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SLOVENSKE POKRAJINE

(Geografska regionalizacija Slovenije)

Slovenska geografija je štela že tam od konca 19. stoletja med svoje glavne naloge, da predstavi Slovenijo in njene pokrajine v sintetični regionalno-geografski sliki. Ker je Slovenija, čeprav majhna, nenavadno raznoličen mozaik tako s fizičnogeografskega kakor s socioekonomskega vidika, se je pri tem vedno pojavljalo vprašanje, po kakšni shemi regionalne razdelitve naj bi ga najuspešnejše obravnavali. Ko je še pred prvo svetovno vojno takrat vodilna slovenska kuturna organizacija »Slovenska matica« izdajala serijo domoznanskih, geografsko-zgodovinskih knjig o slovenskih deželah, si je zanjo izbrala kar razdelitev po kronovinah (Kranjska, Štajerska, Koroška, Primorska), na katere je bilo takrat, pod avstrijsko vladavino, politično-upravno razdeljeno slovensko ozemlje (1).

Po vključitvi večine slovenskega ozemlja v novo državo Jugoslavijo (1918) in po ustanovitvi ljubljanske univerze (1919) in njenega Geografskega inštituta (1921) se je še bolj pokazala potreba po sodobni regionalnogeografski obdelavi Slovenije. To nalogo si je postavil kot enega od svojih življenjskih ciljev začetnik moderne slovenske geografije pokojni prof. Anton Melik (1890—1966). Že pred drugo svetovno vojno je izdal, opirajoč se v velikem delu na samostojna proučevanja, prvi, splošni del svoje monumentalne geografske monografije o Sloveniji (2). Po osvoboditvi leta 1945 je delo nadaljeval v nadaljnjih štirih knjigah, ki so obravnavale posamezne slovenske predele. Pri tem mu je regionalno razdelitev Slovenije narekovala tehnika ureditve celotnega dela, tako da ni mogel v njem zgraditi regionalizacijske sheme, zasnovane na enotnih kriterijih, temveč je, kakor kažejo že naslovi posameznih knjig (3), nihal in iskal kompromisov med različnimi kriteriji: tako je prvo knjigo (»Slovenski alpski svet«) opredelil po pokrajinsko-fiziognomičnem kriteriju, drugo (»Slovenska Štajerska s Prekmurjem in Mežiško dolino«) po historično-teritorialnem, tretjo (»Posavska Slovenija«) po pripadnosti posavskemu porečju in četrto (»Primorska Slovenija«) po kombinaciji fizičnogeografskega in historičnogeografskega pojmovanja pojma »primorskost«. To prepletanje različnih kriterijev seveda ni

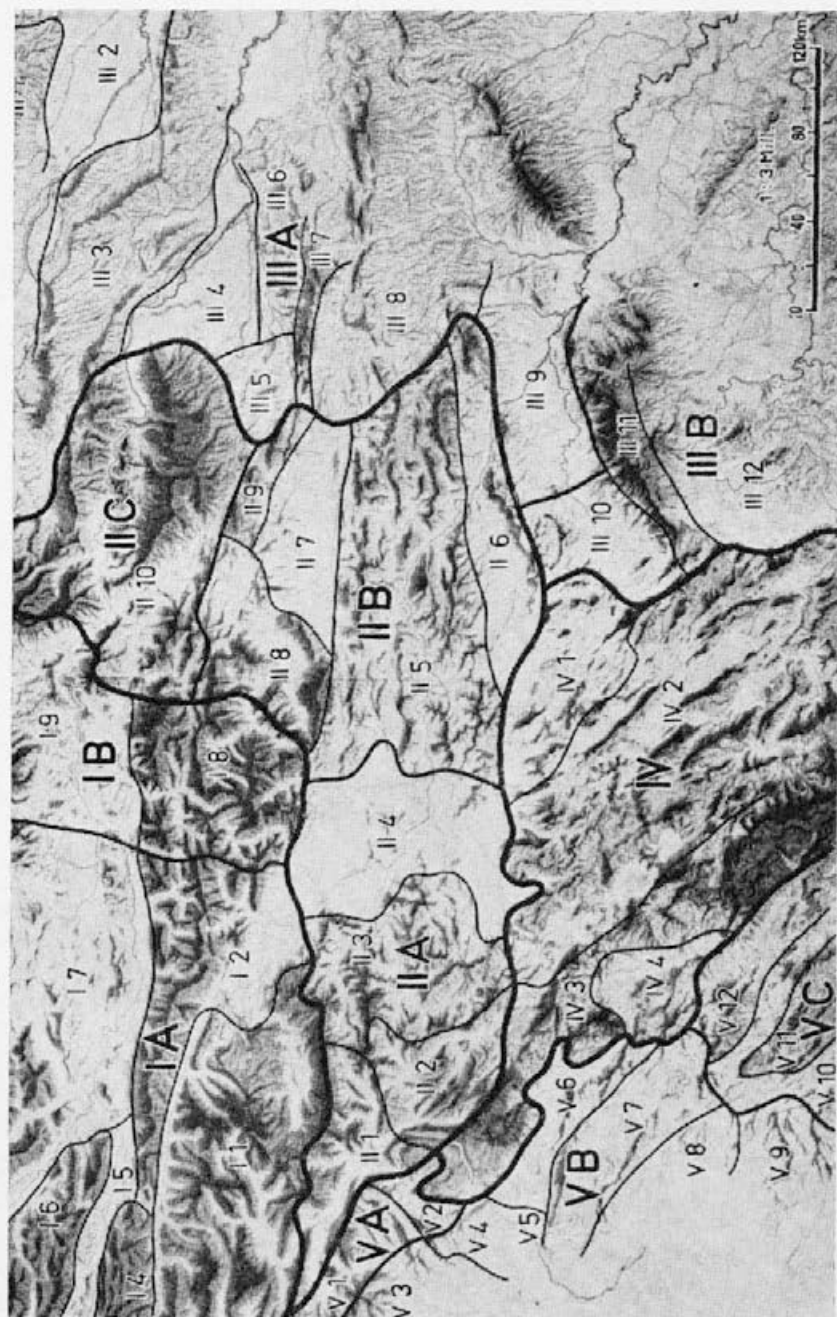
moglo in tudi ni imelo namena ustvariti poenostavljeno in plastično shemo regionalne razdelitve, po kateri naj bi se obravnavala regionalna geografija slovenskega ozemlja.

Toda tako shemo je čedalje bolj zahtevala praksa, ne samo na vseh stopnjah šolskega obravnavanja regionalne geografije od osnovne šole do univerze, temveč tudi pri proučevanju regionalnih struktur za namene aplicirane geografije, še posebej regionalnega prostorskega urejanja in planiranja. Zato jo je skušal zgraditi avtor teh vrstic. Začel je s kratko shemo pokrajinsko-fiziognomske predstavitve slovenskih pokrajin (4), ki ji je v poznejši obsežnejši razpravi (5) dodal še shemo socioekonomske regionalizacije, osnovano na socioekonomskih regionalnih, zlasti gravitacijskih funkcijah. Čeprav je bila ta druga shema regionalizacije mišljena le kot iniciativna, so jo poznejše konkretne regionalne analize v glavnem potrdile, njene osnove pa se močno ujemajo tudi s kasnejšimi študijskimi analizami funkcijske klasifikacije slovenskih centralnih krajev in njihovih vplivnih območij (6) ter prostorske diferenciacije Slovenije po selitveni mobilnosti prebivalstva (7). Avtorjevo funkcijsko klasifikacijo regij je uporabil tudi F. Planina kot regionalizacijsko shemo za svojo poljudno regionalnogeografsko knjigo o Sloveniji (8), sam avtor teh vrstic pa jo je vzel za osnovo tudi v svojih prispevkih o socioekonomski regionalni strukturi Slovenije v domačem, avstrijskem in belgijskem geografskem tisku (9).

