



Recent Trend of Population and Natural Resources Use and Five Settlement Patterns in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia

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Outline of the paper

- General outlook of Chukotka
- Drastic decline in population
- Slight increase in indigenous population
- Industrial activities sharply down in the 1990s and slowly up in the 21th century
- Five settlement patterns delineated
- Difficulty of reindeer herders' life
- Emerging obshchina as a new form of land use
- Conclusion

Method of study

- Collection of official statistics and interview with people in Chukotka: August-September, 2007
- Literature and map survey
- Investigation through Internet

General Outlook of Chukotka

- Vast land of tundra and mountain tundra facing the Arctic Sea and the Bering Sea
- Area = 737,700 square kilometers (about two times larger than that of Japan)
- Population = 50,532 persons as of February 2, 2006
- Administration units = Capital city; Anadyr, and 8 raions
- Governor = Roman A. Abramovich

Anadyr in winter

Photo Credit: Alexander Kutkiy





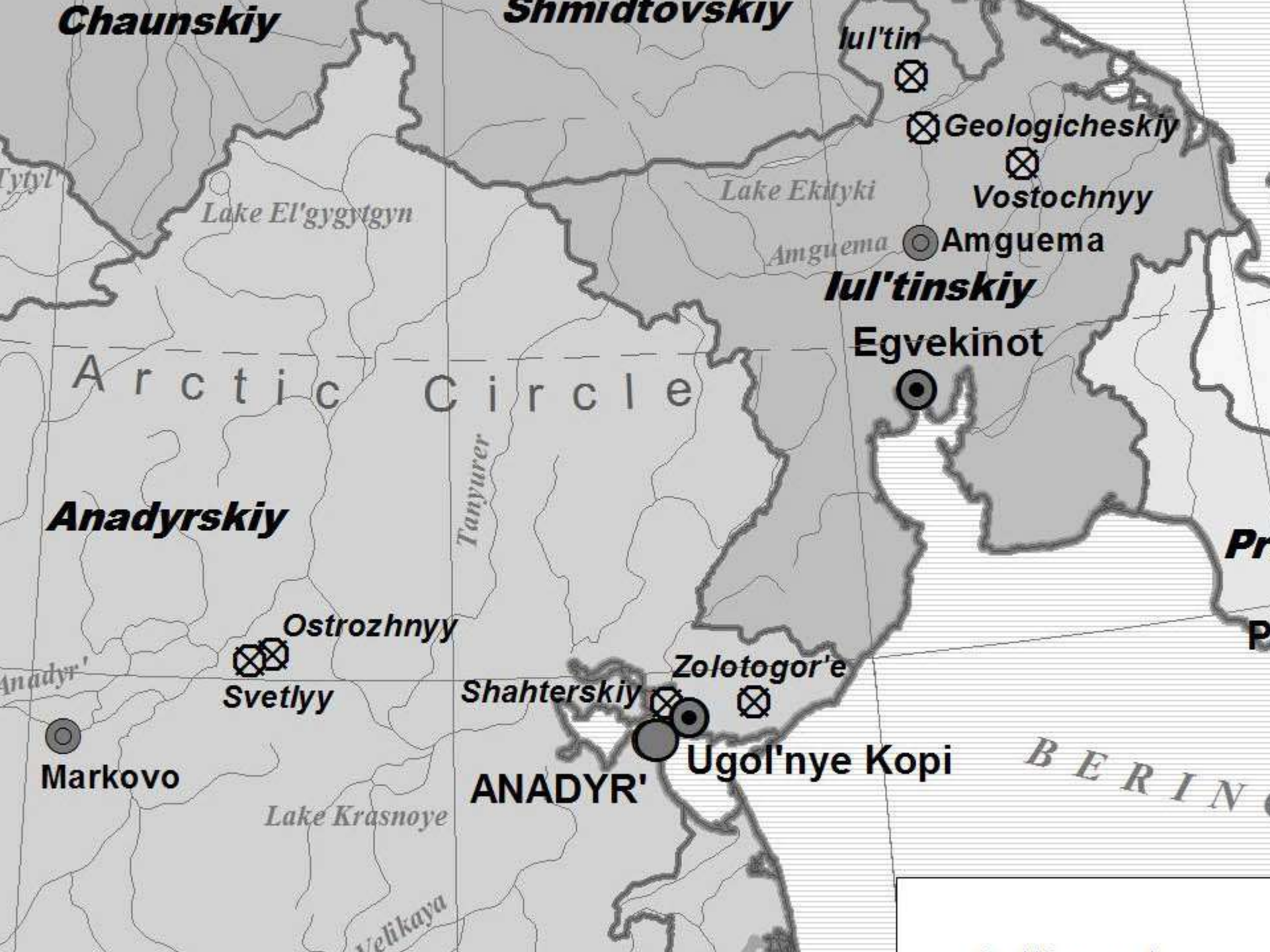
Crystallly clear water flow of Amguema River heading for the Arctic Sea

