HISTORICAL PERIODIZATION OF GEORGIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

In order to explain the periodization of demographic development, we primarily use the theory of demographic revolution formulated by French demographer Alfred Landri [Landri A., 1934]. Later, F. Notesten [Notesten F. W., 1944] called it the demographic transition and this term was established in the science. The mentioned theoretical model is based on the idea of rationalism, the important element of which is homeostatism of the regulation of population reproduction (the level of childbirth is ultimately determined by the level of mortality), and it generally explains demographic development and periodization.

The classical scheme of the modern type of the demographic reproduction, which was formulated by A. Landri, depicts the development of demographic processes according to stages. It must end with the stabilization of population. In the modern type of evolution of population reproduction A. Landri essentially reviews three stages: during the first stage, mortality is substantially reduced compared to childbirth, which results in the rapid growth of the natural increase of the population. In the second stage mortality continues reducing and it reaches the lowest figure at the end of the stage. Simultaneously, childbirth begins deteriorating, and the rate of its deterioration exceeds that of mortality, the result of which is the reduction of the natural increase of population. In the third stage mortality increases, this, in turn, is brought about by the change of the age structure caused by demographic aging as the result of the growth of life expectancy. The reduction of the childbirth slows down and by the end of the third stage it reaches the replacement level fertility - approximately 13 per 1000 souls of the population. This must end the process of demographic stabilization; the growth of the amount of the population must cease and remain at a single permanent level. It is true that A. Landri did not discuss the stage after the third stage of the modern type of population reproduction, but he thought that the tendency of the reduction of childbirth could cause the regress of population in the future and ultimately, even the death of civilization [Landri A., 1934].

During two hundred years, against the backdrop of the realization of the first three stages of the modern type population reproduction, stabilization of the natural movement of the population at the zero level was not observed in any developed countries for a long time. Consequently, the third stage was followed by the process of depopulation. Therefore, the theory of demographic transition, which he formulated in the later years, underwent a certain transformation according to the views of various scientists. The majority of demographers think that the newest, so-called "civilized type" of population reproduction is starting to take shape at a modern stage. This type of population reproduction is characterized, on the one hand, by a low level of childbirth and mortality, and on the other hand, by qualitatively new age structure of demographically aged population [Riley N.E., 2003;Population...2001; Ivanov S., 2002]. However, with regard to the newest type of population reproduction, A. Landri's concept remains the only one yet to be confronted by other similar competitive theories.

According to the opinion of S. Ivanov, the expert of UN's population fund, the countries of the world are in different stages of demographic transition and in some of them the demographic transition has reached its end. He believes that, based on the concept of the demographic transition, on the upper level of childbirth and mortality the era of quasi-equality gradually comes to an end in the world's population. It is replaced by a new stage of equality on the low level of childbirth and mortality, which unlike the former era's young structure of population, is mainly characterized by aged population. The countries that have already undergone the demographic transition have long since witnessed the reduction of the total rate of childbirth just under 2.0 and those countries that are defined by curtailed reproduction of generations went from 13 to 66 in the period of 1970-2002.

With regard to the finish of demographic transition, we think that the existing demographic situation in Georgia must be attributed to the intertype period transitioninig from the modern to the newest type of the population reproduction, which is succeded by the so-called civilized type of population reproduction. We will discuss the modern type of Georgian population reproduction and its stages in light of demographic system's modernization.

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The subsystem of demographic relationships, as the relatively independent subsystem and factor for the develop-

ment of the whole societal system, has the basic and specific laws for its own development. Each of these laws, on the one hand, objectively determines functioning and place of the mentioned subsystem in the whole societal system; on the other hand, it is mutually dependent on the development laws of other subsystems in the whole societal system. Consequently, without grasping the essence of the laws of the subsystem of demographic relationships and understanding their interaction with the laws of other subsystems in the whole societal system, it is virtually impossible to assess demographic development correctly and effectively.

