

# Pskov-Novgorod relationships in the unified historical settlement system of Russia interconnections

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**Abstract**—The article analyzes the historical and genetic interconnections of the oldest cities of Novgorod and Pskov, which are the most important in the basic network of the state resettlement, their geopolitical and administrative role in consolidation of the Russian state. We consider the features of distribution of administrative functions between them, the mutual influence on the development of the planning structure and socio-economic links between the main centers and the surrounding settlements. Ancient factual information confirming the unity and uniqueness of Pskov -Novgorod regional settlement system as a national treasure are presented. The close relationship between Pskov and Novgorod was not limited to the commonality of state and geopolitical interests. The historical facts that testify to the political and administrative dominance of Novgorod can be traced, its steady leadership in the trade and economic influence on the entire north-western region of the Russian state, that created a complementarity of functions between the neighboring cities: the predominance of administrative or economic in one center, for example, Novgorod, and the predominance of defense in the other - Pskov; an analysis of the historical settlement system confirms the priority role of Novgorod, which consolidated its interests in trade with the Pskov suburbs such as Toropets, Velikiye Luki, Kholm, appearing in the zone of influence of Pskov and Novgorod. administrative or economic in a support center, for example, Novgorod, and the predominance of defense in the other in Pskov; an analysis of the historical settlement system confirms the priority role of Novgorod, reinforcing their interests in the trade with Pskov suburbs such as Toropets, Velikiye Luki, Kholm, which were in the zone of influence of both Pskov and Novgorod. Recommendations are given on the account of ancient historical and genetic links in the supporting basic framework of the resettlement of Russia, which consolidates and strengthens the historical and cultural integrity at the state level.

**Keywords**—*historical development; settlement system; urban regional traditions; historical-genetic code; regularities of formation and development of the planning structure; historical boundaries; administrative division; ethno-cultural community; typology of settlement systems; urban patterns.*

## I. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Since ancient times the basic network of the historical resettlement consolidated the political and economic unity, security and integrity of the Russian state. The role of resettlement for the security of the country was already understood by Knyaz Oleg, who built the guard cities around

Kiev. Yuri Dolgoruky even more understood the importance of resettlement for military and strategic purposes [1]. Yuri contrasted the Oka defense to the Horde threat of Mamay. The Oka barrier lined up from Lubutsk and Tarusa, from Serpukhov and Kolomna to Ryazan, to Murom and Nizhny Novgorod.

The state borders, geographical factors, the most important external and internal land and water routes, and the communion of national interests in military defense and security, as well as trade and economic activities, played important roles in formation of settlement. These trends have consolidated the unity and the certain distribution of functions of the two most important cities of the Russian state, namely Novgorod and Pskov. Already in the period of the existence of Kievan Rus and later in the era of the formation of the Russian state, Pskov was the main outpost on the border of Russian statehood [2].

Among the basic centers of Kievan Rus (Kiev, Smolensk, Polotsk, Pskov, Novgorod, Ladoga, Belozersk, Rostov, Murom) it was Pskov that played the role of its northern outpost. The dominant peaks, Kiev and Pskov, became the basis of the core of the resettlement structural frame.

Claudius Ptolemy pointed out proximity to the road and the intersection of roads with rivers as a reason for the emergence of settlements in a particular territory [2]. In such a way cities were built in the era of the Roman Empire.

In the old Russian sense, the “city” is a defensive fence, a fortified enclosure [4]. Some considered the cities to be large villages, since the cities had mainly commercial and industrial activities. V. Soloviev believed that in XV-VII centuries the term “city” didn’t have the sense of trade and manufacturing activity, but meant a fenced village. The others emphasized that the city as a settlement is associated with a purely military function. N.I. Kostomarov believed, that the term “posad” was used to call that we now used to call the city. N.O. Klyuchevsky believed that in the XV-VII centuries many cities only bore the dominant name “city”, but had the appearance of a large village. In the Moscow state as an agrarian country, the concept of a city was not exactly identical to that in Europe.

