (GIS). /2.1/ The development of geoinformatic cartography is closely linked with introducing a lot of new images and pictures. In this respect, it's the development of various machine and electronic maps, that has the best perspective. /4,5/

There has been a considerable progress in developing computer atlases: They are a system of video-maps, compiled from the universal information basis, with the help of universal software packages. /2/ (see Figure 3)

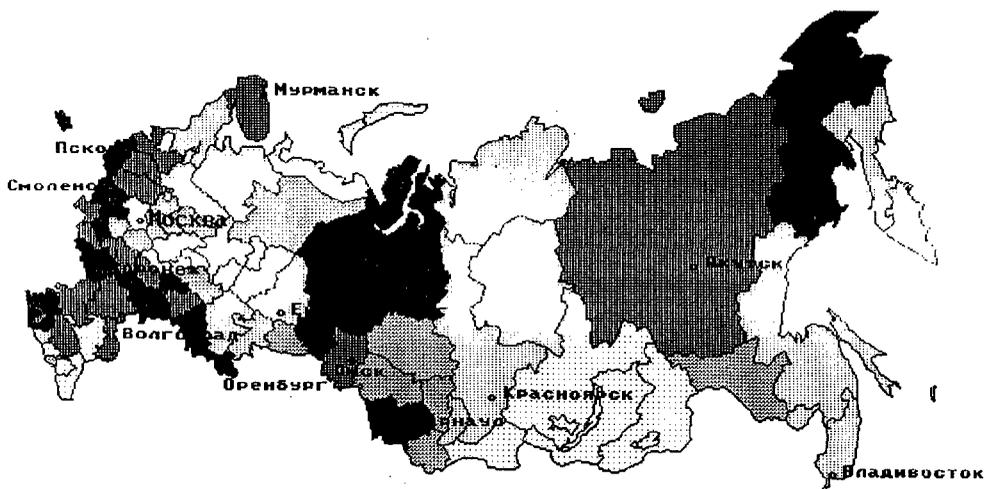


Figure 3. The intensity of arrivals as of inter-republican migration in 1993

The use of computers simplified the creation of cartographic and graphic works. But insufficient level of computer literacy, lack of modern equipment in educational and scientific centres of Russia as well as lack of a unified databank make us also use traditional map-compiling methods.

Studies of forced migration into Russia show not only the rise of the number of refugees and forced immigrants, but also its widening geography.

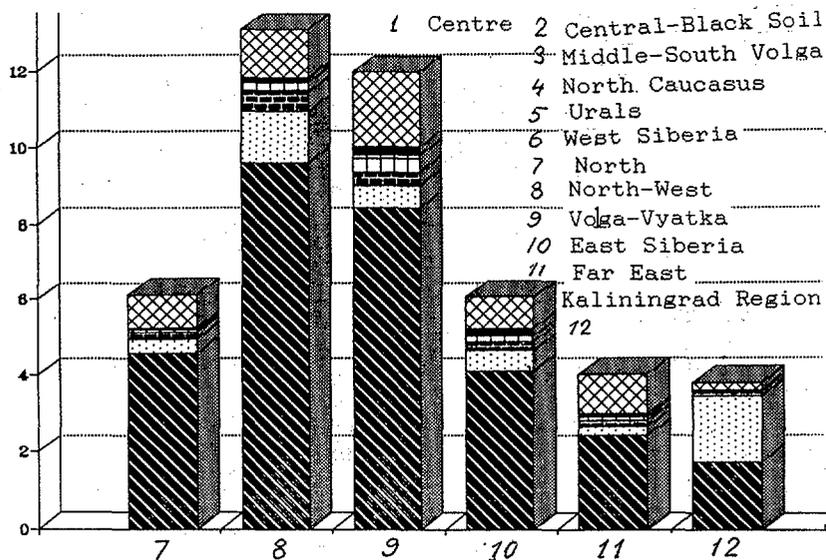
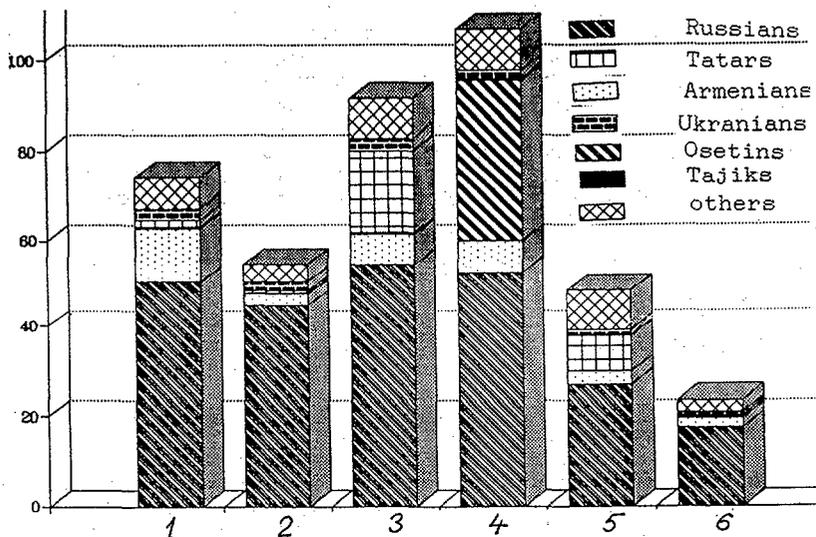


Figure 4. The national structure of refugees (forced migrants) as of economic regions of Russia on January 1, 1994.

