

On the Relationship between the Development of Urban Agglomerations and the Construction of Regional Central Cities

Chen Xu

School of Economics and Management, Northwest University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

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Abstract: With the development of social economy, the process of urbanization is also deepening. Urban agglomerations are mainly the spatial layout of cities. In a certain area, different types of cities of different scales are gathered. With regional central cities as the core, the traffic and economic links among cities are strengthened, so as to promote the overall development of urban agglomerations. This paper first expounds the relationship between urban agglomerations and the construction of regional central cities, then analyzes the importance of regional central cities to the development of urban agglomerations, scrutinizes the existing problems, and finally puts forward the related construction measures, hoping to promote the overall development of urban agglomerations.

1. Introduction

Due to the deepening of urbanization, in the process of urban development, large-scale urban agglomerations are formed by some central cities. The economic construction of central cities drives the development of surrounding urban agglomerations and promotes the development of urbanization process towards a scientific direction. The regional central city radiates to the surrounding cities, driving the overall development of urban agglomerations. Therefore, the dominant position of regional central cities is more obvious. However, there are still some problems, which hinders the development of urban agglomerations. Therefore, this paper analyzes the problems existing in the construction of central cities, and puts forward corresponding improvement measures.

2. Importance of the Construction of Regional Central Cities to the Development of Urban Agglomerations

In the process of urbanization, economic development or urbanization development usually do not appear in all urban areas. In the same region, there are some cities with relatively more rapid economic development and urbanization process, whose influence will spread to other cities through various channels, so as to promote the development of regional economy and urbanization process.

Regional central city is a vital driving force that affects the economic construction of urban agglomerations and urban construction. In the process of regional economic development, the construction of regional central cities mainly depends on the local natural or humanistic advantages. When the economic development of central regional cities reaches a certain stage, a specialized division of labor will be formed to improve the internal productivity and increase the comprehensive ability of the city. Under the specialization of urban labor division, the production efficiency in the city is greatly improved. Moreover, the regional central city requires a broader market for product exchange and a large number of human resources. Other surrounding cities will gradually form urban agglomerations through regional economic integration. Therefore, the economic construction of regional central cities plays an important role in the construction of urban agglomerations.

In market economy, the regional central city is the basic competition unit, and other surrounding

cities further develop with the regional central city as the leading role, driving the development of the whole urban agglomeration. Both at home and abroad, in the development process of urban agglomerations, the importance of regional central cities are gradually realized. Certain results have been achieved in upgrading industrial structure, and changing and reforming social structure of central cities. For example, western countries take New York, London, Paris and other vital cities as the core urban agglomerations. Beijing, Tianjin and Tangcheng agglomeration, Pearl River Delta agglomeration and Yangtze River Delta agglomeration of our country are all gradually developed on the basis of regional central cities, with extensive area and large population, which are the centers of economic development. The development of urban agglomerations not only improves the comprehensive competitiveness of the city, but also promotes the overall economic development of the country. There is an inseparable relationship between the development of urban agglomerations and the construction of regional central cities. The latter promotes the development of the whole city within the former, as well as increases the cohesion among cities and improves the attractiveness of cities.

3. Importance of the Construction of Regional Central Cities

3.1 Gather More Resources

In the development of urban agglomerations, numerous human, material and financial resources are needed. However, urban agglomerations are composed of various cities of different types and scales, which cannot gather more resources. To build a regional central city, it is essential to gather talents, resources, funds and industries, build convenient transportation with the regional central city as the core, and attract more resources to the central city. Because the central city occupies economic advantage, which will provide more jobs, attract more enterprises, and enhance the degree of information development. Compared with other cities, the regional central city gathers more resources.

3.2 Influence More Surrounding Cities

There is a great influence on the cities in urban agglomerations from the regional central city, which is ahead of the other cities in the economic level and gathers more high-quality talents and funds. The development of other cities in urban agglomerations usually unconsciously focus on the regional central city, adjust the internal structure of the city, implement the system and upgrade the industry structure. The influence scope of regional central cities on the inner cities mainly depends on the degree of urban agglomeration. The more cities agglomerate, the greater the influence of central cities. In technology transfer, industrial upgrading and information dissemination, the regional central city always consider cities closer to itself. The surrounding cities can also successfully complete the transformation relying on the central city. The construction of regional central city not only improves the influence of urban agglomerations, but also optimizes some problems in the process of urbanization and improves the quality of urbanization.

3.3 Drive the Overall Economy Development Direction of Urban Agglomerations

When the economic development of the regional central city reaches a certain degree, it will seek more innovation opportunities. Because there are rich resources in cities, more funds and institutional support will be offered to the innovative industry. In addition, there will be continuous innovation in science and technology and economic development of the regional central city. The new type of economic development will provide the direction of economic and technological development for the cities in agglomerations, and promote their overall progress of science and technology.

