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## GEOTOPONYMICAL BASIS OF THE TERMS “STATE”, “COUNTRY”, “REGION” AND “TERRITORY”

**Abstract.** The article presents a comprehensive analysis and the author's opinion on the subject content and essence, as well as the mutual correlation of the terms "state", "country", "region" and "territory", which has not found its exhaustive solution in the geographical literature. On the basis of a critical analysis of the extensive literature and the author's logical reasoning, the specificity of these terms is revealed, taking into account the application in relation to certain geographical objects of different status. It is scientifically substantiated that the state is a political and administrative unit, the country is an administrative-geographical unit, and the region is an administrative unit. Specific examples of the application of the category "region" to areas of the earth's surface, allocated according to different principles, are given. The results of the study will serve to provide accurate statistics on administrative and territorial units around the world. The correct name of the objects of study will contribute to the improvement of the educational process

**Key words:** state, country, region, territory, problem, creative approach, symbols, units, definition.

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## ГЕОТОПОНИМИЧЕСКАЯ ОСНОВА ТЕРМИНОВ “ГОСУДАРСТВО”, “СТРАНА”, “РЕГИОН” И “ТЕРРИТОРИЯ”

**Аннотация.** В статье представлен комплексный анализ и авторское мнение по предметному содержанию и сущности, а также взаимному соотношению терминов «государство», «страна», «регион» и «территория», что не нашло своего исчерпывающего решения в географической литературе. На основе критического анализа обширной литературы и логическим рассуждениям автора выявлена специфика этих терминов с учётом применения в отношении тех или иных географических объектов различного статуса. Научно обосновано, что государство – это политико-административная единица, страна – это административно-географическая единица, а регион – это административная единица. Приведены конкретные примеры применения категории “регион” к участкам земной поверхности, выделенных по разным принципам. Результаты исследования послужат для предоставления точных статистических данных об административных и территориальных единицах по всему миру. Правильное наименование объектов исследования будет способствовать совершенствованию образовательного процесса.

**Ключевые слова:** государство, страна, регион, территория, проблема, творческий подход, характер, единицы измерения, определение.

**Introduction and problem statement.** President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev in his Address to the Oliy Majlis on January 24, 2020 didn't say in vain – «We will continue the wide-ranging work in terms of stepping up the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, the

foreign policy course which meets our national interests, which is open, pragmatic and well thought-out. We will further strengthen the ties of cooperation, as well as long-term and multifaceted partnerships with all near and far countries» [19]. Because this multifaceted cooperation requires, firstly the convey of geotoponomic information on the history, spirituality, enlightenment and, of course, the naming of states, countries and territories to every citizen of Uzbekistan, secondly its widespread use in the educational process and its effective use in the development of diplomacy, international economic, social and tourism ties.

On the eve of 2022, "New Uzbekistan" has an optimal diplomatic network covering various regions of the world and equal relations with more than 135 countries, mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with more than 120 countries are carried out by 55 embassies, consulates and permanent missions in international organizations [8]. Uzbekistan has simplified tourism regulations with 86 countries, the number of branches of foreign universities reached to 29. So, the expansion of this national foreign policy shows the need to have detailed information about those countries. Toponymy, on the other hand, has to determine the geographical features of the names of states, countries, regions and places belonging to it, which is one of these tasks.

**Study of the problem.** According to geographers K. Gadoev and S. Berdieva [5], the number of political and geographical units in the world is 243. The World Almanac, published annually in New York, lists 195 UN member states and observers. The World Fact Yearbook, published in Washington, D.C., lists the number of countries in the world by 266 political and geographical-territorial units. The textbook "World Economic and Social Geography" included in the school curriculum states that the number of countries is 227. Which one is right? Where do these numbers come from and why do they have different indicators? Of course, it is not an exaggeration at all to say that the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 21st century was a period of dramatic changes in the political and administrative map of the world. Conflicts between the two major opposing political camps – the capitalist and the socialist states, led to the formation of more than 25 independent states. They were recognized by the international community as sovereign states. All the symbols of the state appeared in them. However, the legal status of some political and administrative units has not yet been resolved. This is the case not only in Europe and Asia, but also in the other three - Africa, America, Australia and Oceania.

