

II. CURRENT PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY AND COUNTRY STUDIES

УДК 911.375

<https://doi.org/10.17721/2308-135X.2025.77.36-41>

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*ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЙНІ ЗМІНИ МОНОФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНИХ МІСТ УКРАЇНИ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ
ТА В ПОВОЄННИЙ ПЕРІОД*

Мета — проаналізувати та відобразити дискусію щодо обґрунтування методологічного підходу в сфері дослідження монофункціональних міст. Оцінити актуальний стан їхньої економічної та демографічної ситуації, а також окреслити перспективи розвитку/існування монофункціональних міст в умовах війни та в повоєнний період.

Методика — ґрунтується на аналізі дискурсу щодо визначення поняття «монофункціональне місто» та його розмірів, згідно класифікації за чисельністю населення. Основою розвідки є доробки українських науковців у сфері дослідження вітчизняних монофункціональних міст та статистичні дані з відкритих джерел. Трансформаційні зміни функціональності та населеності українських міст у наслідок соціально-економічних проблем та воєнних дій проілюстровані прикладами.

Результати — досліджено вплив воєнних дій на розвиток та існування монофункціональних міст в Україні. Окремими групами виділено тимчасово окуповані монофункціональні міста та ті монофункціональні міста, які наразі знаходяться на лінії фронту. Оцінено перспективи розвитку українських монофункціональних міст, які розташовані поблизу кордонів з Російською Федерацією та Білоруссю. Окреслено основні зміни для українських міст (функціональність і населеність) як наслідок російської агресії в залежності від їх географічного розташування.

Наукова новизна — у статті виокремлено тимчасово окуповані малі монофункціональні міста України — як з 2014 року, так і з 2022 року, також в окрему групу виділено монофункціональні міста, які наразі знаходяться на лінії фронту. Проаналізовано, які зміни відбудуться з українськими містами внаслідок російської агресії.

Практична значимість — спираючись на конкретні приклади показано, з якими викликами зіштовхнуться українські міста, зокрема і монофункціональні, через російську агресію. Одним із її наслідків є формування нової системи розселення в Україні, в результаті чого зміниться і економічний потенціал регіонів.

Ключові слова: монофункціональні міста, населеність міст, війна, містоутворювальні підприємства, тимчасово окуповані території.

UDC 911.375

<https://doi.org/10.17721/2308-135X.2025.77.36-41>

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*TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGES IN MONOFUNCTIONAL CITIES OF UKRAINE DURING
WAR AND POST-WAR PERIOD*

Purpose – to analyze and reflect the discussion on the justification of the methodological approach in the field of monofunctional cities research. To assess the current state of their economic and demographic situation, as well as to outline the prospects for the development/existence of monofunctional cities in the war and post-war period.

Methods – is based on the analysis of the discourse on the definition of the concept of "monofunctional city" and its size, according to the classification by population. The basis of intelligence is the work of Ukrainian scientists in the field of research on domestic monofunctional cities and statistical data from open sources. Transformational changes in the functionality and population of Ukrainian cities as a result of socio-economic problems and military operations are illustrated by examples.

Results – the impact of military operations on the development and existence of monofunctional cities in Ukraine is investigated. The temporarily occupied monofunctional cities and those monofunctional cities that are currently on the front line are separated into separate groups. The development prospects of Ukrainian monofunctional cities, which are located near the borders with the Russian Federation and Belarus, are evaluated. The main changes for Ukrainian cities (functionality and population) as a result of Russian aggression are outlined, depending on their geographical location.

Scientific novelty — the article singles out the temporarily occupied small monofunctional cities of Ukraine — both from 2014 and from 2022, and monofunctional cities that are currently on the front line are also singled out in a separate group. It is analyzed what changes will take place in Ukrainian cities as a result of Russian aggression.

The practical significance — based on specific examples, it is shown what challenges Ukrainian cities, in particular monofunctional ones, will face due to Russian aggression. One of its consequences is the formation of a new resettlement system in Ukraine, as a result of which the economic potential of the regions will change.

Keywords: monofunctional cities, population of cities, war, city-forming enterprises, temporarily occupied territories.

