РАЗДЕЛ X. ГЕОГРАФИЯ

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Comparative analysis of the resource base and industries
of Russia and the UK

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Аннотация

В данной статье даётся сравнительный анализ ресурсной базы и отраслей экономики России и Великобритании. Основными рассматриваемыми аспектами выступают: климат и экология стран, отраслевые структуры экономики, водные и природные ресурсы стран. Обозначены основные отличительные характеристики рассматриваемых аспектов.

Ключевые слова: ресурсы, ресурсная база, экономика, экология, показатели, национальный валовой продукт, добыча полезных ископаемых.

Abstract

This article provides a comparative analysis of the resource base and industries of the economy of Russia and the UK. The main aspects of the article are: climate and ecology of the countries, sectoral structures of the economy, watery and natural resources of countries. The main distinguishing characteristics of the considered aspects are indicated.

Key words: resources, resource base, economy, ecology, indicators, national gross product, mining.

Comparison of the sectoral structure of the economy is the main aspect we'd like to begin our research with. Great Britain and Russia are two different countries and in this article we want to determine main differences in definite aspects: sectoral structure of the economy, climate and ecology, water resources, natural resources.

Great Britain is a country with a developed and strong economy. It ranks fifth in gross national product in the world and sixth in purchasing power. GNP for 1 person is 16 thousand dollars per year. England supplies industrial products to the world market on a large scale. In England, highly developed production of natural gas, coal and oil, which are extracted mainly from the North sea. Among the main industries can be identified engineering, in which the main emphasis is put on non-standard products, and produce machines of various types. The industry includes automotive, shipbuilding, machine tools, transport, agricultural machinery, electronic equipment, etc.

The structure of the Russian economy is dominated by the services sector (trade, transport, restaurants, hotels, communications, financial activities, real estate, public administration, security, education, health, other services) — more than 56.7 % of the value added structure in 2007 (GDP — 48.6 %). Construction accounts for only 5.9 % of the value added structure (5.1 % of GDP); agriculture, forestry and fisheries account for 4.5 % of the value added structure (4.5 % of Russia's GDP). The lowest share in the structure of value added is the production and distribution of electricity, gas and water — 3.1 % (2.7 % of GDP). Net taxes on products account for 14.2 % of GDP.

Such aspect as climate and ecology of the country also play great role in its development.

A characteristic feature of the UK climate is a large number of cloudy and rainy days a year (an average of about 50%). Due to the proximity of the warm Gulf stream, the weather conditions in the country at any time of the year are milder than in any other area at this latitude.

A large number of transport and industrial production has a devastating impact on the environment of the country. Under the pressure of the green party, which is quite authoritative in the country, the government is forced to take measures to reduce the level of environmental pollution. The results of the activities are indicated by the figures: for British cities with a population of more than 100 thousand, the average level of air pollution is $12.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the European average of $20.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. For Russia, this figure is $16 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Let's represent the given information in the form of the diagram 1 "Sectoral structure of the economy" to sum up the main results of this aspect.

Diagrams 1: Sectoral structure of the economy

The determining influence on the climate of the UK has a warm Gulf stream, passing along its Western shores and heating the air on the way. Because of this, the climate on the Islands is milder than it could be, given their Northern position.

Features of the climate of Russia are determined by a number of geographical factors, including geographical location, size and length from West to East and North to South, a large variety of terrain.

Next aspect we want to describe is water resources.

In England, many deep rivers; this is due to the fact that precipitation in the country in its number exceed the number of evaporation. Severn is 354 km long and the Thames is 334 km long. The largest river in the UK — the Thames — its length — 334 km, and the basin area is estimated at 15 300 km². The largest underground basin in England, with an area of 30 000 km², is located under the chalk limestone in the South-Eastern part of the country. The largest lake is called Windermere (Windermere). Two villages on its banks, Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere, are the gateway to the wonderful world of the Park's fabulously beautiful nature.

A large part of the country's population now lives in river valleys. Some of the rivers in Russia — such as the Volga — are important economic arteries. The total length of Russian rivers exceeds 8 million km. Total in Russia more than 2.5 million rivers. In the Asian part of Russia take place 40 rivers longer than 1000 km. the Largest Delta — the Lena river and the Volga estuary — in the Ob and Yenisei. Russia ranks second (after Brazil) in terms of total river flow; one Russian has 23 thousand m³ of water per year.

Lake Loch Ness in the UK $S=396 \text{ km}^2$ Lake Baikal in Russia $S=31722 \text{ km}^2$

Picture 1. Water resources management

The last aspect we want to compare these two countries is natural resources.

The UK does not have a variety of minerals. But some of them had a significant impact on the formation of industrial areas of the country. Extremely significant are the reserves of coal, the total of which comes to 190 billion tonnes. These reserves are located throughout the country. However, the most important areas in terms of production recognized three basins:

- Yorkshire;
- Northumberland;
- South Wales.

More valuable coal seams are located on the coast of the Kimberley Peninsula and in the Kent basin.

The deposits are extremely depleted and the level of production is quite low. On the territory of Scotland discovered uranium ore.

From industrial raw materials of non-metallic nature of origin, kaolin, as well as stone and potassium salt are extracted.

Considerable mineral wealth is concentrated on the vast territory of Russia. 20% of the world's fuel and energy resources are located here. Oil and gas are produced in the North Caucasus, the Volga region, the Urals, Western Siberia (where 2/3 of all oil and 1/2 of all gas of the country is extracted), the Timan-Pechora region, Eastern Siberia and the far East. Coal in Russia is produced mainly in the East of the country, where 90% of all coal reserves in Russia are concentrated. The largest of the coal basins is Kuzbass, where energy and coking coal is extracted, Irkutsk, Tunguska, Pechora, in the long term, the South Yakut basin acquires great importance. Brown coal, which is mainly used at TPP, is extracted in the Moscow region and Kansk-Achinsk basins. The main share of iron ore reserves is located in the Ural mountains, in Khibiny, in the South of Siberia, in the far East. The deposits of the Kursk magnetic anomaly (KMA) are of great importance for the Central regions. Ores of non-ferrous metals are deposited in the Urals, in the North-West of the European part of Russia, large reserves are found in Siberia and the far East. In Yakutia mined diamonds, gold. Apatites and phosphates are found on the Kola Peninsula and in the European part of Russia. Potash is mined primarily in the Urals region.

The next table 1 shows the main conclusions of the comparative analysis of the resource base and industries of Russia and the UK.

Table 1

“The comparative analysis of the resource base and industries of Russia and the UK”

COUNTRY	POPULATION	AREA	FLORA	ECONOMY
Great Britain	63 395 574 man. 260 man./km ²	146 781 095 8,5 man./km ²	17 125 191 km ²	GDP – \$2,228 trillion
Russia	146 781 095 8,5 man./km ²	17 125 191 km ²	Forests cover over 40 % of the territory. There are 35 national parks and 84 nature reserves in Russia	GDP – \$2,228 trillion

So, as we can see these two countries differ greatly in the resource base and industries and all these differences are determined, first of all, by the sectoral structure of the economy, climate and ecology, water and natural resources of the country.

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