Photo: T. Murota, 2007



1. Demographic condition of Chukotka compared with other regions of Russian East since 1990





Chaunskiy

Shmidtovskiy

Iul'tin



Geologicheskii



Vostochnyy

Lake El'gygytgyn

Lake Ekityki

Amguema

Amguema

Iul'tinskiy

Egvekinot



Arctic Circle

Anadyrskiy

Tanyurur

Ostrozhnnyy



Svetlyy

Anadyr'



Markovo

Lake Krasnoye

Shahterskiy



Zolotogor'e



ANADYR'



Ugol'nye Kopi

BERING

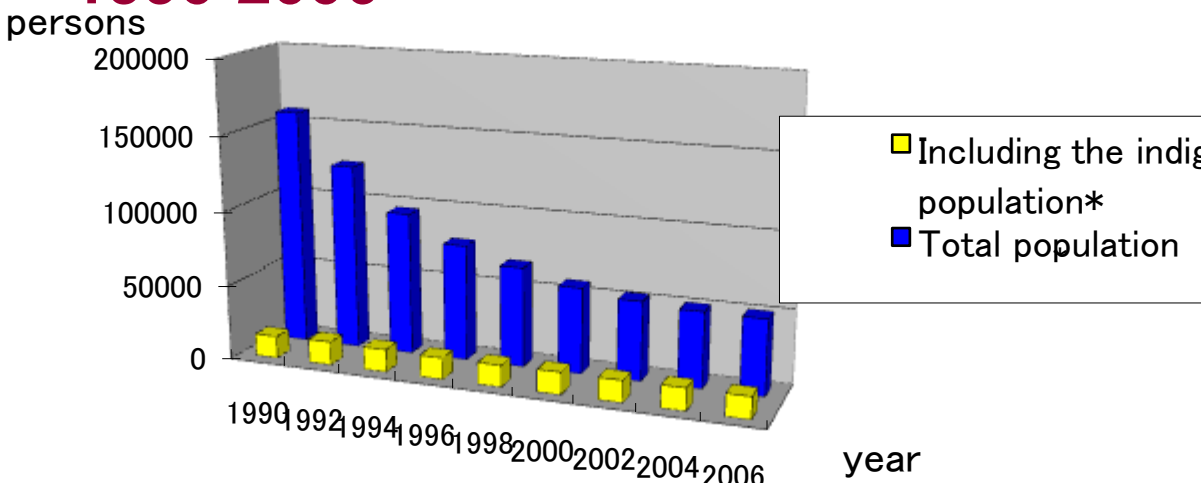
Velikaya

Shrinking Population of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, 1990-2006

| Territory | Population (number of people) | | Chang in number of people, 1990-2006 | Rate of increase in number of people , 1990-2006, % |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | 01.01.1990 | 01.01.2006 | | |
| Chukotka Autonomous Okrug | 158056 | 50484 | -107572 | -68 |
| Anadyr | 17509 | 11551 | -5958 | -34 |
| Anadyrskii raion | 23496 | 6935 | -16561 | -70 |
| Beringovskii raion | 9113 | 2690 | -6423 | -70 |
| Bilibinskii raion | 27956 | 8215 | -19741 | -71 |
| Iul'tinskii raion | 15521 | 3951 | -11570 | -75 |
| Providenskii raion | 10019 | 4423 | -5596 | -56 |
| Chaunskii raion | 31348 | 5886 | -25462 | -81 |
| Chukotskii raion | 6954 | 4610 | -2344 | -34 |
| Shmidtovskii raion | 16140 | 2223 | -13917 | -86 |