The terms "state", "country", "region" are most commonly used during communication between human societies and in their day-to-day activities and are the object of geotoponymic study. However, the specificity issues between these terms have always been the subject of debate not only among the general public but also among scholars [2]. In particular, such a contradiction occurred between the concept, content and essence of the terms "state", "country" and "region" [1;6;9;11]. Along with the term "state", the words "country", "administrative territory", "province" are used as synonyms in the media and educational literature. As a result, the number of countries on Earth is growing from 195 to 266. One of the relevant questions asked by the readers to the authoritative newspaper "Marifat" of the National Information Service in January 2018 is "How many countries are there in the world and how does it differ from the country?". The answer to this question really remains a mystery to this day. Therefore, one of the subjects of geotoponymic research is to find an answer to this question.

**The aim and objectives of the work.** To reveal the peculiarities of the terms "state", "country" and "region". This goal poses the following tasks: the concept of the terms "state", "country" and "region" to provide a scientific basis, to reveal their meaning and essence.

**Materials and methods.** Scientific, popular science, educational, popular literature, statistical and fund materials were covered using comparative-analytical, etymological, statistical, geographical-comparative, historical, linguistic methods.

**Results of research.** Analysis of the literature shows that the definitions of the subject "Toponymy" are mainly in **two directions** (Table 1). **The first**, *Toponymy – is the science of linguistics, which studies any famous names, the history of their origin and change as a branch*

of *onomastics*. It is recognized as a philological discipline formed at the crossroads of the disciplines of Philology, History and Geography.

Table 1

Supporters of a dual definition of "Toponymy"

<i>Those who believe that toponymy is the branch of onomastics and the science of linguistics</i>	<i>Those who believe that toponymy is a science in the system of geographical sciences</i>
Basik S.N. (2006), <i>General toponymy. Textbook for students of the Faculty of Geography</i> , Minsk, 200 p. (In Russ.).	Murzaev E.M. (1995), <i>Toponymy and Geography</i> , Moscow, 304 p. (In Russ.).
<i>Russian onomastics and onomastics of Russia: Dictionary</i> (1994), Moscow, 288 p. (In Russ.).	Murzaev E.M. (1979), <i>Geography in names</i> , Moscow, 167 p. (In Russ.).
<i>Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language</i> (1973), Moscow, 855 p. (In Russ.).	Kadmon N. (2001), <i>Toponymy: the lore, laws, and language of geographical names</i> , New York, 333 p.
Superanskaya A.V. (1984), <i>What are place names?</i> Moscow, 182 p. (In Russ.).	Khasanov Kh. (1985) <i>The secret of geographical names</i> , Tashkent, 101 p. (In Uzbek).
Veselovsky S.B. (1945), <i>Toponymy in the Service of History, Historical Notes of BelSU</i> , Issue 17, pp. 24-52. (In Russ.).	Akhmadaliev Yu.I. (2018), <i>Toponymy and geographical terminology</i> . Fergana, 134 p. (In Uzbek).
Madvaliev A. (2003), <i>Onomastics, National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan</i> , vol. 6. Tashkent, p. 544. (In Uzbek).	Toponymy is the language of the Earth. <a href="http://www.nsmu.ru/student/pr_education/nauch_dejt/docs/toponimika">http://www.nsmu.ru/student/pr_education/nauch_dejt/docs/toponimika</a> .
Toponymy, <a href="https://ru.wikipedia.org">https://ru.wikipedia.org</a> (In Russ.).	Toponymy, <i>Geographical encyclopedia</i> , <a href="https://dic.academic.ru">https://dic.academic.ru</a> (In Russ.).

