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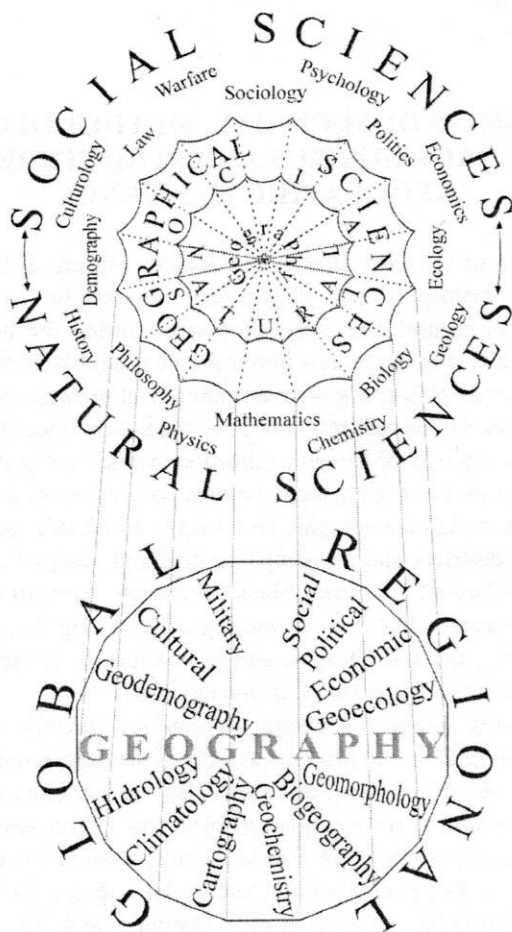
## **DIMENSIONS OF SECURITY, METHODOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STRUCTURE OF GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCE**

The essence of the term security has various aspects. It is used for the definition of retrospectively determined criteria for the extent of foreseeability of natural and social processes. During the biggest part of social history it is considered as a power political term with mainly military dimensions. Geographic space with its natural and anthropogenic resources is the main arena for the realization of power ambitions (see Braudel, 1987). During the development of human civilization increasing significance for the guaranteeing of global, regional and national security is obtained by natural and ecological, social-demographic and other non-military factors - natural and industrial disasters and catastrophes, food and energy-resource issues, cross-border pollution, epidemics, illegal economy, international terrorism, etc. Their importance has been increasing a lot during the last centuries, especially during the last decades, and is considered as important as the traditional military priorities (see Слатински, 2000).

The pragmatic issues concerning security are directly related to the theoretical opportunities and practical aspects of the main research directions of geography. At the root of this thesis lay the versatile challenges of security, on one hand, and the similar in object and subject sense branches of geographic science, on the other. Parallel to this, security has also a specific practical sense in many other natural and social sciences, as well as in the numerous problematic scientific areas, emerging and the contact areas between them.

Geography is a unified science which studies the spatial dimensions of the particular interaction between natural and social phenomena and processes on a global, regional and local scale. Its object and subject essence predetermine its internal structural correlations which are to a great extent influenced by the integrational processes in the contact areas with the other sciences (*fig.1*).

**Figure 1.** GEOGRAPHY – PLACE IN THE SYSTEM OF SCIENCES,  
OBJECT AND SUBJECT STRUCTURE



The equal importance of spatial and historical analysis leads to a certain complication of the definition of geography, as its subject of research is characterized by spatial (chorological) as well as chronological determination (see Hettner, 1927; Hartshorne, 1939, 1959; Марков, 1965; Бунге, 1967; Харвей, 1974; Haggett, 1975; Анучин, 1982; Лавров, 1987; Wallerstein, 1993; Clout, 2003; Исаченко, 2004). This predetermines its aim - spatial study and prognostication of historically developing natural and social phenomena and processes. Among the most motivated followers of

the idea about the space-and-time unity of geohistorical analysis and its significance as "an arbiter of all sciences" is Morazé (1986).

The processes of inner differentiation in geography lead to the emergence of many scientific branches, each characterized by its specific features, subject of research and research methods. At the same time, the processes of integration preserve its object theoretical integrity. The processes of analysis and synthesis which take place simultaneously in geography provide the opportunity of pointing out two main classification criteria - an object and a subject one. In this respect their metascientific methodological potential is rather big.

