

# **A HISTORY OF RUSSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES**

## **(XVIII - XX centuries)**

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### Chronology of administrative division changes, data sources

Stage of administrative division	Hierarchical levels of administrative division	Special units (additional)	Archive, set of documents, sources
<b>Late medieval stage (pre-Petrine) XV-XVII century</b>	<i>Uezd -&gt; volost'</i>	<i>Piatina</i> is equal to <i>volost'</i>	Russian State Archive of Ancient documents (RGADA)
<b>Petrine stage, beginning of XVIII century - 1775</b>	<i>Gubernia -&gt; province -&gt; uezd -&gt; volost' (Beginning of XVIII century)</i>	<i>Piatina</i>	Statistics in RGADA, Russian State Navy Archive
	<i>Gubernia -&gt; uezd -&gt; volost' (1730<sup>th</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup>)</i>	no	Academy of Sciences library (BAN), RGADA, Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA), for Siberia – Archive of Tobolsk oblast, e.t.c.
	<i>Gubernia -&gt; uezd -&gt; volost' (second half of XVIII century)</i>	no	RGADA, Academy of Sciences library
<b>Stage of stability (post-Petrine) 1775 - 1917</b>	<i>Gubernia -&gt; uezd -&gt; volost'</i>	<i>Namestnichestvo</i> - governorate (equal to <i>gubernia</i> ), <i>piatina</i> . In Asia – <i>krai</i> and <i>oblast'</i>	RGADA, RGIA, Russian State Archive of Military History (RGVIA), Archive of Tobolsk oblast
<b>Modern (after 1917)</b>	Republic -> <i>oblast</i> -> raion -> <i>sel'sovet</i>	<i>Okrug</i> , economic region, <i>krai</i> , national autonomies	Statistic agency, State Archive on Economics

## Sample of administrative division in XVIII century

Map of Nizhegorodskii uezd from Kirilov Atlas, 1733-35, Scale 1:420.000, De l'Isle projection



Record from DB  
“Map Bibliography”

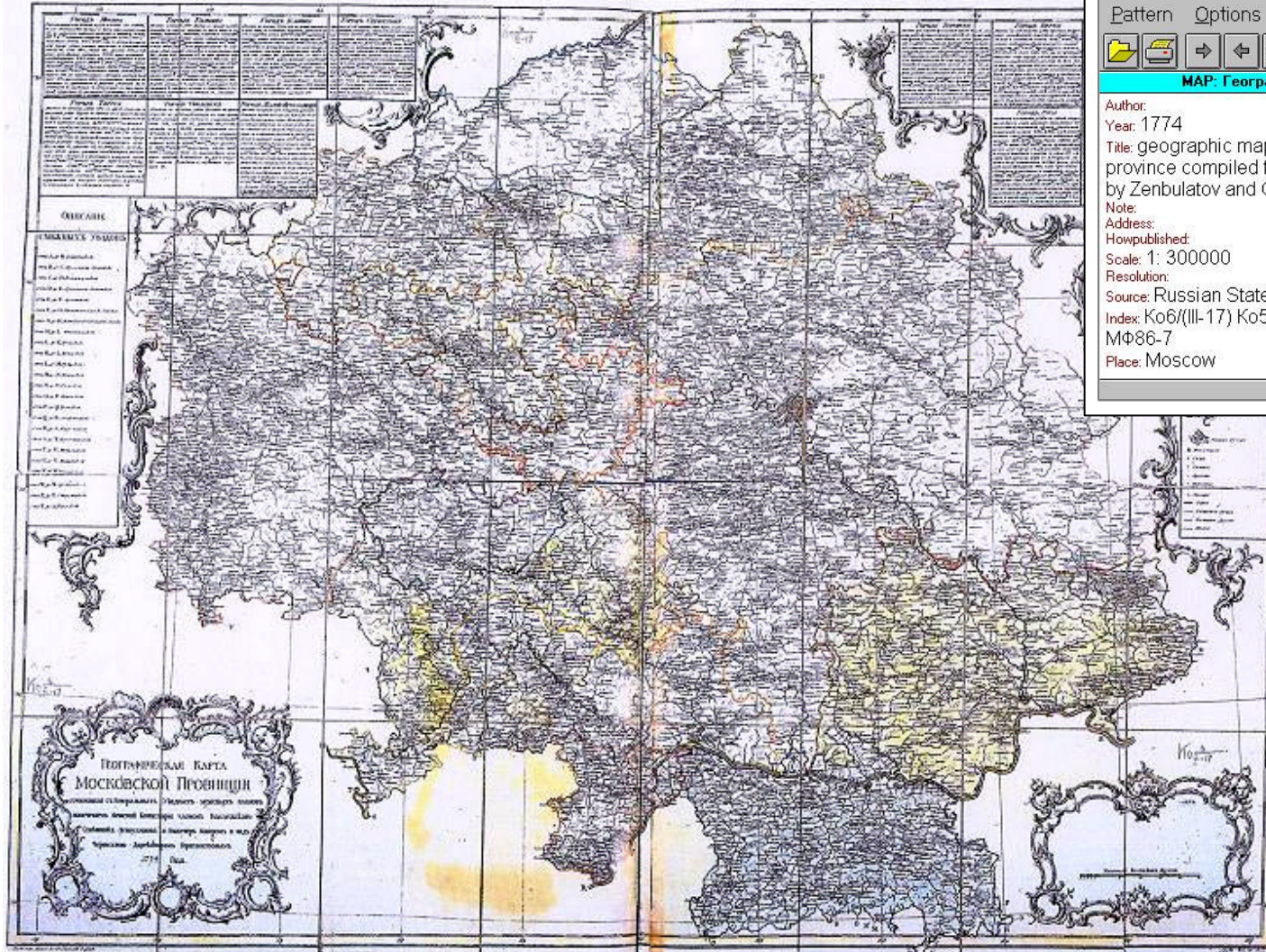
**BibDB - [c:\bibliotim.bib] (...)**  
File Edit Goto Add Import  
Export Pattern Options Help