Introduction. As a result of the military aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in 2014, between February 20, 2014 and February 20, 2015, 22 out of 111 small monofunctional Ukrainian cities were temporarily occupied. After the aggressor country launched a full-scale war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, it temporarily occupied and still holds another 14 small monofunctional cities. In addition, a number of monofunctional cities in Ukraine are currently on the front line and are being methodically destroyed by the troops of the Russian Federation. This study attempts to assess the current state of development/existence of monofunctional cities in Ukraine, the transformational changes that are taking place in them as a result of the war.

Literature Review. O. H. Topchiiev divided cities by function into monofunctional, cities with a limited set of functions (narrow-profile, having 2-3 main functions) and multifunctional. He also noted that in the absence of a generally accepted classification based on the number of residents in the city or on the functions that the city performs, each researcher could offer his own classification, which is oriented towards the research objectives (*Topchiiev, 2005*).

N. V. Vasylieva defined a monofunctional city as a small or medium-sized settlement with enterprises that belong to one city-forming industry and form the majority of the city's budget (*Vasylieva, 2008*).

I. M. Zhabinets identified 122 monofunctional cities in Ukraine, and suggested considering those cities as monofunctional if more than 50% of the economically active population works at city-forming enterprises. According to Zhabinets's research, 49 such enterprises, which constituted 40.2% of the total number, were located in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. However, in her opinion, the list of monofunctional cities can be expanded, because even if 30% of the economically active population works at specialized enterprises, this significantly affects both the economic and social life of the city (*Zhabinets, 2000*).

In turn, A. I. Dotsenko identified 131 small monofunctional cities in Ukraine, 50 of which were located in the Donetsk economic region. Particular attention was paid to the population of small monofunctional cities. Thus, in 112 of them, which constituted 85% of the total number in Ukraine, the population decreased, in some (9 small monofunctional cities) — significantly — by 31–40%. In addition, in 19 cities (14.9 %) on the contrary, an increase in the population was observed, while in 6 of them — significantly. For example, in the small monofunctional city of Varash in Rivne Oblast (formerly Kuznetsovsk) during 1993-2009 the population grew 12 times (*Dotsenko, 2011*).

L. O. Radionova named two criteria by which cities can be classified as monofunctional: the presence of an enterprise that employs more than 25 percent of able-bodied residents, and the presence of an enterprise in the city that produces more than 50% of products (*Radionova, 2019*).

K. V. Mezentsev, Ya. B. Oliinyk, N. I. Mezentseva, etc. gave examples in their monograph of medium-sized — from 50 to 100 thousand people — and even large — from 100 to 250 thousand — monofunctional cities in terms of population: Dovzhansk, Rovenky (coal mining) and Siverskodonetsk (until 2024 — Sievierodonetsk, chemical industry), Alchevsk (ferrous metallurgy), respectively (*Mezentsev, Oliinyk, Mezentseva, 2017*).

Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, in the Resolution «On the Main Directions for Ensuring the Comprehensive Development of Small Monofunctional Cities» dated March 17, 2000, which expired in August 2012, defined monofunctional cities as small-sized settlements (population up to 50 thousand people), the lion's share of the revenue of which is formed by specialized enterprises belonging to one or two sectors of the economy. According to this Resolution, as of 2000, there were 122 small monofunctional cities in Ukraine (*Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 521, 2000*). And the Law of Ukraine «On Approval of the National Program for the Development of Small Towns» (current version dated June 10, 2012), approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on March 4, 2004, refers to 111 small monofunctional towns (*Law of Ukraine No. 1580-IV, 2012*).

V. V. Monynets examined the features of the formation and division of territories belonging to different functional types, including monofunctional cities within the framework of state regional policy, and the problems of their development (*Monynets, 2021*).

The challenges faced by small monofunctional cities, the readiness of local residents to regenerate urban space using the example of the monofunctional city of Zhovti Vody. By the way, this city at the time of the adoption of the Law of Ukraine «On Approval of the National Program for the Development of Small Towns» was classified as medium-sized, not small cities, were thoroughly studied by O. Khrebtishcheva and O. Gnatiuk (*Khrebtishcheva, Gnatiuk, 2023*).