The “gorodtsy” (old-Russian analog to “small town”) were the beginning of territory opening for the majority of Russian settlements in the Pskov region [5]. A rock or a hill were chosen for construction. According to the descriptions of the Pskov “gorodtsy” given by Godovnikov (1856) and Kostomarov, they represented a “great variety in figures” and

were from 104 to 1200 square fathoms in area, giving only protection for the inhabitants as “donjons”. Ancient city formations: hills, towns on the elevated parts of the Pskov region continued to exist and present in toponymy (Gremyachaya, Romanova, Vasilyevskaya, Zheleznaya, etc.). Later temples were built at the sacrificial places. Further they merged, forming parts of the city.

The geographical position inside the geopolitical borders gave Pskov the role of defender of Kievan Rus, a part of which it was from the 10th century, as well as of the Novgorod Republic, and later the Russian state. Ancient Pskov is a city - state, like the Greek polis, a medieval veche-republic, a fortress city, a guard of Russian lands in the northwest. The ancient settlement arose not later than in the 6th century AD. In the VIII century it turned into a city. In “The Tale of Bygone Years” of 903, Pskov is mentioned as the previously existed town. The future settlement, as a rule, initially consists of a set of equivalent town formations (for Pskov, these were “gorodtsy”), which later turned into a significant “graveyard” on the way to Novgorod, the capital of the Novgorod Republic.

## II. RESULTS

The information about the initial locations of ancient Pskov is contradictory. The early mentions of Pskov claim that it arose as a result of the merge of the original settlements at the mouth of the Mirozhi River, others are convinced that the city arose on the territory of the so-called “gorodische” with the town founded by Olga at the site of Krom [7]. Some sources claimed that before Olga there was no city. F.A. Ushakov cited the facts that there were initial settlements on the Mirozhi River, both on the territory of the so-called “gorodets”, and on the territory of Krom. Considering the Kremlin cape and the swampy right bank of the River Velikaya uncomfortable for a settlement, he “admitted that the Pskov land met Knyagina Olga not as an empty place, but as a rich, populous settlement that could easily be turned into a city”.

At the end of the IX century Pskov, then called Pleskov, became part of the Kiev state. Later he became known as the “suburb” of Pskov, because the main route from Europe to Novgorod, the capital center of the Novgorod Veche Republic, passed through it. The Pskov topography determined the sectoral structure of the city, in which the genetic parts formed at different times coexist (Figure 1) [6].

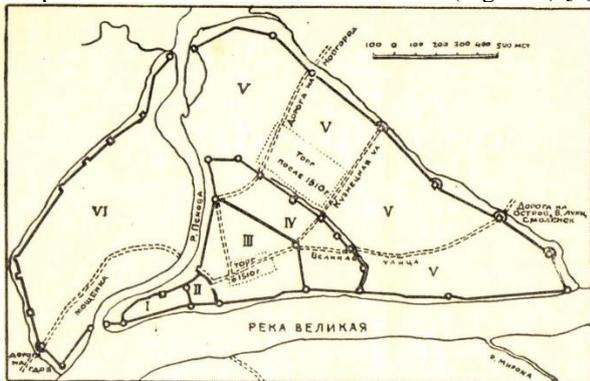


Fig. 1. City of Pskov. The scheme of growth of its parts and fortifications [6]: I-Kremlin; II- "Dovmontov city"; III- “Staroe Zastenie”; IV- "Novoe Zastenie"; V- “Polotnische” or “Okolnii Gorod”; VI- “Zapskovye”

In the X century stone Krom arose on the wild rock of Kromsky Hill, a part of which in the form of a triangle rises over the River Velikaya by 10 fathoms, had a slope of 30 degrees in the direction from NW to SE. It is the place of the ancient town of the VIII century. Trinity Cathedral is the spiritual center of the city, erected in the center of Krom. The terrain on the left bank of the Pskov River was called Gorodets. In the IX-X centuries the housing was ousted by warehouse buildings. A lowland was beyond Krom, formed at the place of a lake existed there earlier, where at the end of the 10th century a horseshoe-shaped ensemble Persey arose, the wall and shaft of which preserved Krom from the side of the field. “Persi” is a common Slavic word that denotes the chest of a man or a horse [8]. Persi existed at the time of the first Pskov knyaz Sudislav, whose court was located inside them. He reins for the period from 988 to 1059. Under the term “Persi” the Pskov people understood the Pskov stone walls, attached to the Kromsky hill from the side of the field, which initially performed a defensive function (Figure 2) [8].

