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POPULATION DYNAMICS AND TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHEAST ARCTIC REGIONS OF RUSSIA

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The impact of the Soviet collapse had been felt stronger in northeast Arctic regions than in other ones of Russia. Disintegration of the USSR, political and economic reforms produced abrupt changes in the demographic situation. Since 1991, the process of stable population decrease became natural and, above all, due to migration. Unlike other demographic processes, migration responded quickly to the changes going on in society. This process was set off by the slash of the army and closure of numerous industrial enterprises based on natural resources use as these became unprofitable in the conditions of market economy. Market orientation immediately laid bare the relative overpopulation of the northern regions which the people were in a hurry to leave.

In 1990-2013 the total population of Chukotka, the northeastern –most part of Russia, declined more than threefold mainly due to mass migration outflow of the Russian population and other than indigenous peoples. Rate of decrease in number of people (69%) in Chukotka was the highest one in Russian Federation. More than 75% was the shrinking population in Iul'tinskiy, Chaunskiy, and Shmidtovskiy rayons. While the share of Russian, Ukrainian, and Tatar and other than indigenous peoples in total population has decreased, the share of Chukchi, Inuits, Evens increased.

Reflecting the post-Soviet change in population dynamics, distinct types of transformation of human settlements and can be found in Chukotka. The first type is of the Soviet-period settlements, inhabited largely by indigenous population, whose numbers have not changed much. An example of this is Amguema Village in Iul'tinskiy rayon. Its population decreased in post-Soviet time, but much less than in other settlements of the rayon with essentially Russian population. The second type is of the Soviet-period settlements, but considerably depopulated, inhabited mostly by Russian population. Considerably depopulated settlements, with essentially Russian population, where there co-exist abandoned and preserved residential neighborhoods forms the third type. Ugolnye Kopi settlement, where in the abandoned part there used to live military personnel until military base was closed, is an example of this type. The fourth type are depopulated, demolished, abundant settlements that used to be inhabited by non-indigenous population employed at mining enterprises based on exhaustible mineral resources or by servicemen. The on-site analysis in Iul'tinskiy rayon showed that during the post-Soviet period due to the closing down of the Iul'tinskiy Mining and Dressing Plant and its servicing enterprises in 1994, Iul'tin Township and the settlements Svetlyi, Geologicheskii, and Vostochnyi were demolished. By field research we revealed 38 demolished human settlements in Chukotka. The opening of new enterprises in post-Soviet time based on natural resources utilization and mainly related to placer gold mining leads to the emergence of temporary workers' settlements, migrant workers' residences. Such settlements consist of the fifth type in our classification.

Human settlements of northeast Arctic regions of Russia have changed in the post-Soviet period and are continuing to evolve under the impact of population dynamics and natural resources development.