The systematic according to Hartshorne (1939) subject differentiation and structure of geography is strongly influenced by its excessive methodological diffusive contacts with philosophy, history, demography, anthropology, culturology, law, military sciences, sociology, psychology, politology, economics, ecology, geology, biology, chemistry, medicine, mathematics, physics, astronomy, etc. Such structural and methodological approach could pretend also for a general scientific universality as it owns the potential to combine the complicated subject essence of geography with the problematic approaches in sciences that are characterized by spatial natural and / or social dimensions. The equal recognition of their integration potential creates opportunities of high practical value. From this point of view the unique place of geography in the system of sciences provokes the emergence of problematic research directions with particular space-determined subject equivalents:

- Geohistory / Historic geology and geography
- Cultural, Social and Behavioral geography / Anthropogeography / Geodemography / Ethnogeography / Iconography / Geosophy / linguistic geography
- Political geography / Geocracy / Geopolitics / Geostrategy / International relations / Military geography (strategy)
- Geoeconomics / Economic geography
- Geophysics / Geochemistry
- Biogeography / Medical geography
- Geoecology
- Cartography / GIS, etc.

Geographic space as an arena of specific interaction between nature and society is a universal factor for the unification of the mentioned mainly subject scientific directions. This places geography in the role of a spatial integrator of scientific directions with diverse subjects of research. At the

same time, the spatially defined integration role of geography transforms its object of research into a basic indicator for its pragmatic internal division into global and regional geography.

In the broadest sense, global geography can be considered in the context of the origins of globalistics - one of the modern integral interdisciplinary scientific directions, which establishes itself as a broad term, including general theoretical concepts, practical intentions or actions regarding planetary aspects of civilization development. At the same time, globalization can also be considered as a spatially determined system of interdependent natural, social, economic, political and ecological elements.

In a narrower, subject sense, global geography can be defined as geoglobalistics, as it takes an intermediate position in the contact area between most of the subject geographic sciences. Geoglobalistics is an integral scientific direction which studies the dynamic changes in the parameters of social and natural processes and phenomena, their significance for the development of modern civilization, the extent of reversibility and the solution opportunities of the emerging global issues.

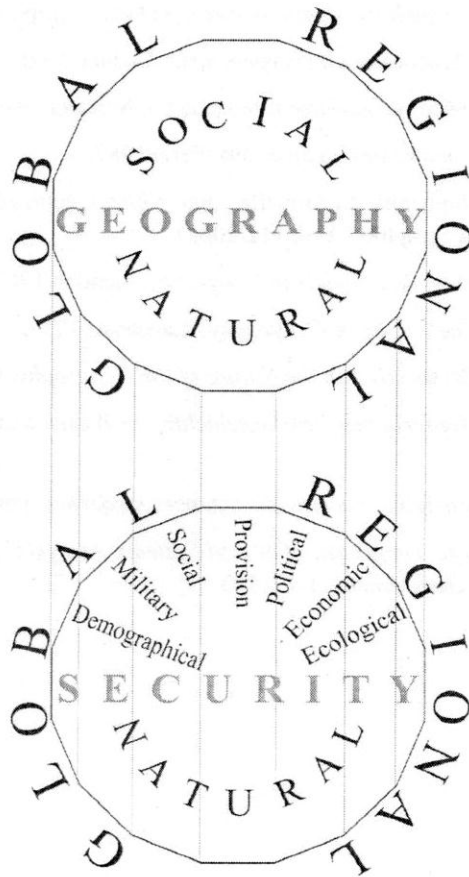
In the narrowest, practical sense, geoglobalistics (respectively global geography) is directly related to the necessity of conducting a real result-oriented policy, including global monitoring, global modeling and global strategies for control and management of natural and social systems. The solution of global issues and the guaranteeing of global security should be considered as a final cause in this respect.

In the broadest sense regional geography studies the spatial diversity of forms of interaction between nature and society. The objects of its study have diverse territorial scope. In this sense regional geography is identified with geography of the countries and it studies continents, civilizational regions, supranational unions and countries.

In a narrower sense regional geography studies separate parts of countries (mainly autonomous areas, administrative units, towns and villages). It is directly related to numerous theoretical and practical research directions of regionalistics - local history / geography, regional development and politics, management of territorial systems, town and country planning, local self-government, electoral geography (psephology), regional economy, geourbanistics, geocriminology, landscape and urban ecology, natural and anthropogenic risk management, cadastre, etc. In this respect, an aim of paramount significance is the solution of regional and local problems of development and the issues related to guaranteeing a wide range of forms of regional security.

The comparative analysis between the object and subject structure of the geographic science, on one hand, and the problematic areas of security, on the other hand, which are represented in *fig. 1* and *fig. 2*, shows important methodological similarities. From this point of view, spatial geographical analysis has undeniable advantages when it comes to studying and solving the issues concerning security.

**Figure 2.** STRUCTURAL-THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND SECURITY



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