

THE LARGE CITIES OF UKRAINE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

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Enhancing of the role of cities in the development of society is primarily connected with the development of industrial production. As a result, the large cities are formed with the population over 100 000 people and a diversified scope of implication of labour, relatively developed social infrastructure and predominantly urban lifestyle. Ukraine is no exception. Among 46 large cities of Ukraine, 23 cities are formed after the seventeenth century. Qualitative characteristic of large cities, which had a positive impact on their development, obtained the administrative and territorial status: the capital, chief town of a district, district city, regional city, city of regional or republican subordination etc. Most of the modern cities in past ages had a certain status that had a positive impact on their development. Today, all the cities of this group also have a certain status. However, the growth of large cities in the territory of Ukraine occurred unevenly.

Already by the end of the nineteenth century – at the beginning of the twentieth century within the country, the following urban centres could be emphasized – Kyiv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv, who retained leadership positions until now. Later Donetsk joined this group; it received city status at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the heyday of the industrial age, Ukraine had a city with a million-plus population – Kyiv, and in 1959, among 25 large cities of Ukraine, 12 cities were in the Dnieper-Donets region, other large cities of that period were mainly regional centres. At the turn of XX – XXI centuries, the situation somewhat improved shifting the emphasis on the growth of cities in central and western parts of the country but generally uneven of previous age was preserved. Despite the shortcomings, the industrial age has made Ukraine the urbanized country of the world and large cities we consider as indicators of urbanization.