The purpose of the study. To analyze and reflect the discussion on the justification of the methodological approach in the field of research on monofunctional cities. To assess the current state of their economic and demographic situation, as well as to outline the prospects for the development/existence of monofunctional cities in wartime and in the post-war period.

Results and Discussion. Analyzing the list of 111 small monofunctional towns of Ukraine, which were included in the State Program for the Development of Small Towns in 2004, we came to the conclusion that 22 of them were temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation during 2014–2015 (*Table 1*). One of them — Zolote, which belonged to the industrial center «Coal Mining» — was partially occupied and was located on the contact line (*Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1085-r, 2014*).

In general, except for Zolote, which was partially out of control of the Ukrainian authorities (fully occupied since June 21, 2022), in 2014 the Russian Federation completely occupied 13 small monofunctional cities of Ukraine, which were coal mining centers, 3 of them in Donetsk Oblast and 10 in Luhansk Oblast. Moreover, two centers for the extraction of ore and non-metallic raw materials have been temporarily occupied since 2014: Dokuchaievsk and Kalmiuske (until 2016 — Komsomolske) in Donetsk Oblast; two energy centers — monofunctional cities Zuhres in Donetsk Oblast and Miusynsk in Luhansk Oblast; one center each for the defense industry and the chemical and oil refining industry — Amvrosiivka in Donetsk Oblast and Yany Kapu (until 2023 — Krasnoperekopsk) in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, respectively; an agro-industrial center — the city of Oleksandrivsk in Luhansk region. In addition, during 2014–2015, the Russian Federation captured and occupied two transport centers in the Donetsk Oblast — Ilovaisk (2014), Debaltseve (February 19, 2015) (*Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1085-r, 2014*).

After February 24, 2022 — the beginning of a full-scale war against Ukraine — the Russian Federation managed to capture and still hold 14 more small monofunctional cities, which are listed in the Law of Ukraine «On Approval of the National Program for the Development of Small Towns». These are cities in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson Oblast's: Volnovakha, Vuhledar, Soledar, Ukrainsk, Novodruzhesk, Perevalsk, Pryvillya, Popasna, Shchastia, Dniprorudne, Kamianka-Dniprovska, Tokmak, and Oleshky. Another 9 small monofunctional cities of Ukraine (*Table 1*) as of October 1, 2024 are on the front line, constantly under fire from the Russians and mercilessly destroyed: Bilozerske, Hirnyk, Dobropillia, Zalizne, Novohrodivka, Rodynske, Toretsk, Chasiv Yar, Orikhiv (*Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, 2024*).

It is obvious that the list of monofunctional cities of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation and those that it is trying to occupy could be continued, because monofunctional cities include not only small ones, but also medium-sized ones (Enerhodar — energy, Khartsyzk — metallurgy, Dovzhansk — coal mining — etc.) and even large cities in terms of population. Such as, for example, Alchevsk, where the city-forming enterprises were ferrous metallurgy, and Siverskodonetsk — chemical industry (*Mezentsev, Oliinyk, Mezentseva, 2017*).

The monofunctionality of small and medium-sized cities in the first years of Ukrainian independence, when the state quite logically abandoned the Soviet legacy — the planned economy, weakened the competitiveness and investment attractiveness of these settlements, whose population began to decline rapidly.

In the future, the process of deindustrialization — the mass closure of mines and other enterprises made some monofunctional cities depressed and subsidized. For example, from 1995 to 2001, almost 50% of the mines of the Luhansk region were liquidated, which put such monofunctional cities as Holubivka, Miusynsk, Sokolohirsk, etc. on the verge of survival (*Mezentsev, Oliinyk, Mezentseva, 2017*).