**In the second**, *toponymy is a subject in the system of geographical sciences because it is the study of the origin, change, current state, distribution, meaning, spelling, and pronunciation of geographical names.*

In fact, the science of toponymy belongs to the following system of sciences:

➤ *to the system of **historical sciences** in terms of the origin and periodic change of names;*

➤ *to the system of **geographical sciences** in terms of the current state of names and the laws of distribution;*

➤ *to the system of **philological sciences** in terms of the meaning, spelling, pronunciation of names.*

Therefore, it is appropriate to recognize the term or the science term (standardization in the field of services [13]) "Toponymy" (Greek τόπος – place + ὄνομα – name) which is the part in the system of Earth knowledge "Geotoponymics" or "Geographical toponymy" (Greek γαία – Earth + τόπος – place + ὄνομα – name) as the science that studies the geographical aspects of place names in the geographical crust (geosphere) of the planet Earth (Table 2, Figure 1). The practice of adding the suffix "Geo", which is used to define the geographical sciences, is reflected in the naming of such disciplines in the system of geographical sciences as Geoecology, Geopolitics, Geobotany, Geodemography. At this point, we must once again emphasize the main theoretical aspects of the science of geography [15].

Table 2

List of references using the term "geotponymy"

Bahromov K. (2017), <i>Geotponymy. Annotated dictionary</i> , Bukhara. (In Uzbek).
Murashko V.A. (2019), <i>Geotponymic space of the Shara river basin</i> , Minsk, pp. 547-549. (In Russ.).
Kupach T.G. (2007), <i>Methodology of geographic and toponymic analysis of the territory of Ukraine</i> , Kiyv, 192 p. (In Russ).
Abkadyrov R.R., Shumsky V.M. <i>Geotponymic system as a basis for identifying ethnocultural types of territory development (on the example of Crimea)</i> . <a href="https://studfile.net/preview">https://studfile.net/preview</a> . (In Uzbek).
Geotponym, Wikipedia. <a href="https://www.google.com/search">https://www.google.com/search</a>

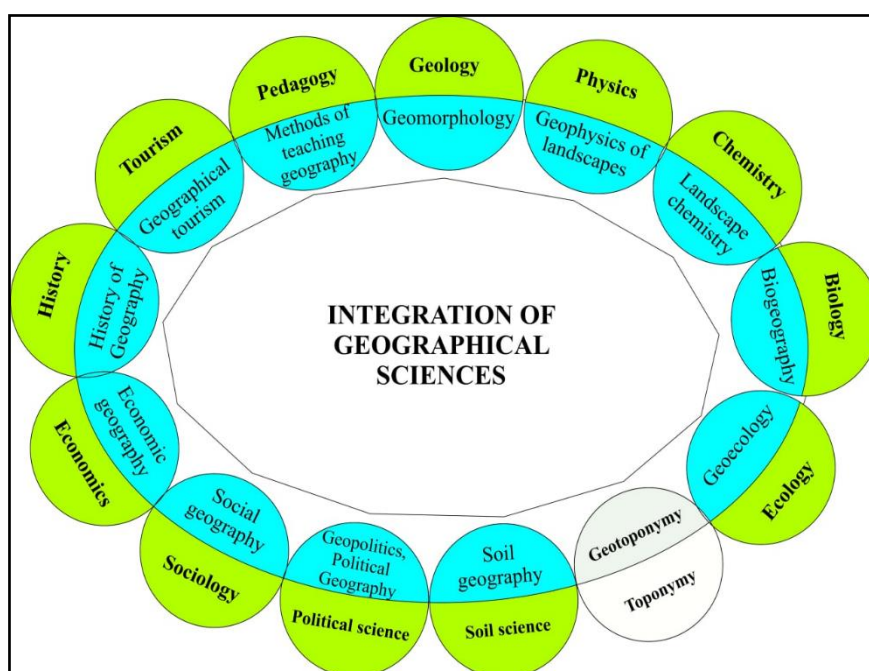


Fig. 1. The role of "geotponymy" in the system of geographical sciences

**Geography** – is a branch of science that studies the territorial, complex, periodic, and systemic aspects of the relationships that result from nature, society, and its activities in specific geosystems of the geographical crust; and a field of study that provides knowledge, skills, and competencies related to it; and a field of practice aimed at optimizing these relationships. According to this definition, **the object** of study of geography - geosystems within the geographical crust (geosphere); **subject** - territorial, complex, periodicity and systemic aspects of the relations arising in geosystems as a result of nature, society and its activities; **the goal** is to optimize this relationship.