Kljub močnejšemu poudarku na socioekonomski gravitacijski regionalizaciji pa avtor še vedno misli, da ne sme nobena regionalizacijska shema, prirejena za splošne potrebe, prezreti **pokrajinsko-tipološke ali ekološke razčlenjenosti** Slovenije, kakor nam jo prikazuje naša karta 1. Po njej razlikujemo v Sloveniji tele pokrajinske pasove (številke in črke v besedilu se ujemajo z označbami na karti):

I. **Alpske pokrajine** (I na karti 1.) obsegajo slovenske visokogorske predele z vmesnimi dolinami in kotlinami. Ekološko nudijo ugodne pogoje za alpsko kmetovanje, za izrabo gozda, za hidroenergetiko in za turizem, pa tudi za industrijsko dejavnost, slonečo na tradiciji. Po pokrajinsko-topografski oblikovanosti jih lahko delimo na dva dela: a) *zahodne slovenske alpske pokrajine* (I A na karti), obsegajoče Julijske Alpe in Zahodne Karavanke z vmesnimi dolinskimi pokrajinami, kakršne so Bohinj, Zgornja Savska (> Jeseniška<) dolina ter svet ravninskih teras ali >dobrav< Radovljiško-blejske kotline, najbolj severnega dela dna Ljubljanske kotline. (I 2); b) *vzhodne slovenske alpske pokrajine* (I B), obsegajoče Vzhodne Karavanke in Savinjske ali Kamniške Alpe z vmesnimi dolinskimi pokrajinami (Jezerško, doline v povirju Savinje). Vez med zahodnimi in vzhodnimi slovenskimi alpskimi pokrajinami so Tržiške Alpe, kjer so Vzhodne Karavanke in Kamniške Alpe že pokrajinsko zraščene.

II. **Pokrajine Predalpskega hribovja** (II), obsegajoče subalpske sredogorske pokrajine Slovenije od srednje Soške doline na zahodu čez osrčje Slovenije okrog Ljubljane daleč proti severozahodu. De-



Karta 1: Pokrajinsko-ekološka razčlenjenost Slovenije. — (Legenda v tekstu, str. 10 sl.) — Map 1. Landscape types and ecological Areas of Slovenia. — (Explanation of the Sings in text, p. 21 ff.)

limo jih na več delov: a) *zahodne slovenske predalpske pokrajine* (II A), ki obsegajo sredogorje med Soško in Savsko dolino z njegovimi v glavnem predalpskimi, deloma pa tudi subdinarskimi zgradbenimi potezami (II, 1—3), v osrednjih ravninah Ljubljanske kotline (II 4) pa potonejo pod terciarne in kvartarne kotlinske sedimente; b) *vzhodne slovenske predalpske pokrajine* (II B), ki obsegajo visoko (II 5) in nizko (II 6) Posavsko hribovje vzhodno od Ljubljanske kotline, Savinjske Predalpe (II 8, 9) in Spodnjo Savinjsko dolino ali Celjsko kotlino (II 7) z njenim obrobjem; razen subdinarskih se tu pojavijo nekatere subpanonske značilnosti (terciarne gorice s slojišči rjavega premoga, subpanonske poteze v podnebju, kmetijstvu in načinu življenja); c) *severovzhodne slovenske predalpske pokrajine* (II C), ki obsegajo kristalasto sredogorje t. i. Pohorskega Podravja in vmesne doline (Dravsko, Mežiško in Mislinjsko), izrazito pokrajino gozdov in samotnih gorskih kmetij, z rudarsko-industrijsko dejavnostjo po dolinah.

III. Slovenske subpanonske pokrajine (III) delimo lahko na: a) *prave subpanonske pokrajine* (III A), h katerim spadajo ravnine ob Dravi (Dravsko polje, III 4), ob Muri (Mursko polje na desnem in Prekmurska ravnina na levem bregu, III 2) in ob spodnji Savi (Brežiško-krško polje, III 9) ter vmesne terciarne gorice (III, 1, 3, 5, 6, 8: Goričko, Slovenske gorice, Podpohorske gorice, Haloze, Posotelske gorice); b) *subpanonsko-subdinarske pokrajine* na Dolenjskem (III, 10—12: Srednja Krška dolina, Gorjanci, Bela krajina). Ekološko so to za kmetijstvo, vinogradništvo in sadjarstvo najugodnejši predeli na kontinentalni strani Slovenije.

IV. Kraške pokrajine notranje Slovenije (IV). Obsegajo razen Nizkega Dolenjskega Krasa (IV 1) visoke kraške planote ter vmesna kraška polja na Dolenjskem in Notranjskem (IV 2). Z značilnim visokim kraškim robom (IV 3) strmo padajo na jugozahod proti nižjim submediteranskim pokrajinam. So področja izrazitega gozdnega gospodarstva.

V. Slovenske submediteranske ali primorske pokrajine (V) z menjavo nizkih kraških in flišnih pasov in z močnimi submediteranskimi potezami v klimi in v življenjskem načinu. Obsegajo: a) *prave submediteranske pokrajine* (V B) z izrazitimi submediteranskimi potezami v kulturni pokrajini (vinska trta, deloma oljka); k njim spadajo Goriška ravan (V 5), flišna Goriška Brda (V 4), flišna Vipavska dolina (V 6), Tržaški Kras (V 7) in flišno Koprsko primorje (V 9); b) *submediteranske prehodne pokrajine* (submediteransko-subalpske, V A. in submediteransko-subdinarske, V C), kjer se mediteranski vpliv pozna bolj v oblikah naselij in hiš ter v življenjskem načinu kakor v kmetovanju; k njim spadajo Srednja Soška dolina (Kanalsko, V 2), Podgorski in Hrpeljski Kras (V 10) pod Čičarjijo (V 11) in flišno hribovje Brkini (V 12).

Očividno je, da gre pri tej shemi samo za pokrajinsko-tipološko zonalno razčlenitev, kjer lahko pokrajine iste ali podobne fiziognomije

leže daleč narazen in niso med seboj v nobeni funkcijski zvezi. Tipološki pasovi, med njimi še posebno predalpski, so namreč že v pokrajinski plastiki razdrobljeni na več velikih pokrajinskih celic, ki so jih izoblikovali poprek čez nje zajedeni dolinski sistemi vzhodnoalpskih rek Drave, Savinje, Save in Soče. Od nekdanj jim je sledil tudi regionalni in medregionalni promet. Ustvaril je iz njih regionalna prometna področja in v vsakem od njih povezal med seboj življenje pripadajočih mu izsekov iz homogenih pokrajinsko-tipoloških pasov. K temu je prišla še upravno-politična razdrobljenost slovenskega ozemlja v nekdanje avstrijske dežele (provincije), ki je še podčrtala regionalno policentričnost Slovenije, zasnovano že v pokrajinski plastiki.

Zato se je treba za neko splošno uporabno regionalizacijsko shemo Slovenije opreti močno tudi na drugo shemo, zasnovano v že omenjeni študiji (5), vpoštevajoč poleg prirodne tudi zgodovinsko in sodobno gravitacijsko **policentričnost Slovenije**. Po tej shemi smo razdelili Slovenijo na pet glavnih regionalnih enot: na tri jasno oblikovane »makroregije«, od katerih imata dve izraziti središči v dveh predalpskih kotlinah (Ljubljanski in Celjski), tretja pa v vzhodnem slovenskem Podravju (Maribor), ter na dve področji (Jugovzhodna in Zahodna Slovenija) brez jasno izoblikovanih lastnih makrocentrov, ki ju do neke mere nadomeščata bližnja makrocentra izven meja SR Slovenije (Zagreb, Trst). Šele v okviru teh petih glavnih regionalnih enot lahko regionalna geografija Slovenije podrobneje razčlenjuje ustrezne odseke iz homogenih pokrajinskih pasov, ki jih obsega vsaka med njimi, po drugi strani pa opredeljuje funkcijske socioekonomske regije nižje stopnje (mezoregije in submezoregije), ki se v glavnem, z dokaj redkimi izjemami, dejansko ujemajo z ozemlji današnjih velikih slovenskih občin (po številu 60) ali skupin občin.

Na tej osnovi predlaga avtor teh vrstic naslednjo, **splošni uporabi namenjeno shemo geografske regionalizacije** Socialistične republike Slovenije (gl. karto 2 v prilogi med str. 16 in 17, oznake na njej se ujemajo z oznakami v besedilu):

I. **Osrednja Slovenija** (Osrednjeslovenska regija ali regija Zgornjega slovenskega Posavja. I na karti 2) se ujema s področjem Ljubljanske kotline v najširšem smislu. Obsega posavski del zahodnega (*Julijske Alpe, Zahodne Karavanke*) in vzhodnega slovenskega alpskega sveta (*Kamniške Alpe*) ter vmesne dolinske pokrajine, še posebej terasni svet t. i. *Gorenjskih ravnin* in *dobrav*, zatem posavski del *zahodnega predalpskega hribovja*, večino *vzhodnega predalpskega hribovja* ter vmesne ravnine (*osrednje ravnine Ljubljanske kotline*), na jugu pa še zahodni del *Nizkega Dolenjskega Krasa* ter večino visokih *kraških polj in planot notranje Slovenije*.