In the process of economic production, there is a clear division of labor in the regional central city, which can make use of its own resource advantages to continuously expand the city scale and production scale, take advantage of market mechanism to collect more social information, and reduce production cost. This kind of production mode will be applied to the production and

construction of other surrounding cities, so as to promote the urban economic transformation and upgrading within the urban belt, and improve its comprehensive competitiveness and cohesion. There are service organizations in the center of regional central cities, which is conducive to the development of other surrounding cities. In the service center, there are commodity exhibition areas for enterprises. Through service organizations, enterprises are able to get more talent information, capital information and technical data. The stronger the influence of the regional central city is, the better its service performance is. In the process of communication, enterprises in the surrounding cities are also able to reduce the transaction cost and provide guidance for the development of other cities.

4. Problems Brought about by the Construction of Regional Central Cities to the Development of Urban Agglomerations

4.1 Social Environment and Ecological Problems

The rapid development of urbanization in the construction of regional central cities leads to a large number of social and ecological environmental problems, which are mainly urban diseases such as over concentration of population, traffic congestion, shortage of jobs, unreasonable construction of regional central city, not properly planned roads inside the city, and traffic congestion due to people's better living standards and increasing private cars.

The rapid growth of population has led to the ecological environment problems in central cities, such as urban pollution, heat island effect and other serious urban diseases. A lack of green area reduces people's quality of life. In addition, there is a negative affection on the development of urban agglomerations from cities in the central area, leading to corresponding urban diseases. Moreover, the regional ecological balance has been destroyed. The urban infrastructure can no longer adapt to the development process of urbanization. A large number of land around the city has been occupied. All of these seriously affect the overall development of urban agglomerations.

4.2 Traffic Congestion and Population Problems

Population expansion and traffic congestion are serious problems in the construction of regional central cities, while the development of most urban agglomerations is mainly carried out by road transportation. Traffic that relies too much on road transportation has become the key problem. The main reason for traffic congestion is that the construction of highway infrastructure is not perfect and the long-term planning of the city is ignored at the beginning of urban development.

Population expansion is an essential problem in the construction of regional central cities. During the construction, a large number of people from surrounding cities flow into the central cities, resulting in brain drain, population loss and economic backwardness of surrounding cities. Population growth in the central cities also brings a series of social problems, such as difficulties in employment, housing, and learning of migrant workers' children. In the construction of regional central cities, the development of other cities is ignored, causing serious two-level differentiation of cities in urban agglomerations. Meanwhile, there are a lot of environmental pollution problems, affecting the ecological environment of surrounding cities.

4.3 Land Issues

During the construction of central regional cities, urban scale is continuously expanded and more land in the suburb or other cities is occupied. To a certain extent, the over intensive urban layout deepens the influence of central regional cities. The central cities occupy surrounding land, and so do other cities, resulting in the shortage of urban and rural land resources. The dense distribution of urban agglomerations causes weak integration of urban and rural areas, and the gradual increasing gap between cities, which hinders the overall development of urban agglomerations.

5. Measures for the Construction of Regional Central Cities

5.1 Construct Industrial Concentration Area in Regional Central Cities

The central city is required to constantly adapt to large-scale industries, optimize and upgrade industrial structure, and apply a variety of methods such as cross-province and cross-city cooperation to carry out cooperative operation in industries. It is of necessity to focus on the development of tertiary industry and service industry, and promote the economic development of regional central cities. In economic development, more attention must be paid to the development of green economy and circular economy and the improvement of technical level, so as to maintain benign competition between the same industries in the same region, promote and learn from each other, and enhance the overall development of central cities.

5.2 Do a Good Job in Undertaking Industrial Transfer

After industrial optimization and upgrading, regional central cities must shoulder the industrial undertaking task, transfer some industries to surrounding towns by means of cooperation, give play to the leading role, and guide the development of enterprises. It is required to ensure that urban agglomerations are not only concentrated in spatial layout, but also guarantee the characteristics of economic development structure according to regional distribution. In the process of development, it is also crucial to stress the scientific and technological innovation to improve production level and quality.

5.3 Actively Develop Small Cities

Attention is also needed for the development of small cities. Urban and rural areas around cities are an important part of industrial optimization, which provide more technical support for the economic development and public facilities of surrounding cities, optimize the ecological environment, and reasonably plans their development, so as to create small cities suitable for human habitation and alleviate the population expansion problem and heat island effect of central cities.

6. Conclusion

To sum up, urban agglomeration is a vital form in the process of urban development, which is guided by regional central cities for economic and urban development. Regional central city is the crucial part of the development of urban agglomerations. The economic structure and urban development of central cities will bring direction to the development of surrounding cities. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of regional central cities and promote the overall development of urban agglomerations.

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