According to the object, subject and purpose of geography territorial distribution, periodic change, complex approach and systematic analysis of toposphere, lithosphere surface, place names in the hydrosphere in geographical research, such as general, natural, economic, social, political, ecological, tourist are the main directions of Geotponymy.

**Geotponymy** is a branch of science that studies the territorial, complexity, periodicity and structure of place names in geosystems within the geosphere and a field of education that provides knowledge, skills, and competencies related to it, and a network of practices that optimize these relationships.

In geotponymy, the term "**state**" is a homonymous word that has two different meanings in Arabic. *The first* is used to mean "a short-term, elected governing body," while *the*

*second* means "wealth." At the beginning of the 16th century, the term "state" was widely used in various countries. The term was first introduced to science by the Italian philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli in his book *The State*.

The National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan [4] defines the state as a *dominant structure with the power to decide on the organization of society in the country, to determine its external relations*. In the textbook "Fundamentals of State and Law" [22] there are 3 approaches to the term "state": social, class, political and legal:

1) from a *social point of view*, the state is a means of resolving common problems and affairs, and it regulates the relationship between the ruler and the people;

2) *in the class view* state is the class struggle that occurs with the emergence of classes and serves as a tool to suppress one class over another;

3) *from a political and legal point of view*, the state is the source of law that constitutes the life of society and the state itself.

In this scientific observation, the authors believe that there is some basis in all three views. Although the concept of "state" is the main object of study and scientific instrument of jurisprudence, we have seen above that it has been interpreted differently in different literatures. That is why jurists, historians, linguists, orientalist, political scientists and geographers are "mixing" the state, the country, the administrative territory and the region as a synonym.

Summarizing the main features of the state, based on the literature on the "Theory of state and law", we decided to introduce the following requirements:

1) *the presence of massive government*, i.e. the presence of a coercive apparatus – a single political power and a governing body for all internal administrative units;

2) *organization of the population in any administrative territory*, i.e. living in an administrative-territorial unit and acquiring citizenship;

3) *access to UN membership*, i.e. full recognition by the international community;

4) *sovereignty*, i.e. independence in conducting domestic and foreign policy;

5) *legal creativity*, i.e. the ability to adopt normative and legal acts regulating social relations in the relevant territory and to establish control over its implementation;

6) *to collect taxes*, i.e. to set taxes, collect them and use them for the maintenance of the population and the state apparatus;

7) *to perform common functions*, i.e. to be able to pursue the goals of monetary policy independently, protecting the territory, combating crime, security and prosperity.

States appear in different forms depending on the form of government, structure, political regime. Exactly these form, structure and regime that clarifies the terms state, country and region. According to the above criteria, there are 195 sovereign states around the world that are recognized by the international community as members of the UN (193) and observers (2). Of these, 44 are in Europe, 48 in Asia, 54 in Africa, 38 in the Americas, and 11 in Australia and Oceania. Exactly on the continent, since it also covers the island states to which it belongs, unlike the mainland. Only Antarctica cannot be a state, because there is no permanent population on the continent and it does not belong to any particular state.

However, a large continent like Antarctica could be a separate object of study for many sciences, including geography. A reasonable question arises as to how to name administrative-territorial units that do not have state status, do not fully meet its characteristics, or whose sovereignty is not clear. Are they state or country?

In the book "Dynasties and states in world history: a brief political history and important dates" of well-known historians K.Rajabov and B.Kandov, Table 4 is entitled "Separate areas – areas with permanent population and separate citizenship" [20, p. 214]. The table consists of 3 parts, including 3 "Special territories agreed in international agreements and having a special status", "Permanent territories, but subject to other states" 35, "Overseas territory, which is an integral part of the state, but sometimes separate territories are considered their property" 8. A total of 46 administrative territories were given. In it, these units are described as "territories",

the official name of the regions is as "country", and the capital is taken as the administrative center of the "state".

Confusion between the terms region, country and state occurs in almost all legal, political, historical, and geographical literatures [25, 10, 16, 17, 21, 23]. In fact, it is logical to call administrative-geographical units "states" that do not have the status of the state, do not fully meet its characteristics, or whose sovereignty is not clear.