Osrednjeslovensko makroregijo bi razdelili, v glavnem na osnovi socioekonomske regionalne strukture, naprej na šest regij nižje stopnje (mezoregij). Te so:

A. *Ožja Ljubljanska regija*, ki ji pripada pet ljubljanskih občin (Ljubljana-Center, Ljubljana-Bežigrad, Ljubljana-Šiška, Ljubljana-Mo-

ste-Polje, Ljubljana-Vič-Rudnik), segajočih še daleč izven mestne aglomeracije na razmeroma močno suburbanizirano podeželje. Razen teh petih občin spadata sem še občini Domžale in Kamnik severovzhodno od Ljubljane, v svojem ravninskem delu (Bistriška ravnina) že močno razpršeno urbanizirani, v svojem hribovitem zaledju na vzhodu pa še močno agrarni in v stanju depopulacije. Sem spada tudi občina Vrhnika z bližnjim notranjskim zaledjem Ljubljane ter dve bolj odmaknjeni in še precej agrarni občini na vzhodu v smeri proti Posavskemu hribovju (občina Litija) in proti nizki Dolenjski (občina Grosuplje).

B. Srednjegorenjska regija z glavnim središčem v močno industrijskem mestu Kranj, obsega severozahodni del osrednjih ravnin in teras Ljubljanske kotline, sega pa tudi v zahodni del vzhodnega slovenskega alpskega sveta (Tržiške Alpe, zahodni del Kamniških Alp in Vzhodnih Karavank) ter zajema večino posavske strani zahodnega slovenskega predalpskega hribovja (Škofjeloško hribovje). Pripadata ji močno industrializirani občini Kranj in Tržič ter občina Škofja Loka, ki pa obsega podobno kot občini Domžale in Kamnik v Ljubljanski regiji razen urbaniziranega ravninskega jedra tudi široko, še močno agrarno in depopulacijsko zaledje predalpskega hribovja zahodno od tod.

C. Zgornjegorenjska regija, ki obsega vso posavsko stran zahodnega slovenskega alpskega sveta z močno industrializirano in turistično Zgornjo Savsko (> Jeseniško <) dolino, z alpsko kotlino Bohinj ter z najsevernejšim delom Gorenjskih ravnin in dobav okrog Radovljice in Bleda. Pripadata ji občina Jesenice s starim metalurškim centrom na Jesenicah in s turističnimi kraji v zgornjem delu doline (Kranjska gora, Planica) in občina Radovljica, ki obsega tudi turistično in gozdnogospodarsko pomembni pokrajini Bleda in Bohinja.

D. Regija t. i. Črnege revirja v Posavskem hribovju vzhodno od Ljubljane s premogovniki oligomiocenskega premoga (rudarskoindustrijske občine Trbovlje, Hrastnik in Zagorje).

E. Notranjske gozdne submezoregije na jugozahodu Ljubljanske kotline, obsegajoče gozdne kraške planote in vmesna polja v mejah občin Logatec in Cerknica.

F. Dolenjske gozdne submezoregije na jugovzhodu Ljubljanske kotline, obsegajoče gozdnate kraške planote in vmesna polja v mejah občin Ribnica in Kočevje.

II. Savinjsko-zgornjesotelska Slovenija (II na karti 2) s središčem v Celju obsega vse porečje Savinje, sega pa s svojo gravitacijsko privlačnostjo tudi v zgornje porečje Sotle, levega pritoka Save, mejne reke proti SR Hrvatski. Njeno jedro je *Celjska kotlina* ali *Spodnja Savinjska dolina* s svojim gričevnatim in hribovitim obrobjem, na zahod in severozahod pa sega v gozdnato *predalpsko Savinjsko predgorje* (Zadrecška dolina z Gornjegrajskim, predalpske planote Dobrovlje, Menina in Golte), še dalje navzgor, v povirju Savinje, celo v visokogorski alpski svet *Savinjskih Alp*. Ob levem pritoku Savinje, Paki, ji

pripada tudi lignitonosna *Velenjska kotlina*. Južno od Celja ji pripada *Deber ob spodnji Savinji*, dolina zajedena v predalpsko Posavsko hribovje, vzhodno od Celja pa obsežne subpanonske pokrajine *Zgornjega Sotelskega*, ki na zahodu, na *Kozjanskem*, prehajajo v predalpsko Posavsko hribovje.

Savinjsko-zgornje sotelsko makroregijo Slovenije bi razdelili dalje na:

A. *Osrednjo regijo Savinjske Slovenije*, ki obsega vso Celjsko kotlino s prometnim in industrijskim žariščem v Celju (občina Celje) ter drobno industrializirano, hkrati pa v hmeljarstvo specializirano podeželsko pokrajino v zahodnem delu te kotline (občina Žalec). Na severozahodu obsega tudi lignitonosno, sveže industrializirano Velenjsko kotlino, (občina Velenje), južno od Celja pa Deber ob spodnji Savinji (obna Laško) z lokalnim urbanim središčem Laško ter z železniškim vozliščem ob sotočju Savinje s Savo (Zidani most).

B. *Regijo Zgornje Savinjske doline* (občina Mozirje), področje gorskih samotnih kmetij, gozdnega gospodarstva in turizma, katere razvoj pa še zavira nezadostna zgrajenost prometnega omrežja.

C. *Subpanonsko regijo Savinjsko-sotelske Slovenije*, ki obsega razen najvzhodnejšega, subpanonskega predela na samem obrobju Celjske kotline še vse slovensko zgornje porečje Sotle s Kozjanskim. To je ozemlje subpanonskih občin Šentjur pri Celju in Šmarje pri Jelšah, ki spadata z drugimi subpanonskimi občinami Slovenije vred med njene najbolj agrarne in nezadostno razvite.

III. Severozahodna Slovenija (III na karti 2) ali makroregija *Vzhodnega slovenskega Podravja* (Zahodno slovensko Podravje je onstran meje, na avstrijskem Koroškem). Obsega dve osnovni pokrajinski enoti, na zahodu gozdnato predalpsko *Pohorsko Podravje* z njegovimi dolinami (*Dravska dolina* s hidroenergetskim sistemom, rudarsko-metalurška *Mežiška dolina* in prometno važna *Mislinjska dolina*), na vzhodu pa subpanonsko *Nizko slovensko Podravje* z obsežnima ravninama ob Dravi in Muri ter obrobnimi terciarnimi goricami, področje ugodnih ekoloških pogojev za subpanonsko kmetijstvo, vključno vinogradništvo in sadjarstvo. Ob meji med obema tako različnima enotama poteka glavna predalpska (železniška in cestna) zveza smeri Dunaj—Gradec—Maribor—Ljubljana—Trst; ob njej je vzrastel industrijski Maribor, gospodarsko in kulturno središče vse Severovzhodne Slovenije, žarišče močnih urbanizacijskih vplivov.

Po socioekonomski regionalni strukturi lahko razlikujemo v Severovzhodni Sloveniji naslednje mezoeregije:

A. *Mariborsko-ptujsko Podravje*, kjer se ob navedeni prometni osi stikajo najbližji predeli tako zahodnega, predalpskega Podravja, kakor vzhodnega subpanonskega. Razen žariščnega območja v občini Maribor, ki pa sega daleč v gozdnato zaledje na zahodu in v kmetijsko zaledje na severu, spadata od sorazmerno razvitih krajev v to regijo še živahni, drobno industrializirani in razpršeno suburbanizirani občini ob glavni



Karta 2: GEOGRAFSKE REGIJE SLOVENIJE — MAP 2: GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF SLOVENIA

(Merilo 1 : 950.000)

- I** 1 — regije Osrednje Slovenije — Regions of the Central Slovenia
 - II** 2 — regije Savinjsko-zgornjesotolske Slovenije — Regions of the Savinja and Upper Sotla river-basins
 - III** 3 — regije Severovzhodne Slovenije — Regions of the North-eastern Slovenia
 - IV** 4 — regije Jugovzhodne Slovenije — Regions of the Southeastern Slovenia
 - V** 5 — regije Zahodne Slovenije — Regions of the Western Slovenia (podrobnejša legenda v tekstu str. 15 ff. — detailed explanation of the signs in text p. 24 ff)
- 6 — meje makroregij — boundaries of the macroregional units
 - 7 — meje mezzoregij — boundaries of the mezzoregional units
 - 8 — meje občin — boundaries of the communes
 - 9 — meja Jugoslavije — the frontier of the SFR Yugoslavia
 - 10 — meja med SR Slovenijo in SR Hrvatsko — the frontier between the SR of Slovenia and the SR of Croatia

prometni žili proti jugu (Slovenska Bistrica in Slovenske Konjice), od katerih pa druga že močno teži na celjsko stran in njena uvrstitev v severovzhodno regijo ni docela prepričljiva. Na vzhodni, subpanonski, kmetijsko-vinorodni strani pa štejem sem še občino Ptuj, ki je sicer še močno agrarna, a doživlja s svojim Agrokombinatom krepko transformacijo svoje tradicionalne kmetijske vloge, razen tega pa vključuje Kidričevo, novo središče aluminijeve industrije. Pač pa spadata dve preostali občini subpanonskega vzhoda Mariborsko-ptujskega Podravja med še najbolj agrarne in zaostale v Sloveniji. To sta občini Ormož, daleč na vzhodu ob Dravi in Lenart v zahodnem delu Osrednjih Slovenskih Goric.

