

# **Development of Integration Processes in Northeastern Asia**

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In the Northeastern Asia (NEA) integration processes have considerably strengthened since the 80<sup>th</sup> of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that was resulted from the fact that large economic reforms began in China and Russia, and Japan and Republic of Korea entered a new phase of the economic development.

By integration processes one understands the sustainable growth of links, relations and interactions of countries and regions in the economical, social, -technical- scientific, and ecological spheres. The analysis of factual data shows that relations and interactions between regions and countries of NEA (the Russian Far East {RFE}), Northeastern China (NEC), Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea constantly increase in all these spheres. At the same time there are objective preconditions that integration processes in NEA will also grow in future.

1. The peculiarities of geographical location of the NEA countries and regions: their exit to the seacoasts and the Pacific, the neighborhood of the countries to each other, the presence of common geographical structures (basins of rivers, lakes, and seas, and populations of plants and animals).

2. Interchangeability of combinations of natural resources in certain countries and their cross-border regions.

3. Forming common links of transport infrastructure: rail and road transitions between countries, ferryboats, oil and gas pipes (in perspective), power lines (in perspective), the line links etc.

4. Strengthening crossing of the markets of certain raw materials and commodities of NEA

5. Growing eagerness of all countries of NEA to study and investigate natural resources of the North Pacific including the zone of the World Ocean.

6. Similar tendencies of NEA countries to form and develop the models of the open market economy.

7. Uniqueness, originality, and differences of NEA cultures.

There are challenges and problems in the development of integration processes in NEA. Out of them the key issues are as follows:

1. The presence of certain geopolitical problems inherited from the Second World War (the problem of dividing Korea into Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea, the problem of the south Kuril, and others).

2. Large differences in geopolitical systems and the levels of social-economic development of NEA countries. It is necessary to emphasize that NEA is characterized by the highest geopolitical contrasts connected with very large differences of political systems of almost all countries of NEA.

3. Definite contradictions in geopolitical interests of certain countries.

4. Great cross-cultural differences between certain countries.

5. Large institutional differences.

Nevertheless, many of these problems are being solved and can be successfully solved in perspective. It will also promote the growth of integration process.

It is necessary to emphasize that in spite of many concerns, the region of NEA confined the Japan-East Sea has the most favorable preconditions for the development of various integration processes. There are objective geographic, economic, geopolitical, social, technical-scientific and ecological factors of the further development of integration processes in this region. The development of contact structures of the first and second types with their considerable intersection in this region has large perspectives. The formation of the poly-functional infrastructural ring around the Japan-East Sea, comprising the ring sea line, the railway, pipeline, energy, and communication rings, can become the most important base of integration processes. In this connection the Japan-East Sea gains even more important international meaning and its name must not prevent this area from the development of mutually profitable integration processes.