Originally a knyazly court was at the Persi. From the XI century Pskov came under heavy dependence on Novgorod. And yet in 1192 Persi was finally completed and the veche settled there. In the form of a double citadel, Krom became known as Detinets. Inside Persi, a large earth bedding was carried out for convenient communication with Krom. A tribune and the chamber of the office was located on the round square. Further development of the center and the city led to the development of the territory behind the wall of Persi. During the reign of Knyaz Dovmont (1266-1299), the court, the office and the knyaz court were moved from Persi. For this Pskov allotted a plot of 1.5 hectares at the posad, which turned into a sacral part and became known as Dovmontov city. Inside there were 18 temples.

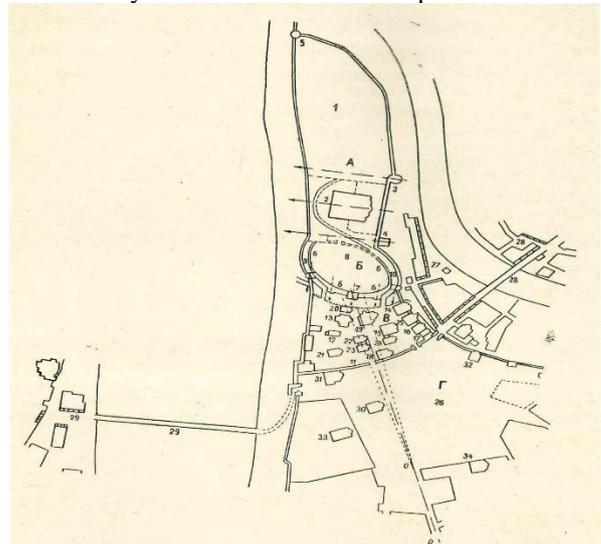


Fig. 2. Complex of architectural and town-planning ensembles of the capital center of the veche Pskov. The reconstruction of G.Ya. Mokeev on the plan of 1740 [8] A-ensemble of Krom, 2-Trinity Cathedral. B- Persey Ensemble, 6-Persi, 7-bell tower in Persiy, 8-Vechevaya Square, B-ensemble of Dovmont city; G-ensemble of the Old bargaining., 26-square of the old bargaining, 27-bargaining in Rybniki. 28-bargaining in Zapskovye and Zapskovsky bridge, 29-bargaining in Zaveliche and Zavelitsky bridge.

The victory of the Pskovs over the Livonian Order gave them the opportunity to create their own independent state, which existed from 1348 to 1510, and the period of its existence accounts for the highest prosperity of town planning. The Pskov Veche Republic elevated its veche with

special sacral structures. At the end of XIV in Persiah they built a bell tower, in which veche and cathedral bells were hung.

At the end of the XII century, the “torgovische” (old-Russian for merchant) occupied an area from Dovmontova to the second city wall, built by posadnik Boris. N.I. Kostomarov specifically pointed out that “in 1309 suburban settlements outside Krom became a city”. From the east, outside the second wall (the middle one from the Velikaya to the Pskov River), the suburb grew, which joined the city. Along with the Staryi Torg, to which the ensemble of the city of Dovmont was turned, there was a torgovische at the Zapskovsky bridge.

In the first half of the XIV century the city of Pskov consisted of Detinets (Krom), Dovmontov city and the Staryi Zastenie, which lied between Dovmontov and the second city wall, built in 1309. This wall went around the ancient tenements, included fish rows and adjoined Persi of Detinets near the present Kremlin gates. Zapskovie in the middle of the XV got inside the new city walls. The fish market was formed initially under the walls of Persi, then, as it grew, it moved to the Okolny town. Another one torgovische near Zawilitsky bridge in Zavelichye. Zavelichye was mastered later in the second half of the XVI century. The city had three rings of stone walls (the fourth inner was dismantled), there were 37 towers. The wall of Knyaz Dovmont, constructed in X111 surrounded by its middle wall, and, finally, the third wall that ran around the city for 7 miles, built in the XV century. The latter was all cut up with loopholes, towers, towers or bonfires. The fourth inner wall was dismantled. Underground parallel to the outer wall were secret passages. One of them is at the Svinaya Tower.