In some demographer's [Vishnevsky, 1976] whole system of societal relationships, qualitative renewal of the subsystem of demographic relationships transpires spontaneously and momentarily and it does not have the transition period of qualitative change. To represent the subsystem of demographic relationships with momentary qualitative change is unacceptable to us not only its newly-formulated type but also in its stage. It is necessary to research its transformational process in the form of transitional period which, to say the least, has barely been studied and, therefore, it is important to know how the process happens, in what conditions and at which stage essentially which factors (global and/or local together with internal and external) determine its transformation.

The development of population reproduction type, during long periods of time, transpires in the form of stages with the backdrop of its qualitative changes. Once the development of the population reproduction type reaches the culmination, qualitative renewal of the demographic system becomes crucial, which, in turn, is naturally followed by the formation of a new population reproduction type that is completely different from the predecessor in terms of qualitativeness. This process requires some time and basically transpires between the logically existing transitional period of the last stage of the old reproduction type and the first stage of the new reproduction type. We do not exclude a chance that the intertype transitional period can be developped unnoticed (latently) at the end of the last stage of the old type and at the beginning of the new type. This period is, at some point, hinted at by its drastic nature with the help of demographic behavior or with the change of quantitative indicators of reproduction.

The theory of demographic transition mainly depicts quantitative results of the ongoing changes inside the subsystem of demographic relationships and does not provide us with the idea of how transformation of other subsystems influences 'rules of play' of its own components. This is one of the setbacks of the mentioned theory. It is not sufficient to contemplate about the development of the demographic relationships' subsystem only by taking into account quantitative changes of demostatistical indicators. Therefore, in order to better elicit the period and time of a country's demographic transition, it is necessary to analyze qualitative changes transpiring during the development (transformation) of certain subsystems belonging to the system of societal relationships.

Generally, the transformation of the whole societal system and its various subsystems are the requirement of time and it is conducted differently. This process can be developped in light of simultaneous or successive reform of separate subsystems within the whole system and is largely dependent on the global and local events happening all across the world, as well as in its specific geographical areas. The severity of the latter changes the pace of evolutionary development of the whole societal system together with its separate subsystems by speeding it up or slowing it down. Consequently, during the process of transformation, it violates "old rules of settled play" between various subsystems of the whole system and in its places establishes "new rules of play", which, more or less, is reflected, during transitional period, in the final result of the transformation of each.

Thus, momentary and spontaneous transition from one type of demographic development to the next type, as well as from one stage to the next stage is hardly possible. There exists, even for a small stretch of time, some transitional period, the length of which, together with other subsystems, is determined by the severity of demographic subsystem's transformation.

In this aspect, sustainable and stable development of the subsystem of political relationships in the whole societal system is of crucial importance. In a way, it determines peaceful and evolutionary character of the development of other subsystems, during which it is possible that the pace of one of the subsystems (or of several at once) will substantially exceed the developmental pace of other subsystems.

At this time, in light of the qualitative change of the subsystems' components, we can notice a hidden transformation of its subsystems, which against the backdrop of quantitatively stable, insignificant change tendency, is dragging out in time and even becomes invisible. In contrast to the mentioned, during the process of radical, drastic transformation of the political subsystem, at varying pace, often asynchronously, separate subsystems and their components undergo qualitative transformation which are clearly reflected on the quantitative results and can even adopt an undesired tendency in the long run.

As a result of all the above mentioned, we would like to emphasize two types of transitional period in terms of intertype and interstage population reproduction: latent, or closed and obvious or open.

Criteria for the assessment of the qualitative transformation of the subsystem of demographic relationships can take various forms at different periods. It is possible they will be represented as a whole, complex or only in the form of several criteria. This is largely dependent on the severity of