B. *Pomurje*, ki obsega slovenski del porečja Mure tako na njenem levem bregu (Prekmurje), ki je v avstroogrski dobi spadal pod zaostalo Ogrsko, kakor na desnem bregu (Prlekija), ki je spadal na avstrijsko stran, pod Štajersko. Vse štiri pomurske občine, tako tisti dve, ki obsegata levi, prekmurski breg (Murska Sobota, Lendava) kakor obe štajerski (Gornja Radgona, Ljutomer) so izrazito subpanonske, močno agrarne in zaostale, s krepkim začasnim ali trajnim izseljevanjem delovne sile. Od štirih občinskih, submezoregionalnih centrov je doživela največ živahnjše, industrijske in terciarne dejavnosti Murska Sobota, ki se je povzpela do funkcij mezoregionalnega značaja v slovenskem policentričnem sistemu. Razvijajo se tudi turistični kraji ob slatinah in toplicah, v Slovenskih goricah pa moderni vinogradniški agrokombinati.

C. *Koroška regija*, ki obsega tisti del nekdanje Koroške, ki je po prvi svetovni vojni pripadel brez plebicita Jugoslaviji ter še nekatere sosednje predele Pohorskega Podravja, ki so po zgodovini in tradiciji močno koroške. Med njenimi občinami je najbolj razvita rudarsko-industrijska občina Ravne na Koroškem, obsegajoča Mežiško kotlino, manj občini Dravograd in Radlje v Dravski dolini, kjer sta v ospredju hidroenergetika in izraba gozda ter občina Slovenjgradec, ki obsega Mislinjsko dolino. Čeprav štejem koroško regijo k makroregiji Severovzhodne Slovenije, je treba dodati, da ima v njej dokaj samostojno vlogo. Razmeroma malo je povezana z Mariborom, kažejo se celo močne težnje za povezavo z bližnjim rudarsko-industrijskim Velenjem v Savinjski Sloveniji.

IV. *Jugovzhodna Slovenija* (IV na karti 2) obsega spodnje slovensko Posavje in porečje tamkajšnjih savskih pritokov Mirne, Krke, Kolpe in spodnje Sotle. Vanjo še segajo nižji jugovzhodni odrastki predalpskega *Posavskega hribovja*, njeni jedri pa sta subpanonska *Spodnjeposavska ali Brežiško-krška ravan* s svojim vinorodnim terciarnim obrobjem ter subpanonsko-subdinarska *Srednja Krška dolina* (Novomeška pokrajina). Onstran osamelega subpanonsko-subdinarskega hribovja *Gorjancev* ji pripada še nizka kraška pokrajina *Bele krajine*.

Čeprav postaja Novo mesto v najnovejšem razvoju slovenskega policentričnega sistema, posebno od kar je zgrajena čez Dolenjsko moderna avtomobilska cesta od Ljubljane proti Zagrebu, dokaj močno žarišče industrijskih in terciarnih dejavnosti, ga je nemogoče označiti kot dominantni center za vso Jugovzhodno Slovenijo, saj se poleg njega živahno

razvijajo nekateri kraji ob Savi (Brežice kot centralni kraj, posebno pa Krško s papirno industrijo in s predvideno atomsko elektrarno), svoje submezoregionalne funkcije pa sta močno zadržali tudi obe krajevni središči v Beli krajini (Črnomelj, Metlika). Izven obeh glavnih žariščnih področij (Novo mesto, Krško-Brežice) pa je Jugovzhodna Slovenija še vedno precej subpanonsko agrarna. Ker nima skupnega centra, se jasno deli na dve subregiji. To sta:

A. *Vzhodna Dolenjska z Belo krajino*, ki obsega ožji vzhodnodolenjski občini Novo mesto in Trebnje (od katerih je druga še med najbolj agrarnimi v Sloveniji) ter belokranjski občini Črnomelj in Metlika, ki sta se tudi komaj začeli izvijati iz agrarne zaostalosti.

B. *Spodnje slovensko Posavje* z občinami Sevnica, Krško in Brežice, ki jim je že glavna železnica proti Zagrebu poživila neagrarne dejavnosti in položila temelje za živahniji razvoj.

V. *Zahodna ali »Primorska« Slovenija* (V na karti 2) kaže že v prirodnem okolju znake prehoda na submediteransko stran, od tam pa je doživljala tudi močne družbene vplive, bila v avstroogrski dobi s svojim večjim delom vključena v avstrijsko pokrajino »Primorsko«, med obema vojnoma pa je bila pod Italijo. Ker so takrat prišle pod Italijo tudi nekatere pokrajine nekdanje Kranjske (Idrija, Postojna, Ilirska Bistrica), jih z določeno upravičenostjo lahko še uvrstimo med »primorske«, čeprav je v njih splošna privlačnost Osrednjeslovenske regije tako močna, da bi vsaj nekatere od njih (Idrija, Postojna) z ne mnogo manj upravičenosti lahko v naši shemi šteli tudi k Osrednjeslovenski regiji.

Pokrajinam Zahodne Slovenije je v avstroogrski in italijanski dobi dajala precejšnjo mero makroregionalne enotnosti močna privlačnost Trsta. Zdaj, ko je Trst onstran meje, pokrajine njegovega nekdanjega zaledja na ozemlju SR Slovenije nimajo dovolj močnega središča, ki bi jih povezovalo v makroregionalno enoto. Koper je s svojimi novimi funkcijami (luka, vodilne centralne funkcije za vse Koprsko primorje) postal sicer eno od najdinamičnejših žarišč v policentričnem razvoju SR Slovenije, toda nekdanje vloge Trsta nikakor ne more nadomestiti. S svojimi splošnimi funkcijami predvsem ne more pritegniti nase severnega dela slovenskih zahodnih pokrajin, Posočja. Še več, ta bolj kontinentalni kakor zares »primorski« del Zahodne Slovenije si ustvarja svoje lastno regionalno središče v Novi Gorici, ki skuša celo prevzeti vodilno vlogo v kopnih prometnih zvezah z Italijo. K temu bi-regionalnemu razvoju Zahodne Slovenije je bistveno prispevalo dejstvo, da se promet iz notranjosti, ki ga posredujejo znana »Postojnska vrata« ter druge kraške suhe doline in podolja ter vmesni nižji flišni prevali (Razdrto), ko se prevali na primorsko stran v kraje, ki bi jih najprimerneje označili kot »primorsko kraško zaledje«, nujno cepi v dve smeri: proti morskim lukam (Trstu in Kopru) ter po kopnem, mimo Gorice, v Italijo.