Due to demographic and economic crises, external labor migration, the population of Ukraine has been constantly decreasing: from 48 million 500 thousand people on December 5, 2001, to 42 million people on January 1, 2022. At the same time, at the beginning of 2020, the number of external labor migrants from Ukraine was 2.5–3 million people (*Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 2024*). Small and medium-sized cities, regardless of their functionality, were expectedly the most vulnerable to challenges. Some of them had already turned from medium-sized cities into small ones by 2014, such as the monofunctional city of Zhovti Vody in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, the population of which from 53 thousand 582 people in 2001 decreased over the next 6 years to 49 thousand 814 people, and as of January 1, 2022

it was 42 thousand 52 people (*State Statistics Service of Ukraine (b), 2022*). Zhovti Vody is one of those cities that, due to the suspension of the city-forming enterprise (Eastern Mining and Processing Enterprise), experienced a significant outflow of the working population and faced a significant aging (20.6%) of the existing population (*Khrebtishcheva, Gnatiuk, 2023*).

Table 1.

Status of monofunctional cities located in regions where military operations are taking place (DeepStateMAP, 2024; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1085-r, 2014; Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, 2024)

<i>Administrative divisions of Ukraine</i>	<i>Small monofunctional cities</i>	<i>Status for 2014-2015</i>	<i>Status for 2022–2024</i>
Donetsk Oblast	Vuhlehirsk, Khrestivka, Mospyne, Bunhe, Dokuchaievsk, Kalmiuske, Zuhres, Amvrosiivka, Debaltseve, Ilovaik	Temporarily occupied cities	Temporarily occupied cities
	Zalizne, Bilytske, Bilozerske, Vuhledar, Hirnyk, **Toretsk, Dobropillia, Ukrainsk, Rodynske, Soledar, Volnovakha, Chasiv Yar	ATO zone, **front line	Temporarily occupied cities and cities that are on/near the front line as of 1.10. 2024
Luhansk Oblast	Kypuche, Bokovo-Khrustalne, Holubivka, Zymohiria, *Zolote, Zorynsk, Otamanivka, Sokolohirsk, Sukhodilsk, Voznesenivka, Miusynsk, Oleksandrivsk	Temporarily occupied cities, *partially temporarily occupied cities	Temporarily occupied cities
	Hirske, Perevalsk, Pryvillya, **Zolote, **Shchastia, ** Popasna	ATO zone, **front line	Temporarily occupied cities
Kherson Oblast	Oleshky	—	Temporarily occupied cities
Zaporizhzhia Oblast	Dniprorudne, Kamianka-Dniprovska, Tokmak, ***Orikhiv	—	Temporarily occupied cities, ***front line
The Autonomous Republic of Crimea	Yany Kapu	Temporarily occupied cities	Temporarily occupied cities

The population of the city of Okhtyrka, Sumy Oblast, from 2001 to 2022 decreased not so significantly: from 49,721 people to 46,660 people (*State Statistics Service of Ukraine (b), 2022*). However, the city has actually transformed from a multifunctional one into a monofunctional one, dominated by oil-producing industry enterprises. This happened as a result of the final liquidation in 2012 of two machine-building enterprises: PJSC «Naftoprommash» (Marushchenko, 2020, 2023) and Okhtyrka Agricultural Machine-Building Plant (*Okhtyrka city council, 2014*).

It should also be noted that the city of Okhtyrka was already on the front line on March 24, 2022 and suffered extensive damage to both housing and critical infrastructure. The active phase of the fighting for this city lasted for over a month — until March 27, and three days earlier — on March 24, 2022, the President of Ukraine awarded Okhtyrka the honorary title of «Hero City of Ukraine» (*Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 164/2022, 2022*).

Currently, the main taxpayers in Okhtyrka by type of economic activity, in addition to budgetary and municipal institutions and retail enterprises, are enterprises of the extractive industry, transportation of gas and oil and provision of auxiliary services in the extractive industry (29.9 %), another 4% of taxes come from the production of beverages (Okhtyrka Brewery) (*State Tax Service of Ukraine, 2024*).