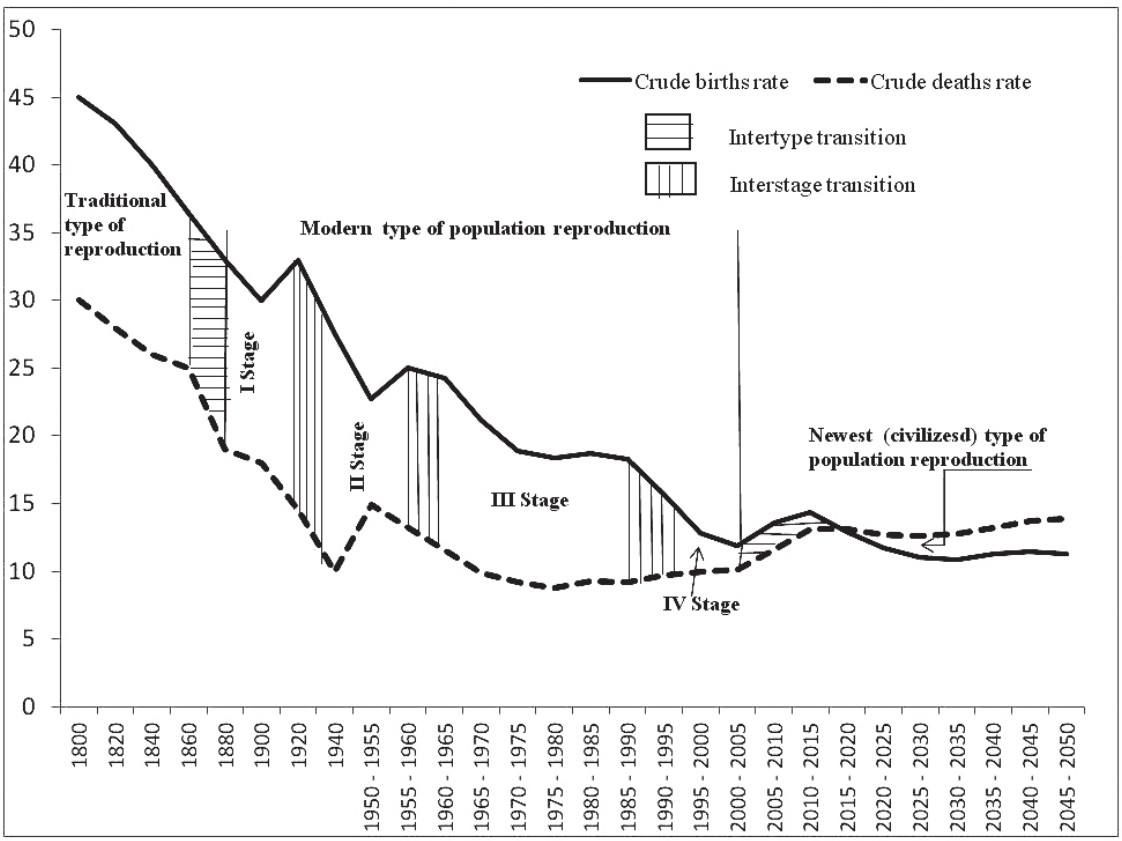
transformation in the transitional period, on its forms – latent or open. Stemming from the range of the transformation of the whole societal system, these criteria can take various qualitative forms in the transitional period and therefore, yield different final result in terms of quantitativeness. Demographic history clearly confirms that after almost all interstage transitional periods the tendencies of childbirth went down and mortality increased. The power of influence of the demographic subsystem and its transformation's global and local factors largely determine the sustained character of demographic behavior during intertype and interstage transitional periods, which, in turn, substantially determine the final demographic result.

Exactly, more or less, different sustained character of demographic behavior of population determined varying quantitative results of demographic subsystem's qualitative transformation in certain countries during the intertype and interstage transitional periods. In some countries, this process resulted in depopulation at the end of 20th century. In this regard, by taking into account the impact of the global and local factors, we will discuss the periods of Georgia's demographic modernization since 1800 until today (Figure).

The formation of the modern type of population reproduction in Georgia in our opinion starts supposedly after abolishing serfdom in Georgia (year 1864) – a global event of the 19th century. Consequently, we deem the period of 1864-1880s to be the transitional period from traditional to modern type of population reproduction. Our opinion is confirmed by the statistical data of that time [Kotrikadze B., 1990: 8]. Some Georgian demographers [Khmaladze M., 1994], think that the beginning of the modern type of population reproduction is 30s of the 19th century, whereas according to others [Tsuladze G… 2002;Kotrikadze B… 1990: 8] the "European type" of demographic behavior in Georgia was marked substantially early, as opposed to the European part of the Russian Empire. These demographers deem 50s of the 19th century to be the beginning of the first stage in Georgia and in Armenia and Muslim countries the same stage started 100-150 years later. Therefore, Georgia always outpaced those countries in terms of demographic development.

