

INTRODUCTION

The modern industrial development processes are being shaped largely under the influence of technological and technical development that allows for undertaking modern industrial production. This is accompanied by the process of shaping more and more powerful corporations which can influence the world industrial space organization. This leads to an ongoing concentration of world's industrial potential, due to the increasing competition in the field of deepening and controlling the free markets. An important role in this process is being played by political changes and tensions in the structure of global economy, diversifying the world's industrial space. These worldwide processes are reflected in the changes of production structures of individual countries, largely due to the international capital flow, influencing the property structures, ways of development and localization of the industry in the national spatial systems. In this situation, there is a need for taking a new objective for study, comprising the analysis of the influence of global processes and national conditioning on the increase of the potential and spatial structure of the industry of individual countries.

This general objective for study can be found in the works presented in this volume, conducted on the topic of industrial structure changes in selected countries characterized by different economic potential. The papers pay special attention to the empirical examples of the behavior of the industrial structures in countries on different levels of development. As an example, they present the changes of the spatial structure of car industry in Mexico, which is one of the fastest-developing industries in the world. Great competition in this production sector influences the decisions to use the potential of less developed countries, like Mexico, which due to lower labor costs allow for acquiring positive economic results. The main factors of the Mexico car industry development are direct investments of the Western companies and vast sales markets, mainly in North America. Together with the new technologies, new branches of industry start to rise, using the scientific and technological achievements, which has a great influence on the development of nanotechnology. Europe plays a very important role in this process, because, together with the United States, it is characterized by many important technological discoveries, allowing the development of these new products. This can be found in the actions to increase the innovativeness of the Polish industry in order to shorten the technological gap between Poland and the national industry.

The relatively low labor costs and close proximity to the vast European markets greatly influences the production development of busses as an important means of human transportation. It is largely connected to the foreign capital and it influences the shaping of the new production centers in the national space. The size of the modern industrialization processes of the European countries is largely influenced by foreign direct investments. They are a result of a large concentration of capital in the economically developed European countries which search for new effective locations, paying attention mainly to lowering costs, by inter alia

cheaper workforce. An example of this can be found in foreign direct investments in Poland and Hungary. They allow for the use of qualified workforce, while the national capital cannot make full use of it.

Different possibilities of shaping the industrial structures are found in different countries. An example of this can be found in the presentation of the changes in the industrial potential, spatial distribution and production range in Turkey and the structure of the foreign investments inflow in Belarus. One of the barriers for initializing the industrial development of individual countries can be found in the financial troubles if many countries, connected with large public debt and the necessity to pay the loans.

The intensifying confrontations in the international sphere create in turn good conditions for the development of the defense industry. An illustration of this can be found in connecting the European shipyard industry with arms production. It allows for increasing the working range of the shipyards, mainly because of the national orders.

On the basis of the problem presented in this volume it can be assumed that the basis for the modern development of the international and national socio-industrial structures will still be located in the dynamically developing industrial activity, invigorated by the development of the research and development actions, which will result in an even more perfect product, for which there is an ever greater need on the market. An example of this can be found in the development of modern means of communication and transport and actions towards the miniaturization of products finding their use in defense or medicine. These products will be characterized with a high R&D intensity, will require a more and more qualified staff together with a low level of workforce activation. This is why the faster level of their development will not largely correspond to the increase in employment. This means that the modern industrialization processes should be looked upon with more attention to the value of the modern products created, and with less attention to the activated workforce.

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