Zato lahko v skladu s takim razvojem Zahodno Slovenijo delimo na tri regije nižje stopnje. To so:

A. *Posočje*, obsegajoče Soško dolino in doline njenih pritokov od najvišjih alpskih (Bovško) mimo predalpskih predelov (Tolminsko) ter



Karta 2: GEOGRAFSKE REGIJE SLOVENIJE — MAP 2: GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF SLOVENIA

(Merilo 1 : 950.000)

- I 1 — regije Osrednje Slovenije — Regions of the Central Slovenia
 - II 2 — regije Savinjsko-zgornjesotolske Slovenije — Regions of the Savinja and Upper Sotla river-basins
 - III 3 — regije Severovzhodne Slovenije — Regions of the North-eastern Slovenia
 - IV 4 — regije Jugovzhodne Slovenije — Regions of the Southeastern Slovenia
 - V 5 — regije Zahodne Slovenije — Regions of the Western Slovenia (podrobnejša legenda v tekstu str. 15 ff. — detailed explanation of the signs in text p. 24 ff)
-
- 6 — meje makroregij — boundaries of the macroregional units
 - 7 — meje mezoregij — boundaries of the mezzoregional units
 - 8 — meje občin — boundaries of the communes
 - 9 — meja Jugoslavije — the frontier of the SFR Yugoslavia
 - 10 — meja med SR Slovenijo in SR Hrvatsko — the frontier between the SR of Slovenia and the SR of Croatia

predalpsko-submediteranskih krajev ob srednji Soči (Kanalsko) do vstopa reke v ravan pri Gorici. Alpsko in predalpsko Posočje obsega občina Tolmin, spodnje Posočje pa občina Nova Gorica, medtem ko pripada ozemlje ob dolinah večjih levih soških pritokov (Idrijce in Vipave) občinama Idriji in Ajdovščini. Nekaj živahnješa dinamika je v Posočju zajela le nižji svet, izven gora, se pravi Novo Gorico z ožjim zaledjem in Vipavsko dolino z Ajdovščino, medtem ko je Srednje in še posebno Zgornje Posočje obtičalo v globoki zaostalosti in že desetletja doživlja depopulacijo.

B. Primorsko kraško zaledje (občine Postojna, Ilirska Bistrica in Sežana), kjer prometna pomembnost in na notranjem gozdnatem obrobju (Ilirska Bistrica, Postojna) gozdnogospodarska dejavnost oživljata le kraje ob glavnih prometnih žilah, vstran od njih pa tičijo odročne vasi tako po kraških planotah kakor po flišnem hribovju (Brkini, Vipavska Brda) globoko v zaostalosti in depopulaciji.

C. Koprsko primorje, najbolj submediteranska in zares »primorska« pokrajina SR Slovenije s pristaniško-plovbeno (Koper, Piran), industrijsko (Koper, Izola) in turistično funkcijo (Portorož, Piran, Strunjan). Okrog treh starih obalnih mest so se tu oblikovale tri današnje občine (Koper, Izola, Piran). Čeprav v živahnem razvoju in z močnim pritegovanjem novega prebivalstva, je to primorje še precej osamljen razvojni otok v slovenskem policentričnem sistemu; že v njegovem najbližjem zaledju ne manjka zaostalih krajev z močno depopulacijo.

Če bi na koncu pojem Slovenije želeli razširiti tudi čez meje SR Slovenije na tiste predele slovenskega etničnega ozemlja, ki so ostali izven njenih meja na Madžarskem, v Avstriji ali v Italiji, bi ta šesti del Slovenije lahko označili kot *Zamejsko Slovenijo*. Le-ta pa sestoji iz več kosov:

A. Porabska zamejska Slovenija v mejah Madžarske, ki s svojimi slovenskimi vasi v zaledju Monoštra pomeni nadaljevanje prekmurskega Goričkega, le da se ne odmaka in ne teži k Muri, temveč na ogrsko stran, k Rabi.

B. Koroška zamejska Slovenija, ki obsega južni del avstrijske Koroške, kjer živi deloma sklenjeno, deloma pa pomešano z nemško govorečim prebivalstvom močna slovenska narodna manjšina. Obsega zgornje Podravje z jedrom v Celovški kotlini. Poskus geografske regionalizacije zamejske Koroške v slovenski geografski literaturi (10) nam pokaže, da moramo v njej razlikovati: a) zahodni del južne Koroške (Ziljska dolina, Beljaška sovodenj), ki teži k Beljaku, b) osrednji del južne Koroške, težeč v glavnem neposredno k Celovcu (pokrajine Osojsko-vrbsko hribovje, podolje Vrbskega jezera, Celovška ravan, višje konglomeratne Gure ter onstran njih ob Dravi pod Karavankami Rož) ter c) vzhodni del južne Koroške (pokrajine Velikovško Čezdravje, Podjuna in dolina Bele) z več manjšimi regionalnimi središči (Velikovec, Pliberk, Železna Kapla).

C. *Zahodna zamejska Slovenija*, ki obsega s Slovenci naseljena ozemlja v Italiji, in sicer v avtonomni regiji Furlanija-Julijska Benečija. Ima več delov, in sicer: a) Tržaško zamejsko Slovenijo, ki razen Trsta s slovensko manjšino obsega neposredno, pretežno slovensko kraško zaledje Trsta, kar ga je pripadlo Italiji in s Slovenci še močno naseljeno Tržaško primorje med Trstom in Devinom, b) Goriško zamejsko Slovenijo, ki razen manjšine v samem mestu Gorici obsega nekaj slovenskih vasi ob Soči pod mestom in v italijanskem delu Goriških Brd; c) Beneško Slovenijo, zaostalo hribovito pokrajino z močno depopulacijo, ki zajema predalpsko hribovje in gričevje ležeče ob rekah Nadiži (Nadiška Beneška Slovenija) in Teru (Terska Beneška Slovenija) neposredno k Furlanskemu nižavju, razen tega pa še zaprto, osamljeno gorsko dolino Rezijsko v zahodnih Julijskih Alpah. Od ostale Zahodne zamejske Slovenije se razlikuje po tem, da je že od leta 1866 nepretrgoma pod Italijo; d) Kanalsko dolino, podolje v povirju Bele, pritoka Tilmenta, zgornje Save in Ziljice, ki pripada že dravskemu porečju, s središčem ob razpotnem mestu Trbiž, pokrajino, ki je zgodovinsko koroška, a je po prvi svetovni vojni pripadla Italiji. Tudi v njej se še drži slovenska manjšina.

Svetozar Ilešič

THE REGIONS OF SLOVENIA

(Geographical Regionalization of Slovenia)

Since the end of the 19th century the Slovenian geography regarded as one of its main task to present Slovenia and her regions in a synthetic regional study. Because Slovenia is an extraordinary varied mosaic, inspite of her small size, both from the point of view of her physical characteristics and from the point of view of the socioeconomic set-up of the country, the question of the best model of regionalization was always raised. When the leading Slovenian cultural organization of the time, the »Matica Slovenska«, started a series of homeland monographs on history and geography about the regions of Slovenia it simply adopted the presentation by the »crown provinces« (Carniola — Krain, Styria — Steiermark, Carinthia — Kärnten, Coastal province — Küstenland) of the Austrian empire which were the political administrative units into which the territory of the ethnic Slovenia was partitioned prior to the year 1918 (1).

After most of the Slovenian speaking territory has been included into the new state of Yugoslavia and after the university of Ljubljana was founded (in 1919) and its Geographical institute set up (in 1921) the need of a modern regional geography of Slovenia has become even more acute. This was considered to be one of his life tasks by the initiator of the modern geography in Slovenia, the late professor Anton Melik (1890—1966). Even before the last war he edited the first, general part of his monumental geographical treatise of Slovenia (2), based to a large extent on his own research. The work was continued after the liberation in 1945 and four volumes that deal with particular regions of Slovenia were published by 1954—1960. The technique of arranging the text for publication in successive volumes was largely responsible for the fact that the author could not construct in that monograph a proper model or scheme for regionalization based on unitary criteria. As demonstrated already by the titles of the volumes in that series (3) Melik was wavering and searched a compromise between different criteria. In the first volume (on the »Alpine area of Slovenia«) the physiognomic criterion was used for the definition of the area but in the second volume (on the »Slovenian Styria with Prekmurje and the Mežica valley«) the historico-administrative criteria were in the foreground while in the third volume (on the Savaland Slovenia) the hydrographical criterion was decisive and in the fourth volume (on the »littoral Slovenia«) the delimitation was based on a combination of the physico-geographical and the historico-geographical notions of the »littoral« western part of Slovenia. This intertwining of different criteria could not produce and neither had the purpose of producing a simplified and intuitive model or scheme for

regionalization which should have served for the presentation of the regional geography of the Slovenian territory.