An analysis of the above-mentioned literature shows that the concept, content and essence of the state is directly related to the subject of "Theory of State and Law" in Law, and therefore it is the object of study of the subject of "State Studies". But the concept, content and essence of the country have been the object of study of the "Geography" science for a long time.

**State** is a political-administrative unit in which the population is organized in a particular political-administrative territory, has general administrative functions such as sovereign rule of law, independent policy, defense, tax collection, and access to the UN.

The term "country" from Arabic verb "malaka" means "to rule". If used with the suffix "mamlaka-at (un)", it means "territory under the control of a state". However, these terms have been interpreted differently in different literatures. The science of "Country Studies" originated in the ancient world and is recognized as a field of science that deals with the collection and analysis of information about the various administrative and geographical units of the Earth's surface and its dissemination to the general public and the general public.

Country studies began with Herodotus (484–425 BC) and developed into a widely popular network of geographical sciences during the reign of Strabo (60–21 BC), the founder of the science of geography. This science was originally reflected in reports and books that summarized information about the population, nature, and economy of tourists from different countries.

"Country Studies" has not been formed in Uzbekistan as a separate subject or course of study until now, but in many countries, it has a broader meaning and essence than before. The subject "Country Studies" belongs to the category of geographical sciences and is a comprehensive analysis of not only its existing nature, population and economy, but also began to study the political, economic, social, environmental, spiritual, educational, legal, financial situation, processes and events in any administrative-geographical area [24].

**Country studies** is a branch of science that studies the nature of administrative and geographical units, society and the rules of systematic analysis and generalization of political, economic, social, environmental, spiritual, educational, legal, financial aspects of human life as well as a field of education that provides knowledge, skills, and competencies related to it, a network of practices aimed at the rational use of the rules of this relationship in various spheres of social life.

As in the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, **the country** is a political-geographical term, which has a territory (colonial, managed territory) with certain borders and state sovereignty or under the control of another state [17]. However, the country is not a political-geographical, but an administrative-geographical concept. Although politics is the art of governing the state [3], i.e. the relationship between different socio-political institutions, strata, classes and groups. For example, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, public administration is based on a single political system. *The Republic of Karakalpakstan*, although it has its own Constitution, state symbols, autonomous authorities, national composition, moral principles, economy, traditions, its domestic and foreign policy is based on a single system of government. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the Republic of Karakalpakstan is recognized as a country not in terms of the state, but in terms of its specific administrative-geographical area. Therefore, it is expedient to study the the Republic of Karakalpakstan as a specific object – an administrative-geographical unit of research in the field of "Country Studies",.

Summarizing the analysis of the literature, scientific and encyclopedic dictionaries [2], it should be noted that the main criteria for obtaining the status of the country are:

- 1) an administrative-geographical unit, not a political-geographical one;



2) *as an administrative-geographical unit*, unlike the state, it does not have to be a complete manifestation of the social, class, or political-legal basis;

3) *has an administrative-geographical unit officially recognized by the relevant state*, i.e. it must be officially recognized in the legislation of the state to which it belongs or is located;

4) *possession of a particular administrative territory*, i.e., the boundary of a particular geographical latitude exists either within or outside the territory of the State;

5) *absolute sovereignty is not mandatory*, i.e. the form of government (monarchy or republic), the structure (unitary, federal, confederate) and the regime (democratic, anti-democratic, fascist, totalitarian) do not matter;

6) *there is a peculiarly permanent population*, i.e., it is not an area of permanent arrival for a specific purpose, as is the case on the continent of Antarctica.

**Country** is a historically formed geographical and administrative unit that is officially recognized by the state concerned, whose population is uniquely organized in a particular area, does not have absolute sovereignty, but has the rule of law and governance, and is able to solve economic and social problems.

From the scientific point of view, there is, a difference between the concepts of 'state' and 'country' of course. The main emphasis in the concept of "state" is on the political power established in the region, and in the concept of "country" - on a set of cultural, educational and geographical factors. The differences between them are shown in Figure 2.