The war unleashed by the Russian Federation in 2014, which escalated into a full-scale war on February 24, 2022, undoubtedly deepened the problems of monofunctional Ukrainian cities, both those that were or remain temporarily occupied or are on the front line, and those suffering from permanent shelling and significant destruction and other monofunctional cities of Ukraine. Forced mass migration of the population - both internal and external, the consequences of which for each specific city have yet to be assessed, has already led to a disparity in socio-economic and cultural development. The number of

vacancies in regional labor markets can also indirectly trace the disparity observed in the economic development of the regions of Ukraine. Thus, if we compare the indicators before the large-scale invasion, the largest increase in vacancies is demonstrated by Ivano-Frankivsk (+88%), Zakarpattia (+87%) and Khmelnytskyi (+51%) Oblast's (*National Institute for Strategic Studies, 2024*). Given this, it is not difficult to predict that even after the end of the war or active hostilities, most regions of Ukraine will not be able to develop according to the usual paradigm. The population of some cities will increase, while others will significantly decrease.

As for the size of the labor force in Ukraine as a whole, it is known that as of January 1, 2024, it decreased by more than 25% compared to 2021. We are talking about people aged 15 to 70. At the same time, almost 50% of this reduction occurred as a result of mass external migration of the population (*National Bank of Ukraine, 2024*). According to the Ukrainian Government, currently almost 7.5 million Ukrainians are abroad, the vast majority of them are forced migrants who left Ukraine due to the war (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 2024*).

For comparison: according to the State Statistics Service, in 2021, that is, before the full-scale war, the number of the labor force aged 15 to 70 was 17.3 million people, which is 1.5% less than in 2020. At the same time, the employment rate of the population among people aged 15–70 was 55.7%. The highest employment rate was observed among people aged 40–44 (77.3%), and the lowest among people aged 60 and older (8.2%) (*State Statistics Service of Ukraine (a), 2021*).

According to the forecasts of the USAID Mission in Ukraine (U.S. Agency for International Development), by 2030 Ukraine will lack from 5 to 10 million new workers. The mission director, Theodora Dell, stated this on September 25 during the 9th Forum «Conductor of Change», organized by Deloitte Ukraine (Deloitte Ukraine, 2024). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine already estimates the shortage of personnel in the labor market at 30% (*National Bank of Ukraine, 2024*). The lack of human potential is one of the most acute challenges for Ukraine. However, according to Theodora Dell, the labor shortage can be overcome by relying on domestic Ukrainian resources (*Deloitte Ukraine, 2024*). However, for this it is necessary to raise the employment level of the population, which in Ukraine even before the start of the full-scale war was significantly lower than in the EU countries, which is possible only under the conditions of an efficiently functioning economy and a high level of adaptability of the labor force.

Unfortunately, we will be able to assess the real situation both in Ukraine as a whole and in specific regions and monofunctional cities only after the end of the full-scale war, since under martial law there are certain restrictions on access to public information.

However, given that cities are living organisms that are capable of both rapid development and degradation even in peacetime, we can predict that in conditions of war and post-war reality (disproportion of settlement, mass migration associated with the desire of the population to build their lives away from the borders with the Russian Federation and Belarus, the reluctance of investors to invest in border areas, etc.), a significant part of monofunctional cities, even those not destroyed during the war, may decline. Other monofunctional cities may, on the contrary, develop and become multifunctional, and this will largely depend on their geographical location. At the same time, some multifunctional cities with medium population size risk becoming monofunctional and small in population precisely because of their geographical location, which will certainly have a painful impact on the quality of life of the population that remains there.

Conclusions. In conditions of a full-scale war, it is very difficult to talk about the development of monofunctional cities, especially if they are located in close proximity to the theater of hostilities and/or borders with aggressor countries. It is obvious that even after the end of the war or active hostilities, the regions bordering the Russian Federation and Belarus will not be able to develop with the same dynamics as before the war. Moreover, they will be inferior in terms of economic development to neighboring regions that are more fortunate in their geographical location. With a high probability, the structure of the Ukrainian economy will change forever, the country will have to live in completely new conditions and realities. The state faces a difficult task of maintaining the balance of the settlement system in the country, the economic power of the regions and their cities, which, in conditions of imbalance, risk becoming monofunctional and declining.

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Отримано редакцією журналу / Received: 09.01.25

Прорецензовано / Revised: 11.02.25

Схвалено до друку / Accepted: 25.02.25