



Grigore Vasile Herman (2009),
***Omul și modificările antropice
 din Câmpia Someșului,***
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 ISBN 978-973-759-981-0, 227 pages,
 type B5, maps, tables, images, conclusions.

Within the frame of the of applied regional geography works, the present book is a relevant one which deals with an area with a very strong human footprint during centuries.

The book is structured in four chapters that logically derived one from another and which outlines a geographic area over which man has made a decisive mark and today evolve decisively under anthropogenic pressure impulse. In the first chapter “**The Natural Components**”, the author made an exhaustive and complete radiography of the support elements which condition the present reality but also the future directions of evolution of the area.

The complex analysis of the natural frame, the thorough analysis of some elements (morphological steps, climatic, hydrologic and soil elements) will become, in subsequent chapters, support elements for analytical and scientific approach which will give substance and relevance to the book.

The second chapter “**The Human Component**”, introduces within the analytical approach the human component as a causal and conditional element of the changes occurred in the analyzed area. The chapter starts with an excellent spatial and temporal analysis of the human component, from the Paleolithic, through Neolithic, Bronze Age, Middle Age, to present period. It's a genuine example of historical geography analysis which try to sketch chronologically, using solid scientific arguments, the evolution of human component. The value of the scientific approach is strengthened by a very solid historical scientific approach, by very clear synthetic tables (for ex. Tab. 5, page 72), by a clear graphic (for ex Fig. 53, page 80) which organically integrates analyzed elements.

The exhaustive historical analysis causes the human component analysis to be logical, coherent and allowing the integration of some representative indexes (*mean distance between two settlements, dispersion index, polarizing potential of administrative centers*) which gives the right measure unit of the role and place of the human component in the evolution of Somesului Plain.

This chapter is logically integrated in the previous chapter through a thorough analysis of the relations which exists between the natural components (mainly the relief) and the human component, fact proved by subchapter “the relationship between settlement and the relief” (page 98). *The typology of human settlements* (page 106) highlights all the progressive, demographic particularities which differentiate the settlement from Somesului Plain and this scientific approach materialize, at the end of the chapter, in an holarhic integrator analysis of the system of settlements (Fig. 99, page 122).

The third chapter “**Anthropogenic changes**” analyses the human interventions made during centuries which finally lead to the appearance of anthropogenic environment. The anthropogenic environment evolved based on a very well structured and self-organized natural support, from the symbiosis of the two environments emerge the geographical space of Somesului Plain (page 124).

The analysis of the impact of human component is made on all elements of the plain system, starting with the agricultural component, including some detailed analysis (for ex. Subchapter Hydro-amelioration, page 125), continuing with the industrial component, the infrastructure component, special transport infrastructure component, distribution networks. The analysis of these components is strengthened of some indexes (for ex. *Index of waste water collection in rural areas Icr*, *Index of waste water collection in urban areas Icu*, page 181). The corollary of these analysis is given by the the chapter titled “*Effect of anthropogenic intervention*” (page 183), in which all the the positive and negative effects are mentioned concluding that “*all the area of Somesului Plain stays under the footprint of human intervention*” (page 183).

The fourth chapter “**Anthropogenic hazards and risks**” is a methodologic model of approaching this issue , the author proposes an integrated model which includes the identification, evaluation, mapping and integration in models at different scale (for ex. the integration in a county model of deffense against floods).

The book “The man and the anthropogenic chances in Somesului Plain” is an Xray of the human impact upon a natural plain area, the author succeeding in finding the place and the role of the human component in the evolutive model of this area.

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