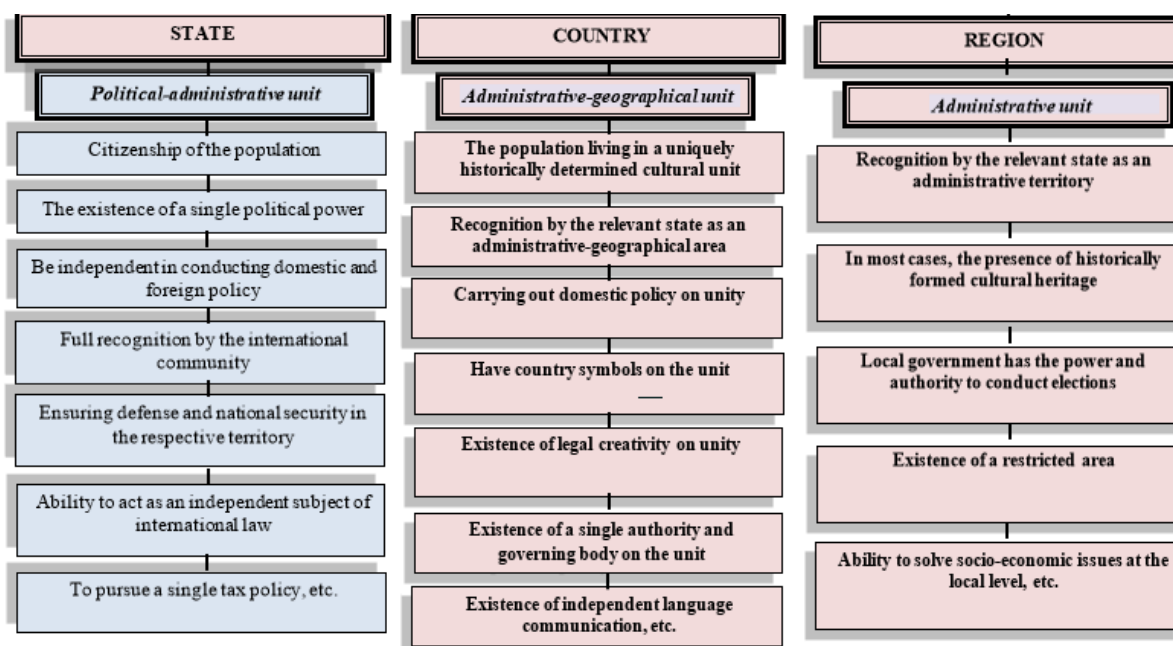


Fig. 2. Differences in the signs "State", "Country" and "Region"

An explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language states that "the country is a part of the country with an administrative-territorial unit" [12] and as a science that deals with it. There is confusion here as well. Is the country a state or an administrative-territorial unit of the country? In the "Dictionary of the Russian language" the country is recognized as a country, region, place and a large administrative unit [22]. In any reader, when looking at the literature of state importance, there is a perception that there is no difference between "country" and "country". In our view, a region is a territory that belongs to a particular administrative unit of the state, not the country itself. Because, as mentioned above, it is the state that is the only administrative unit that conducts domestic and foreign policy at the crossroads of countries and countries. But countries also have their own status symbols, namely:

- ✓ *officially recognized as an administrative unit by the relevant state;*
- ✓ *ownership of local administrative power;*

- ✓ *the presence of a restricted area;*
- ✓ *the presence of historically formed cultural heritage (in most cases);*
- ✓ *to be able to solve economic and social problems at the local level;*
- ✓ *to be able to adopt promising development plans and programs at the local level;*
- ✓ *the ability to hold elections at the local level, etc.*

**Region** is an administrative unit that is officially recognized by the state concerned, organized locally in a particular administrative area of the population, has administrative authority, and in most cases is a historically formed, able to resolve economic and social issues.

The word or term “territory” is used extensively in Geography, as well as in many other disciplines. This is because the “territorial” aspects of any geosystem or geosystems must be included in the research subject of geography. Territory - an area of land with a certain boundary. Exactly a term related to the area of land in the land part of the Earth. The surface area of our planet is the *aquatorium*, and the lithosphere, and the atmosphere is *latitude*. Definition of the term territory is more precise in the international encyclopedia "Wikipedia", which corresponds to the term "territory" in the Russian dictionary (Latin - territorium) - the land area of a land with a certain boundary.