In the early stages, at the sectoral cape development of the urban structure of Pskov, the priority planning direction was towards Velikiy Novgorod. And at the same time, the centric model of the city planning and its genetic code was taking shape. The tendency toward centrality stimulated the growth of development in Zapskovye. The entire genetic helical-sectoral development code is clearly detected in the sixteenth century, when the topological configuration is monitored and the planning model is sufficiently developed.

The more ancient is the city, the more developed its planning structure is. The “unique hail formation” is the Kromsky complex, the center of the veche of Pskov. It includes four architectural and town planning ensembles: Krom, Persi, Dovmontov City and Staryi Torg. Basically, the center was formed by the end of the 13th century by the gradual growth of the city. As an integral organism, the Pskov Center complex was defined between the XIV and the XV centuries after the separation of Pskov from Veliky Novgorod in 1348, and it was completed in 1481.

Traditionally, the settlement started from the sacred part of the city, chrome or Kremlin, protected by walls, ramparts. It housed weapons and food warehouses, the courtyards of the governor and other servants and housed the archers, gunners to protect against the enemy. Posad appeared near it, and sometimes two or more (for example, Vladimir, Tver, etc.). Posad was enclosed by defensive walls (in Pskov there zones remained). The spontaneous expansion of the territory occurred at the expense of settlements, often located in uncomfortable territories with difficult terrain.

Genetic relationships permeate systems of settlement at all levels. The regional system of settlement, its territorial

scale reflected the zone of distribution of political power and the dependence of the settlements on the center of a higher rank [10, 11]. In the Pskov-Novgorod system, the dominant role belonged to Velikiy Novgorod, the capital of the Novgorod Veche Republic. Its external exits known as “pyatiny” (external continuations of the city ends) reached Solvychevodsk and the White Sea.

The influence of the strong basic center of Novgorod was very huge. And this fact is observed in the original genetic interconnection, the historical system of settlement, the historical role and destinies. M.V. Lomonosov noted that Novgorod and Pskov are like elder and younger brothers. Judging by the names of streets, parts of the city, churches, and even the internal structure, these two cities, undoubtedly, are siblings, similar in appearance and in character. Like Novgorod, the ancient Slavic settlement perpetuates the name of its creators in different parts, calling the gate Slavic, Slavnaya street, part of the city Slavno, just like Pskov, coming from Novgorod gives the name of its first street passing along the left bank of the river Pskov, Like Novgorod in Pskov there also existed a concance form of organization of the city. It was divided into 6 ends (districts), to each of which 2 suburbs were attributed (there were 12 in all) with the volosts, which in turn were divided into lips. Each end was ruled by its own concance veche and was divided into streets. They were governed by street veche meetings. In turn, the streets were divided into “sotni” (hundreds) and were governed by the elected sotnik. And all together the bodies of self-government were subordinate to the citywide or nationwide veche. At all times, Pskov made an indelible impression. K.K. Sluchevsky expressed direct admiration, as did the whole society accompanying the Sovereign Emperor [12]. “We admire Pskov. This is something magnificent, like another Paris. The city is too big. In Poland, he has no equal. Being always the second after the elder brother (Novgorod), Pskov had also developed the historical settlement system also genetically related to Novgorod [13]. This is a narrow strip of the territory of the River Velikaya basin. The settlement system showed the administrative subordination of the suburbs to the city center.

The River Velikaya, flowing into the Pskov Lake, which is connected with the Chudskoe Lake, was a part of a path along Narva with the Baltic Sea. Along it, along the hills and on the lakes, twelve small fortresses were built, ten of which were considered suburbs of Pskov. The Pskov historical settlement system, with its necklace of fortresses, was simultaneously in the zone of influence of Novgorod. Already in the XV century the Pskov settlement system had a high density of settlements in contrast to Novgorod and its own extensive zone of influence. 88 km east to Pskov is the ancient fortress of Porkhov. To the north, at a distance of 125 km the city Gdov is, a defense station of the XIV century, Pskov outpost on the river Gdovka, 2 km from the place of its falling into the Chudskoe Lake. In the same zone, not far from Kobylia settlement, a battle took place between the Russian army under the leadership of Knyaz Alexander Nevsky and the knights of the Livonian Order. Among the suburbs of Pskov were Velha, the city of Krasny, located to the south of Pskov. In them, as in other Pskov settlements, there were governors, clerks. N.D. Chechulin writes that there was a Kremlin (city) in Krasny. Among the townspeople are mentioned both German residents and a foreign German courtyard. Velikiye Luki, a large shopping