Source: Calculation on Data of Territorial Body of Federal Service for State Statistics in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

Trend of population of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, 1990-2006



Note: * Data about indigenous people living in rural areas are presented

Source: Data of Territorial Body of Federal Service for State Statistics in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

Ethnic Breakdown of the Population in Chukotk, 1989 and 2002

| Ethnicity | Number of people | | 2002 as % to 1989 | Ethnic breakdown, % | |
|--|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | 1989 | 2002 | | 1989 | 2002 |
| Russian | 108298 | 27918 | 25.8 | 66.1 | 51.9 |
| Chukchi | 11914 | 12622 | 105.9 | 7.3 | 23.5 |
| Ukrainian | 27600 | 4960 | 18 | 16.8 | 9.2 |
| Eskimos | 1452 | 1534 | 105.6 | 0.9 | 2.9 |
| Evens | 1336 | 1407 | 105.3 | 0.8 | 2.6 |
| Tatar | 2276 | 534 | 23.5 | 1.4 | 1 |
| Belorussian | 3045 | 517 | 17 | 1.9 | 1 |
| Other | 7994 | 3133 | 39.2 | 4.8 | 5.7 |
| People who did not mention their ethnicity | 19 | 1199 | 63.1 times | 0 | 2.2 |
| Total population | 163934 | 53824 | 32.8 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Motrich 2006

Characteristics of demographic change

- Total population drastically decreased down to the one third in Chukotka during some two decades; 1989 to 2002.
- In contrast to this, indigenous population increased, though mildly.

2. Trend of Natural Resources Production and Employment

Trend of natural resources production in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug , 1990-1998

| | Production | | Change in production volume, 1990-1998 | Rate of increase in production volume , 1990-1998, % |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|--|--|
| | 1990 | 1998 | | |
| Electricity output, billion kWh | 1.2 | 0.6 | -0.6 | -50 |
| Excavation of coal, thousand tons | 1222 | 333 | -889 | -73 |
| Excavation of gold, kg | 17000 | 6000 | -11000 | -65 |
| Catch of fish, thousand tons | 5.1 | 1 | -4.1 | -80 |

Trend of natural resources production in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug , 1999-2006

| | Production | | Change in production volume, 1999-2006 | Rate of increase in production volume , 1999-2006, % |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|--|--|
| | 1999 | 2006 | | |
| Electricity output, billion kWh | 0.6 | 0.5 | -0.1 | -17 |
| Excavation of coal, thousand tons | 304 | 547 | 243 | 80 |
| Excavation of gold, kg | 4700 | 5100 | 400 | 8.5 |
| Catch of fish, thousand tons | 2.9 | 46.5 | 43.6 | 1500 |

Chang in number of employees in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug , 1992-2006

| | Number of employees | | Chang in number of employees, 1992-2006 | Rate of increase in number of employees , 1992-2006, % |
|--|---------------------|--------------|---|---|
| | 1992 | 2006 | | |
| Total number of employees | 58429 | 30345 | -28084 | -48 |
| Including: | | | | |
| Agriculture, hunting, forestry | 5364 | 1995 | -3369 | -63 |
| Fishing and fish- breeding | n.a. | 441 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Excavation of mineral resources | 13470 | 1729 | -11741 | -87 |
| Including excavation of fuel mineral resources | 2039 | 757 | -1282 | -63 |
| Including excavation of mineral resources with exception t of fuel ones | 11431 | 972 | -10459 | -91 |

Source: Authors' Calculation from the Data of Territorial Body of Federal Service for State Statistics in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

Fishing and fish-breeding – only 2000-2006

Economic slump overcome

- Down in the 1990s, but up in the beginning years of the 21st century.