Consequently, the first stage of the modern type of population reproduction continued from 1880 until 1914. In this respect, some Georgian demographers, according to the calculations conducted on the results of 1926 population census based on the Bogie's Quotient, thought that Georgia entered the second stage in the middle of 1920s. In this aspect, they did not take into consideration the reliablility of demostatistical information of that period relating to the 1926 population census, as well as the country's current political, social-economic and the transformation of other subsystems, etc. be-

Figure. Demographic transition in Georgia during 1800-2050



Source: 1800-1950 – Geostat; 1950-2050 – www.esa.un.org/unpd/wpp

cause of which they were a little inaccurate. We believe that the period 1914-1928 was the first interstage transitional period that was determined by global (World War I, Revolution) and local (industrialization, collectivization and other reforms) social-economic factors. The severity of the revolutionary form of demographic and other subsystems' transformation stretched the transitional period from the first to the second stage in time (nearly 12-15 years), therefore, we must surmise the beginning of the second stage to have commenced around 1928-1930 [Sulaberidze A., 1998: 49-52].

The second transitional period from the second to third stage of the modern type of population reproduction despite the impact of the global (World War II and expansion of the socialistic block) and local (political and social-economic reforms conducted after World War II) factors on the demographic processes during the second stage (1930-1960) compared to other transitional periods, was carried out in a relatively peaceful political environment in the form of evolution. In contrast to this, transitional periods between the first and third stages were essentially stipulated by the transformation of political subsystem and thus, there developed, in the whole societal system, simultaneous transformation of almost all subsystems. This determined a severe and revolutionary character of demographic development in the second and fourth stages [Sulaberidze A., 2001: 114-117). However, after correcting demostatistical information, there was expressed a view that: "In the whole, since 1960, correcting evaluative data of mortality leads us, like the evolution of the expected life expectancy, toward new interpretation of a general demographic transition during the last 40 years (1960-2000)" [Tsuladze G. 2007: 31]. This confirms our opinion about the second [1960-1965] and the third interstage transitional periods [1990-1995].

It must be noted that the global and local factors having impact on the demographic modernization of the previous periods have not inflicted as much loss as the global event of 1992 – dismantling of the communist system and together with it, the years of the aftermath of the restoration of Georgian independence and the factors of local character, like demolition of territorial unity and drastic social-economic problems – did. This period witnessed the unprecedentedly high emigrational processes in the history of Georgia, the result of which was 1.7 million people leaving the country and the broken regime of population reproduction fostered zero natural increase and depopulation.

Carrying out the activities of global and local factors was exactly the reason why the country faced a rapid cascade of demographic modernization since 1992 in a pretty short time (1992-2020): first the fourth stage (1995-2005.), and then the period between the second types of transition (2005-2020), from the modern to the newest, civilized population reproduction. This will be followed by depopulation at the beginning of 2020.

Regarding the prognosis of Georgian demographic development, as the diagram Figure 1 shows, the newest type of population reproduction will be established from 2020. During this type, depopulation processes (mortality exceeding childbirth, natural decrease of population) are expected to develop for yet an unknown period of time.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, despite the fact that the demographic development of Georgia, in certain periods, since 1800 until today, was largely dependent on the external-global and inner-local factors, and this violated evolutionary process of the regime of population reproduction in the interstage transitional periods (except the second period), it has not influenced the evolutionary development of Georgia's demographic subsystem for two centuries until 1992. If we do not take into account the fragmentary growth of childbirth in some periods due to the external interference (for example: active demographic policy in 1984-1992, and the baptism of every third and the next successive child by the patriarch in 2007-2011), demographic processes in the country, in the mentioned period, except after 1992, progressed in light of general demographic laws and evolutionary development.

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SUMMARY

In accordance with the theory of demographic transition, the following article analyzes peculiarities of Georgia's demographic modernization during XIX-XX centuries and at modern stage. Peculiarities of the impact of global and local political and social-economic factors on the modernization of demographic system are discussed according to the separate stages and the intertype period of the modern type of population reproduction.