center, was a major supporting center of the Pskov settlement system and was of great trade and economic importance for Novgorod. The Lovat River, on which the Kholm was located, was an important artery of the Novgorodians. The city lay halfway from Novgorod to Velikiy Luki. Numerous claims on him by Novgorod and foreigners led to its complete destruction, after which the city was restored from the ashes at least three times. Now, the Kholm has entered the borders of the Novgorod region. Toropets now belongs to the Tver region. The chain of fortresses of the suburbs of Pskov was built on the external western side: Gdov, Izborsk, Ostrov, Opochka, Velia, Krasnyu (Figure 3).

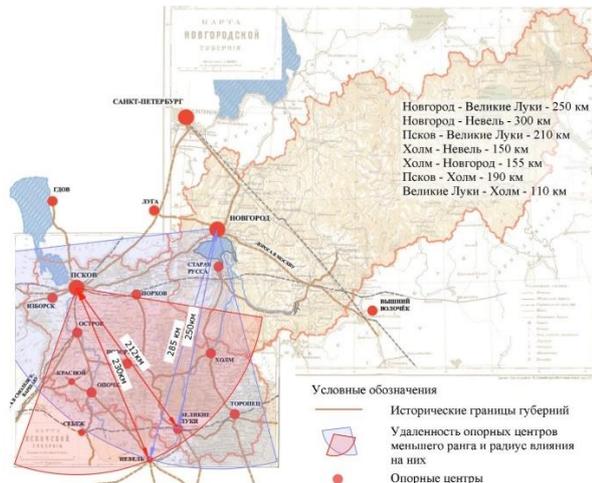


Fig. 3. The Pskov-Novgorod Historical Settlement System. Zones of influence of Novgorod and Pskov

One of the distant south-western suburbs of Pskov was Sebez, more than 150 km distant. It was distinguished by the diversity of the demographic composition of the population, its large population, the city had 9 public granaries, 3 of them with bread. As of the second half of the XVI century there were 8 landowners, 20 clergymen, a voivode (commander of an army), a siege head, a town clerk, birich (the Cossack head), 137 Cossacks (103 of them were foot soldiers, 22 equestrian, 54 archers, 31 gunners, 15 collars, etc. In Opochka there were only 270 people, governor, voivode, customs officer, 100 archers.

In contrast to the Pskov, the near environment of the Novgorodian settlement system was not so urbanized, it was not characterized by a high density of settlements. Considering the eccentricity of the location near its external borders and trade interests, Novgorod constantly attacked Pskov suburbs, in particular, Porkhov, Kholm, Velikiye Luki. Virtually the entire Pskov settlement system was in the zone of influence of Novgorod. The unity of the national interests of defense, the defense of borders required joint action and mutual assistance. Being in close contact with his younger brother Pskov, Novgorod managed to entrust all the questions of defense to him, tempering the trading activity of the Pskovs. Thus, the genetic interrelation of Novgorod and Pskov is combined into a single regional historical system of settlement, including national relations.

### III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that in forecasting the development and consolidating the state support frame of settlement, genetic interconnections should be taken into

account. In this interconnections geopolitical, socio-economic, production-productive potentials, their interaction creating state and historical and cultural unity are mediated and integrated. In addition to regional systems, it is necessary to create conditions for the functioning of interregional genetically interconnected subsystems, the basis of which are not only cultural, spiritual principles, but also basic production-infrastructure links [14].

Genetic interrelations strengthen and expand the national resettlement systems, stimulate interregional socio-cultural and economic ties, all types of business, industrial and educational activities.

Genetic origins and historical relationships with the nearest cities of historical settlement persist further, exerting influence, consolidation and expanding the system of settlement at the national and global level. Pskov retains border functions, ensuring interaction and distribution of nationwide flows and economic ties to Novgorod, Smolensk and other cities. Its historical geopolitical role in the unity of the Russian state is preserved.

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