Such a scheme, however, was more and more needed for practical purposes; not only at all school levels, from the elementary schools to the university, for presenting the regional geography of the country but also for research of the regional structures for the purpose of the applied geography and, in particular, for the regional spatial planning. The author of this paper, therefore, has set himself the task of trying to construct such a regionalization scheme. The effort started with a brief outline of the physiognomic regions which was based on the types of landscape features (4). Later a scheme of the socioeconomic regionalization was devised (5) which was based on the regional socioeconomic and notably on the gravitation functions. This second scheme was conceived as an initial and preliminary one, but concrete regional analyses have largely confirmed it and its bases of regionalization are in great accordance also with later analytical studies of the functional classification of the central places of Slovenia and of their hinterlands (6) as well as with the spatial differentiation of Slovenia as revealed in the studies of the migration mobility of population (7). This functional classification of the regions of Slovenia was also adopted by F. Planina as a scheme of regionalization in his popular regional geographical book about the country (8). The author of these lines took also his preliminary scheme as a basis for his contributions to the study of the socioeconomic regional structure of Slovenia which were published both in the Yugoslav and in the foreign (Austrian, Belgian) geographical periodicals (9).

In spite of the stronger stress on the socioeconomic and gravitational regionalization the author still thinks that no scheme or model of regionalization, prepared for the general purpose, must overlook the differentiation of Slovenia into **landscape types** and **ecological areas** which is presented in Map 1 (11). As indicated on that map the following belts of the landscape regions may be discerned in Slovenia (the figures and letters in the Map refer to those used in this paper):

I. The alpine landscape regions (I on the map 1) include the high mountains areas of Slovenia together with the valleys and basins. They provide good ecological conditions for alpine agriculture, for forestry, for hydroelectrical power-stations and for tourism but also for manufacturing that is based on traditional skills. Two parts can be discerned with regard to landscape topography: a) *the western Slovenian alpine regions* (IA) with intermediate valleys and small basins of Bohinj, the upper Sava valley (beyond Jesenice) and the area of well pronounced terraces (»dobrave«) in the Radovljica-Bled basin which is at the same time, the most northern part of the large Ljubljana basin (I 2 b); the *eastern Slovenian alpine regions* (I B) which includes the eastern Karavanke mountains, the Savinja or Kamnik Alps and the valley of Jezersko in between as well as the valleys in the upper reaches of the Savinja river. The junction between the western and the eastern Slovenian

alpine regions is made by the Tržič Alps, where the eastern Karavanke mountains and the Kamnik Alps are already united.

II. The regions of the subalpine uplands (II) which include the subalpine mountainous regions of Slovenia extending from the middle course of the Soča river in the west and then to the uplands around Ljubljana and further east all the way to Maribor. Several parts can be discerned: a) the *western Slovenian subalpine upland region* (II A) includes the mountains between the Soča and Sava valleys which reveal both the subalpine and, partly, the subdinaric structural geological features (II, 1—3) that are concealed, in the next region of the Ljubljana basin (II 4), under the tertiary and, even more, quarternary sediments forming the flat areas in the central part of the basin; b) *eastern Slovenian subalpine regions* (II B) which include both the high (II 5) and the low (II 6) Sava mountains to the east of the Ljubljana basin, the subalpine Savinja uplands (II 8, 9) and the Lower Savinja valley viz. the Celje basin (II 7) and its rim; some subpannonian characteristics are already present (e. g. the tertiary hills with brown-coal deposits, some subpannonian traits in the climate and agriculture and in the way of life); c) the *northeastern Slovenian subalpine regions* (II c) consisting of crystalline mountains of the (so called) Pohorje Dravaland (along the Drava river with the main valleys of Drava, Meža and Mislinja) which is an area of woods and isolated mountain farms as well as of mining and manufacturing in the valleys.

III. The Slovenian subpannonian regions (III) can be divided into: a) the *true subpannonian regions* (III A) to which belong the plains along Drava (the Drava plain, III 4), along Mura (the Mura plain on the right side of the river and the Prekmurje plain on the left side, III 2), and along the lower course of the Sava river (the plain of Brežice-Krško, III 9) as well as the surrounding low tertiary hills: III 1, 3, 5, 6, 8: the »Goričko« area of Prekmurje, the hills of »Slovenske gorice« (»Slovenian hills«) between Drava and Mura, the foot-hills of the Pohorje mountain, the »Haloze« hills to the south of Ptuj, the hills along the Sotla river; b) the *subpannonian-subdinaric regions* of Lower Carniola (III, 10—12: The middle Krka valley, the Gorjanci mountain, »Bela Krajina« or White Carniola in the extreme south). With regard to ecological conditions these are, on the continental side of Slovenia, the most suitable areas for agriculture, vine-growing and fruit-growing.

IV. The karst regions of Inner Slovenia (IV) includes, apart from the low karst area of Lower Carniola (IV 1), the high karst plateaus and poljes of Lower Carniola and Inner Carniola (IV 2). They descend with a steep escarpment (IV 3) to the southwest towards the lower submediterranean regions. These karst regions are the characteristic forestry areas.

V. The submediterranean or littoral regions (V) where low lying belts of either karst or flysch topography stand out with their strong mediterranean traits in agriculture and the way of life.

They include: a) the *true submediterranean regions* (V b) with marked submediterranean traits in the cultural landscape (vine, olive-trees also); to this group belong the plain of Gorica (V 5), the flysch hills of Brda (V 4), the flysch area of the valley of Vipava (V 6), the Kras (Karst) region above Trieste (V 7) and the flysch area of Koper littoral (V 9); b) the *submediterranean transitional regions* (the submediterranean-subalpine regions, V A, and the submediterranean-subdinanic regions, V c) where the mediterranean influences are manifested more in the forms of settlements and houses and, also, in the way of life than in the agriculture; they include the middle Soča valley (or the Kanal region, V 2), the karst area of Podgorje and Hrpelje (V 10) under the Čičarija mountains (V 11) and the flysch hills of Brkini (V 12).

It is evident that this scheme deals only with the landscape-typological zonal divisions where the regions of the same or similar physiognomy can be spatially far away and in no functional relation. Typological belts, in particular the subalpine belt, are broken already by topography of the landscape into several landscape units (or cells) which are transversely separated by the river valley systems of the east-alpine rivers of Drava, Savinja, Sava, and Soča. These valley systems were used since early historical times by regional or interregional traffic which has made of them transportation regions and, in each of them, has interwoven the life within such sections cut out of the homogenous landscape belts. To this, the administrative and political dismemberment of the Slovenian territory into former Austrian provinces was added and had enhanced the polycentric regional pattern of Slovenia which is based already in the general topographical and landscape features of the country.

It became therefore necessary to base a general purpose regionalization scheme of Slovenia also on the second scheme or model which was conceived in the above mentioned study (5) and which takes into account not only the natural conditions and characteristics but also the historical and modern gravitational **polycentric pattern** of Slovenia. In that latter scheme Slovenia was divided into five main regional units: into the three distinctly evident »macro-regions«, two of which have their strongly marked centres in the subalpine basins of Celje and Ljubljana and the third in the eastern Slovenian Dravaland at Maribor, and two other major areas (the southeastern and the western Slovenia) which are without distinctly predominant main centres of »macro-regional« character and where the two nearest large macro-centres outside Slovenia (Zagreb, Trieste) partly substitute for the lack. Only within the framework of these major regional units further subdivisions can be made in the regional geography of Slovenia of the sections from the homogenous landscape belts of which each regional unit is consisting and, on the other hand, a classification of the functional socioeconomic regions of a lower order (mezzoregions and sub-mezzoregions) can be made which, with few exceptions, do in fact coincide with the territories of

contemporary large communes of Slovenia (60 in number) or with groups of them.

The author proposes on the basis of such considerations the following **general purposes scheme of geographical regionalization** of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia (see Map 2 in Annex; the symbols used there correspond to those used in the following text):

I. **Central Slovenia** (the central Slovenian region or the region of the *Upper Savaland*, 1 on Map 2) mainly corresponds to the area of the Ljubljana basin in the largest sense. It comprises in its northern part the areas of the western Slovenian alpine region (the *Julian Alps*, the *western Karavanke*) and part of the eastern Slovenian alpine region (the *Kamnik Alps*) both drained by Sava river, as well as valley regions in between, in particular the *terraces and plains of Upper Carniola*. In its central part the central Slovenian region includes the *central plains of the Ljubljana basin* surrounded by the parts of the *western and eastern subalpine mountains* that are drained by the Sava river, and in its southern part the western part of the *low karst of Lower Carniola* as well as most of the high *karst poljes and plateaus of the interior of Slovenia*.