In early 1994 their number did not exceed 0.5 mln people. The war in Chechnya increased the scale of migration into the neighbouring territories of Russia dramatically up to 0.2 mln people. But still it's Tajikistan, Georgia, Chechnya, Azerbaijan that hold leading positions among the regions which refugees and forced immigrants are leaving. The escalation of the conflict on the Tajik-Afgan border in early 1995 increased sharply the stream of both Russian and Tajik refugees.

The age, sex, national and educational background of migrants is also worth attention. The graphics and map-schemes compiled by us according to the Federal Migration Service data illustrate the situation. (see Figure 4)

The cartography of the above mentioned topic presupposes compiling a series of maps, more and more detailed, from the world to Russia, and further to economic regions, districts, republics (the Russian Federation members), as well as separate cities and towns. We show the geography of the migrants on the example of the Yaroslavl region, where their influx is considerably small yet. /7/

Compared to 1991 the scale of forced migration grew 3.5 times. The outflow regions also changed. (see Figure 5)

The basic routes of forced immigration into the Yaroslavl region.

(01.01.1991)

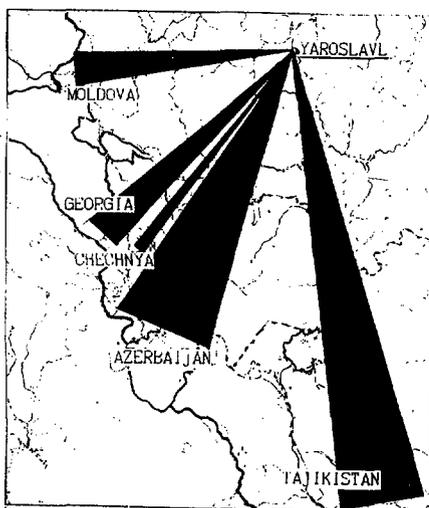
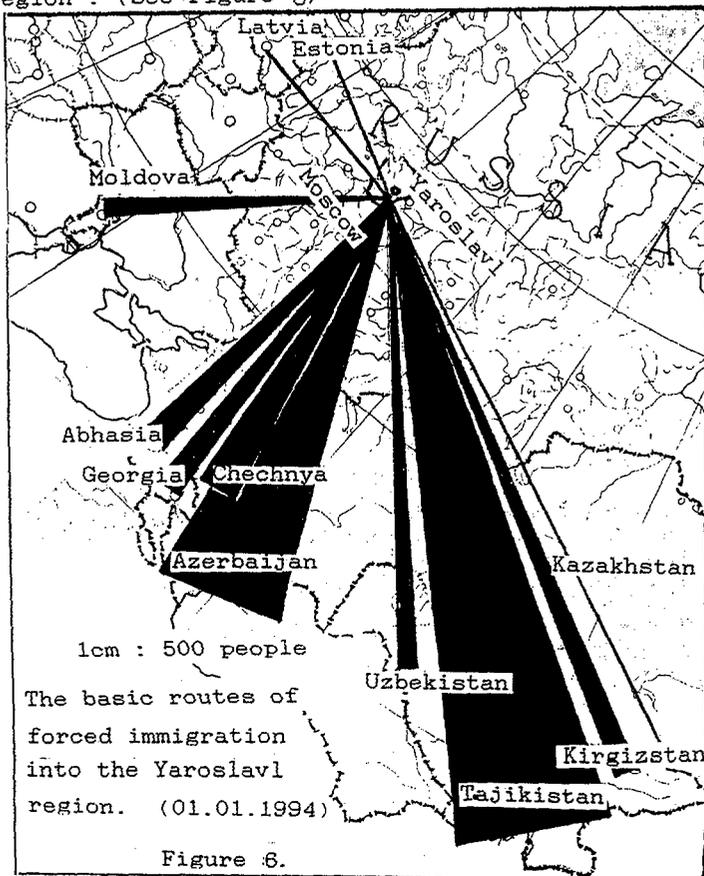


Figure 5.

The Yaroslavl region, situated on the upper Volga to the north-east of Moscow is analysed in detail as far as social-demographic peculiarities of refugees are concerned. The result of this analysis is the full characteristic of the number of migrants, their former places of living, their age, sex, educational background and the ways they earn their living, complete with maps.

On the whole, the upper Volga regions like Yaroslavl reflect the general situation with refugees on the all-Russia scale, which is seen on the map "The basic routes of forced migration into the Yaroslavl region". (see Figure 6)



Becoming international and inter-scientific, the refugee problem must undoubtedly be further reflected on special demographic maps.

References:

- [1] Berlyant A.M., 1988. The cartographic method of research. Moscow, Moscow State University. (in Russian)
- [2] Berlyant A.M., 1993. Theoretical problems of cartography. Moscow, Moscow State University. (in Russian)
- [3] Forced migrants in Russia. An information-statistics bulletin. No.3,4, 1994. Moscow, Federal Migration Service. (in Russian)
- [4] Luty A.A., 1988. The language of maps: its essence, system, functions. Moscow, IGAN. (in Russian)
- [5] Tikunov V.S., 1985. Modelling in socio-economical cartography. Moscow, Moscow State University. (in Russian)
- [6] Tchepkasov P.N., 1985. Cartographic and graphic methods in socio-economical research. Perm, Perm State University. (in Russian)
- [7] Emelyanov A.S., 1993. Cartographic approach to the study of refugee problem in the former USSR. Proceedings volumes for the participants of the 16th Cartographic Conference. Cologne.
- [8] Toyne P., Newby P.T., 1971. Techniques in human geography. London.