**Territory** is a terrestrial part of the Earth's surface that has a definite boundary.

“Territory” can be considered not only legally, but also naturally, socially, economically, ecologically, technically, militarily, politically, and even in the humanitarian sphere as a landlocked part of the Earth’s surface that is inherently limited. For example:

- *legal* - the territory of Antarctica, the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the territory of the United States, etc.;
- *administrative* - the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the territory of Andijan region, the territory of the city of Tashkent, etc.;
- *political* - the territory of the CIS member states, the territory of the EU member states, etc.;
- *military* - the territory of NATO member states, the southern defense zone of the Republic of Uzbekistan, etc.;
- *natural* - the territory of the Kyzylkum or Karakum deserts, the territory of the Lower Zarafshan natural geographical district, etc.;
- *economic* - the territory of the Fergana Valley Economic Zone, the Eurasian Cooperation Zone, the Navoi Free Economic Zone, etc.;
- *ecological* - Aral and Aral Sea ecological crisis zone, Gissar mountain-forest reserve area, etc.;
- *humanitarian* - the famine of the Volga region in 1921-1922, the genocide of the Jewish people in World War II, etc.

**Administrative** geosystems are governed by the international community or a particular state on the basis of appropriate legal norms. The view of states as a political-geographical unit was recognized in 1933 at the Montevideo Convention (Uruguay). There are 4 main criteria for having a political-geographical unity: the presence of a permanent population; ownership of a certain territory; the existence of its own government; the possibility of conducting foreign relations with other countries was indicated. However, the Convention did not include such signs as the fact that the water area, atmosphere and lithosphere also enter the state border, and the existence of political power. That is why it was later omitted from the concept of state in jurisprudence that it is a “geographical unit”.

**An aquatorium** is not an area on the land surface, but a water surface that is constantly changing in both surface and depth. It is formed artificially or naturally. In terms of water management, it is divided into internal (state-owned) and external (international) water bodies. In maritime states, 12 nautical miles of coastal belt will be included in the border zone to ensure their safety.



**Latitude** is not the area on land, but the interior of the Earth's atmosphere and space, as well as the Earth's lithosphere. From a management point of view, latitude covers the space transferred vertically from the land boundaries of states to the Earth's atmosphere and the underground lithosphere. Space is an object of international law.

In country studies, governance is carried out on the basis of a legal territorial unit, i.e. in order to be called a country, it is necessary to have a legal territory in the administrative-geographical unit.

**Law** is a system of universal rules of conduct established or approved by the state and protected by its power [21]

In science, it can usually be called an administrative unit. Administrative - means an international organization or public body that carries out management and executive or administrative management activities. Their administrative activity is carried out through "law".

**Politics** – in ancient Greek πολιτική i.e. means, state activity. It has also been given various definitions. But in general, politics is the activity of public authorities and officials [14].

The term **geography** has been discussed in detail in paragraph 1 of Chapter 1 [23]. The boundaries of the administrative jurisdiction of countries correspond exactly to the boundaries of political and socio-economic geosystems. That is why the science, education and practice of the countries correspond to the geographical sciences.

Based on the above, the boundaries that fall within the jurisdiction of the state and the country consist not only of the land area of the Earth, but also of the latitudes of the water area, atmosphere, and lithosphere that belong to it. In general, in terms of the concept, content, essence, legal status of the above terms, the following order occurs:

**Conclusion.** Summing up, according to its status, the state is a political-administrative, the country is an administrative-geographical, the region is an administrative unit. In all three terms, the phrase “administrative unit” is involved. This means that any state, country and region have a legally limited administration. But the control function is performed as follow:

- in public administration - the function of political and legal power,
- in the country - geographical and legal management function,
- and in the region - the function of local government

In all three terms, administrative power is exercised on the basis of legal norms in a particular area. The term region, in contrast to the water area, atmospheric air, and latitude of the lithosphere, is an area that is differently bounded in different areas in only the land part of the planet Earth.

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