The central Slovenian macroregion can be further subdivided on the basis of the socioeconomic regional structure into six regions of a lower order (>mezzo-regions<). These are:

A. The *Ljubljana region* proper, to which belongs all the territory of the five communes which constitute the town (Ljubljana-Centre, Ljubljana-Bežigrad, Ljubljana-Šiška, Ljubljana-Moste-Polje, Ljubljana-Vič-Rudnik) and extends far outside the urban agglomeration to comparatively strongly urbanized rural areas. To these areas the territory of the two communes of Kamnik and Domžale should be added, in their western sections (the plain of Bistrica) also affected by a strong but dispersed urbanization, while their eastern mountainous sections are still quite agricultural with depopulation in progress. Further is included the commune of Vrhnika with the near southwestern hinterland of Ljubljana extending into the Inner Carniola, and two somewhere more remote and much more agrarian communes in the east: that of Litija in the Sava mountains and that of Grosuplje in the low area of the Lower Carniola.

B. *The region of middle Upper Carniola*, with its focal point in the strongly industrialized town of Kranj, includes the northwestern part of plains and terraces in the Ljubljana basin but also the western section of the Slovenian alpine region (the Tržič Alps), the western part of the Kamnik Alps and eastern Karavanke mountains) and most of the western part of the Slovenian subalpine uplands which belong to the Sava drainage basin (the mountains of Škofja Loka). The region includes two very industrialized communes of Kranj and Tržič and the commune of Škofja Loka which — like the communes of Kamnik and Domžale — includes besides the urbanized plain around the town the subalpine mountains in the west with predominant agriculture and depopulation.

C. *The region of northern Upper Carniola* which includes all the western Slovenian alpine region that belongs to the Sava drainage basin: the industrial and touristic Upper Sava (Jesenice) valley, the intermontane alpine basin of Bohinj and the most northern part of the Upper Carniola plains and terraces around Radovljica and Bled. The area is included in two communes: the commune of Jesenice with its steelworks and the touristic resorts areas of Kranjska Gora and Planica and the commune of Radovljica with a dispersed industry in the plain and with strong forestry and touristic activities in the alpine regions of Bled in Bohinj (including the famous lakes).

D. The so called »*Black Country*« region in the Sava mountains east of Ljubljana with mining of oligomiocene coal (the mining-industrial communes of Trbovlje, Hrastnik and Zagorje).

E. *The wooded mezzoregions of Inner Carniola* to the southwest of the Ljubljana basin which include the heavily wooded karst plateaus and the intermediate poljes in the two communes of Logatec and Cerknica.

F. *The wooded mezzoregions of Lower Carniola* with the same characteristics to the southeast of the Ljubljana basin in the communes of Ribnica and Kočevje.

II. The region of the Savinja and Upper Sotla river basins (II on Map 2) with its centre in Celje includes the entire drainage basin of Savinja, but also, because of the gravitational pull of Celje, the upper part of the drainage basin of the Sotla river which is a left tributary of Sava and forms the boundary between Slovenia and Croatia. The core area of this region is *the basin of Celje* or the *Lower Savinja valley* with its hilly or even mountainous rim. The region is continued to the west in the *subalpine Savinja mountains* (the valley of Dreta and the area of Gornji grad, the subalpine plateaus of Dobrovlje, Menina and Golte). The *lignite basin of Velenje* along the left tributary of the Savinja river, the Paka river, also belongs to that major region. To the south of Celje the *gorge of the lower Savinja river*, cut through the subalpine Sava mountains, and to the east the extensive subpannonian area of the *upper Sotla valley* also belong to that region; the hilly country of this valley passes over, to the south east of Celje, into the subalpine mountainous *Kozjansko country*.

A finer subdivision of the macroregion of Savinja and upper Sotla would be as follows:

A. *The central region of Savinja* corresponds to the most developed areas of this part of Slovenia. It includes, besides the industrial and transportation focus around Celje (the commune of Celje), the western part of the Celje plain, an area of small dispersed manufacturing centers and of specialized hop-growing (the commune of Zalec), the lignite basin of Velenje with newly established industries (the commune of Velenje) and the gorge of lower Savinja river with a local urban centre at Laško and the railways node of Zidani most at the confluence of the Savinja and Sava rivers (the commune of Laško).

B. The region of the *Upper Savinja valley* (the commune of Mozirje) which is mostly an area of mountain farms, forestry, timber industry and tourism, delayed in its development by the backwardness of transportation conditions.

C. The *subpannonian region of Savinja-Sotla* which includes the proper subpannonian eastern part of the Celje basin but also the entire Slovenian part of the upper Sotla drainage basin including the Kozjansko mountainous country. Both communes of this region (Šentjur pri Celju and Šmarje pri Jelšah) are, together with the other subpannonian communes, among the most agrarian and least developed in entire Slovenia.

III. The *Northeastern Slovenia* (III on map 2) or the macroregion of the eastern part of the Slovenian Dravaland (the western part of Slovenian Dravaland is across the border in Austrian Carinthia) consists of two basic geographical units. The western part consists of the subalpine wooded uplands on both sides of the river Drava (*the Pohorje-Dravaland*) and of the corresponding valleys (the Drava valley with a chain of hydroelectrical power plants, the Mežica valley with its mining and metalurgical industries and the Milinja valley which is an important transportation route). On the other hand, the eastern part of the region (*the low Slovenian Dravaland*) consists of extensive plains along the Drava and the Mura rivers and the surrounding tertiary hills, an area of good ecological conditions for the subpannonian type of agriculture, notably for vine-growing and fruit-growing. The main subalpine route (both railway and road) in the direction Vienna—Graz—Maribor—Ljubljana—Trieste follows — in Slovenia — the line dividing both major geographical units of this part of Slovenia; also, the industrial city of Maribor, the economic and cultural centre of the entire northeastern Slovenia and the focus of strong urbanization influences, has developed along this line.

Taking into consideration the socioeconomic regional structure the following mezzoregions can be discerned in northeastern Slovenia:

A. *The Maribor-Ptuj Dravaland* where the areas of both the western subalpine and the eastern, subpannonian Dravaland meet along the above mentioned transportation axis. Apart from the focal area in the commune of Maribor, which extends also further west into the wooded and, in the north, into the agricultural hinterland, two more communes along the main transportation route to the south are included into this region, both with dispersed minor industries (Slovenska Bistrica and Slovenske Konjice). The second of the two communes also strongly gravitates towards Celje and the inclusion of it into the northeastern region may not be quite justified. Three more communes on the eastern subpannonian agricultural and vine-growing side are also included. First, the commune of Ptuj which is still a predominant agrarian territory, but where traditional agriculture is rapidly changing owing to the big so-

cialist agricultural enterprise; also, the large aluminium smelter at Kidričevo is located in that commune. The two remaining communes in the subpannonian east of the Maribor-Ptuj Dravaland belong, however, to the most agricultural and backward areas of Slovenia. This are the communes of Ormož in the extreme eastern part of Drava plain and the commune of Lenart in the western part of the hill-land of Slovenske gorice between Mura and Drava.

B. The *Muraland* (»Pomurje«) which includes the Slovenian part of the drainage basin of Mura both on the left side of the river (»Prekmurje« — region across the Mura river) which, in the times of the former Danubian double monarchy, belonged to the less developed Hungarian portion and the areas on the right side of the river (»Prlekija«), which belonged to the Austrian province of Styria. All four communes of the Muraland (Murska Sobota and Lendava on the left side and Gornja Radgona and Ljutomer on the right side) are of distinctly subpannonian character, still mostly agricultural and underdeveloped and also characterized by strong seasonal or permanent emigration. Murska Sobota alone among the submezzoregional centers of the four communes has attracted somewhat more of the industrial and tertiary activities which raised the status of the town to a mezzoregional level in the polycentric system of Slovenia. A few touristic centers based on mineral water or thermal springs are also quickly developing and, in the hills of Slovenske gorice, large vine-growing socialist enterprises are the starting-points of modernization.

C. *The Carinthian region* includes that part of the historical Duchy of Carinthia that was annexed — without the plebiscite — to Yugoslavia after World war I as well as some other parts of the Pohorje Dravaland with strong traditional ties to Carinthia. The best developed commune in the region is that of Ravne na Koroškem (Ravne in Carinthia) in the Meža valley with industries and mining. Less developed are the communes from Slovenjgradec in the Mislinja valley and the two communes in the Drava valley (Dravograd, Radlje) with well developed forestry and hydroelectrical power-stations. Although the Carinthian region is included into the macro-region of the northeastern Slovenia one must also recognize that it plays a rather independant role within that major region. The links with Maribor are rather loose while there are new tendencies of closer ties with the industrial and mining town of Velenje to the south in the Savinjaland.