3. Five Settlement Patterns Delineated

1) Soviet-period settlement, considerably depopulated and mainly enjoying the status of the center of okrug or municipality , inhabited mostly by Russian population



| Territory | Population (number of people) | | Chang in number of people, 1990-2006 | Rate of increase in number of people , 1990-2006, % |
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| Egvekinot | 5321 | 2462 | -2859 | -54 |

Source: Calculation on Data of Territorial Body of Federal Service for State Statistics in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

Anadyr – the capital city of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug



Egvekinot – the center of Iultinskii raion, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

2) Soviet-period settlements, inhabited largely by indigenous population, whose numbers have not changed significantly



| Territory | Number of people | | Chang in number of people, 1990-2006 | Rate of increase in number of people , 1990-2006, % |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | 01.01.1990 | 01.01.2006 | | |
| Total number of people | 15240 | 3951 | -11289 | -74 |
| Urban population | 10446 | 2421 | -8025 | -77 |
| Rural population | 4794 | 1530 | -3264 | -68 |
| Population of settlements: | | | | |
| Iultin | 5125 | 0 | -5125 | -100 |
| Vostochnyi | 482 | 0 | -482 | -100 |
| Svetlyi | 85 | 0 | -85 | -100 |
| Amguema | 729 | 574 | -155 | -21 |
| Egvekinot | 5321 | 2462 | -2859 | -54 |



Amguema Village, Iultinskii raion, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

3) Considerably depopulated settlements, with essentially Russian population, where there co-exist abandoned and preserved residential neighborhoods



Ugolnye Kopi - – the center of Anadyr raion, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

4) Abandoned settlements mostly where Russian people who had been employed in the industries based on natural resource utilization had been living

| Territory | Number of people | | Chang in number of people, 1990-2006 | Rate of increase in number of people , 1990-2006, % |
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4) Continues: Abandoned settlements mostly where Russian people who had been employed in the industries based on natural resources utilization had been living



5) Temporary workers' settlements related to opening of new enterprises based on natural resources utilization and relating to lode gold mining



Photo by Sergey Zelenskii

Valunisty gold mining, Anadyr raion, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

4. Predicament of Reindeer Herders and Emerging Obshchiny

Table 6. Reindeer Heads in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, 1958-2006

| Year | Heads | Year | Heads | Year | Heads |
|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1958 | 380,000 | 1991 | 470,000 | 1999 | 120,000 |
| 1965 | 570,000 | 1992 | 420,000 | 2000 | 100,000 |
| 1966 | 580,000 | 1993 | 400,000 | 2001 | 100,000 |
| 1976 | 500,000 | 1994 | 330,000 | 2002 | 90,000 |
| 1980 | 540,000 | 1995 | 260,000 | 2003 | 100,000 |
| 1985 | 460,000 | 1996 | 210,000 | 2004 | 130,000 |
| 1986 | 470,000 | 1997 | 180,000 | 2005 | 160,000 |
| 1987 | 480,000 | 1998 | 140,000 | 2006 | 170,000 |



Obshchina: Old and New

- Obshchina had been prevailing in many parts of Russia before the Soviet era, but disappeared since then.
- As an alternative to the state farm; Sokhoz, attempts have been made among indigenous peoples of North to form new types of obshchina as a self-governing body for sustainable land use based on kinship or wider relationship.

Tundra is not a barren land, but full of mushroom, berries and others

Photo: T. Murota, 2007



The Arctic Ocean and the Sea of Bering nourish bounty of fish and sea mammals

- Chukotka is rich in gold and other metal resources, oil, coal, natural gas and others.
- Development of such exhaustible resources has to be carried out in the manner not of polluting tundra land, rivers, lakes and seas.

Conclusion

- ❑ The impact of the Soviet collapse had been felt stronger in Chukotka than in other regions of Russia.
- ❑ Economic recovery has been rather quick since the beginning of the 21st century.
- ❑ The number of reindeer heads, which had once drastically diminished, is now gradually recovering.
- ❑ Attempts to form obshchiny have been initiated among the indigenous people for their autonomy.
- ❑ Chukotka is in an upward trend for a future better than in the 1990s.

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Thank you for your attention!

Photo Credit: Alexander Kutkiy