IV. *The Southeastern Slovenia* (IV on the map 2) includes the lower part of the Slovenian Savaland including the drainage basins of the local tributaries of Mirna, Krka, Kolpa and lower Sotla. The eastern, lower parts of the subalpine Sava mountains area are also included, but the two contiguous core areas are the subpannonian plain of Brežice-Krško along Sava with its vine-growing rim of tertiary hills and the subpannonian-subdinarc middle Krka valley (or the Novo me-

sto country). The low karst area of Bela Krajina that lies beyond the subpannonian-subdinaric Gorjanci mountains also belongs to this part of Slovenia.

In spite of the fact that Novo mesto is lately developing within the polycentric pattern of Slovenia as one of the important foci of manufacturing and of tertiary activities — in particular since the modern new road has been built from Ljubljana to Zagreb — it is still impossible to characterise this town as the dominant centre of Southeastern Slovenia, since some other towns along the Sava river (Brežice as a central place, but in particular Krško with its paper industries and the projected nuclear power-station) also show signs of lively development and the submezzoregional functions were also retained by the two local centres of Bela Krajina (Črnomelj, Metlika). Away from both main focal areas (Novo mesto, Brežice-Krško) the southeastern Slovenia is still a rather agrarian country with the subpannonian agriculture. As there is no distinct common centre for the entire territory it can be clearly subdivided into two subregions:

A. *Eastern Lower Carniola with Bela Krajina* includes the two communes of Novo mesto and Trebnje (the latter of the two being one of the most agricultural communes in Slovenia) and the two communes of Bela Krajina, Črnomelj and Metlika, that have just begun to emerge out of the extreme agrarian backwardness.

B. *Lower Slovenian Savaland* including the communes of Sevnica, Krško and Brežice where the main railway line towards Zagreb (which is now hundred years old) has induced non-agricultural activities and had laid foundations for quicker development.

V. The Western or »littoral« Slovenia (V on map 2) is a transitional region to the Mediterranean (a submediterranean region) both with regard to the natural environment and to strong cultural influences that were penetrating the area from the west. During the existence of the Austro-Hungarian empire the area was included largely into the Austrian province of Küstenland (»Primorsko«) while it was under Italian rule between both world wars. Since, at that time, some parts of the historical province of Carniola (around Idrija, Postojna and Ilirska Bistrica) were also annexed to Italy they may be with some justification classified as »littoral«, although the gravitational pull of the Central Slovenian region in those parts is so strong that some of them (Idrija, Postojna) might nearly just as well be included into the Central Slovenian region.

A considerable degree of the macro-regional unity for areas of the Western Slovenia during the Austrian period and during Italian domination was provided by the strong gravitational pull exercised by Trieste. Now that the city is beyond the international boundary the areas of its hinterland lack a centre strong enough to tie them together into a macro-regional unit. Koper with its new functions (the port, important

central functions for the Slovenian littoral) has indeed developed as one of the most dynamic foci in the polycentric development of the S. R. of Slovenia, but is in no position to match the former role of Trieste. First of all, Koper cannot attract by its general activities the northern part of the Western Slovenia (the Sočaland — Soča valley). Moreover, that part which is really more continental than »littoral« is getting its own regional centre at Nova Gorica that is striving to become the main gateway-town for road traffic to Italy. The fact that the traffic from the interior of Slovenia which passes through the well known »Postojna gates« and through other karstified valleys or lower gaps in the flysch hills (Razdrto) necessarily splits into two flows when it passes Postojna (and reaches the area that might best be described as the »littoral karst hinterland«) was essential for the bi-polar regional development in Western Slovenia. The first direction leads to the sea-ports (Trieste and Koper) and the second direction of the traffic flows is the overland route to Italy passing through Gorica (Gorizia).

In accordance with such an evolution in the Western Slovenia three regions of a lower order can be discerned. They are:

A. *The Soča-land* (Soča valley) that includes the valleys of Soča and its tributaries from the high alpine areas (Bovec), across the subalpine uplands (the Tolmin country) and the subalpine-submediterranean stretches along the middle Soča valley (the region of Kanal) all the way down to the plain of Gorica. The alpine and the subalpine Sočaland is included into the commune of Tolmin, whereas the area along the middle and the lower Soča is included into the commune of Nova Gorica. The area along the larger left tributaries (Idrija and Vipava) is contained within the two communes of Idrija and Ajdovščina. More dynamic recent development was limited to the lowland areas, to Nova Gorica with the surroundings and, to a much lesser extent, to Vipava valley with its town of Ajdovščina. The uplands and, in particular, the upper Sočaland remained a very backward area with strong depopulation since many decades.

B *The littoral karst hinterland* (the communes of Postojna, Ilirska Bistrica and Sežana) where transportation and forestry with related processing industries in the inner wooded borderland animate only places along the main traffic arteries whereas the remote villages both in the karst plateaus and in the flysch hills (Brkini, Vipavska Brda) remained backward and in process of depopulation.

C. *The Koper littoral* is the most submediterranean and truly »littoral« area of the S. R. of Slovenia with its port and navigation functions (Koper, Piran) and its touristic activities (Portorož, Piran, Strunjan). The three existing communes were formed around the three old coastal towns (Koper, Izola, Piran). The coastal settlements are rapidly developing and strongly attract new population, but they are — even put together — still an isolated island of development in the Slovenian poly-

centric system; even in the immediate surroundings there are backward areas of depopulation.

If, finally, we would like to extend the notion of Slovenia to include those areas across the state boundaries which are part of the ethnic territory of the Slovenes and have remained outside the boundaries in Hungary, Austria and Italy, this sixth part of Slovenia could possibly be called the *External Slovenia*. These areas consist of the following parts:

A. The *Raba country External Slovenia* within Hungary where Slovenian villages around Szent Gotthard (Monošter) are located in the same area of low hills that is called Goričko on the south side of the Mura — Raba divide.

B. *The Carinthian External Slovenia* which includes the southern part of the Austrian province of Carinthia where a strong Slovenian speaking minority lives either in contiguous areas or intermixed with the German speaking population. It includes the upper Dravaland that has its core area in the basin of Klagenfurt (Celovec). The attempt at a geographical regionalization of the Carinthian External Slovenia (10) shows that the following parts can be discerned: a) the western part of southern Carinthia (Gail-Zilja valley, the confluence area of Villach-Beljak) which is oriented toward Villach-Beljak, b) the central part of southern Carinthia which mostly gravitates directly to Klagenfurt-Celovec: the hills of Ossiach-Osoje and Felden-Vrba to the north of the lake, the lowland of Wörthersee- Vrbsko jezero, the plain of Klagenfurt-Celovec, the higher conglomerate country of Sattnitz (Gure) to the south of the lake and the lowland of the Drava valley in Rosental-Rož at the foot of the Karavanke mountains and c) the eastern part of southern Carinthia (the Völkermarkt-Velikovec area, the Jauntal-Podjuna and the valley of Vellach-Bela) with several small centres (Völkermarkt-Velikovec, Bleiberg-Pliberk, Eisenkappel-Zelezna Kapla).

C. the *Western External Slovenia* into which is included that part of the autonomous Italian region of Friuli — Venezia Giulia that is inhabited by Slovenian population. Several smaller parts can be discerned, i. e.: a) the Triestine External Slovenia with the city of Trieste-Trst and its Slovenian speaking minority and the Italian part of the karst hinterland just above the city which is inhabited mainly by Slovenian population and the proper littoral between Trieste-Trst and Duino-Devin where Slovenian population is also numerous; b) the Gorica-Gorizia part of the Western External Slovenia with a Slovenian minority in the city and several Slovenian villages along the Soča river to the south and in the Italian part of the Brda Hill Lands (Collio) to the northwest of the city; 3. *The Venetian Slovenia*, a backward area of strong depopulation in the subalpine hills and mountains along rivers Natisone-Nadiža and Torre-ter, directly oriented toward the plain of Friuli. To this region belongs also the lone, half-closed valley of Resia-Rezija in the western-

most part of the Julian Alps. The Venetian Slovenia, in contrast to other parts of the Western External Slovenia, came under Italian rule as early as in 1866; 4) *The Kanal valley*, a lower valley-like stretch in the upper reaches of the rivers Sava, Fella-Bela which is a tributary of Tagliamento and of Silizza (Ziljica) which belongs already to the Drava drainage basin. The centre of the Kanal valley, which used to be part of the historical province of Carinthia, but was passed over to Italy following World War I, is the town of Tarvisio (Trbiž). A Slovenian minority still persists to live in this area.

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