MAP: 35-495(259ГНУЧ) (1)

Author:  
Year: 1733  
Title: Map of Nizhegorodskii uezd. Drawing and charting by navigator S. Orlikov. Printed in the Russian Atlas by Ivan Kirilov.  
Note:  
Address: Petersburg.  
Howpublished:  
Abstract: topo  
Scale: 10 verst in one inch.  
Resolution: uezd  
Source: Library of Academy of Sciences, Manuscript Dept.  
Index: (OP) 35-495(259ГНУЧ)  
Place: Nizhni Novgorod.

Entries Unlnk Unsrk Dos R/W Index Patt off

# General Bordering Survey Map of Moscow province 1774



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File Edit Goto Add Import Export  
Pattern Options Help

MAP: Географ. Карта(300) [1, 123]

Author:  
Year: 1774  
Title: geographic map of the Moscow province compiled from General uezd plans by Zenbulatov and Gorikhvostov.  
Note:  
Address:  
Howpublished:  
Scale: 1: 300000  
Resolution:  
Source: Russian State Library, Map Dept.  
Index: Ko6/(III-17) Ko5/(VI-47) Ko110/(IV-95) MФ86-7  
Place: Moscow

Plate 3. A.I. Mende military survey 1853  
 Map of Tverskaya gubernia (1:84 000, Bonne projection)

**Description of the parcel on the left side of the map:**

Parcel 698

Villages: Gorovatka, Borsuki, Stulovo, Zabolot'e, Zamosh'e, Melekhovka, Shinkariova, Abortino, Vakhromeevo, Eshkino, Vaskova, Bobenysheva and Tikhanova with empty lands belonging to Avdotia Vasil'evna Grushevskaja.

Land use

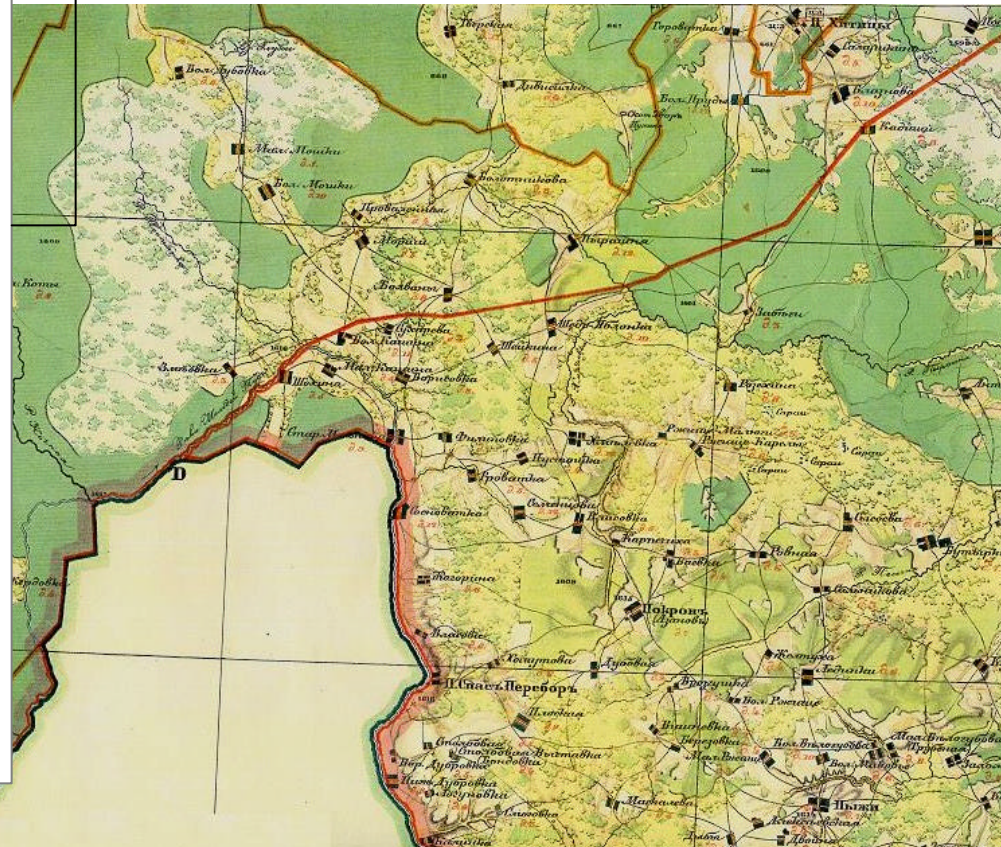
Under settlements: - 42 des. 220 saz.; Arable lands: 1690 des. 1200 saz.; Forest lands: 11961 des. 661 saz.; Vaste lands: 6409 des. 900 saz.

	families	men	women		families	men
women						
Gorovatka	9	27	32	Malakhovka	5	16
22				Baranova	11	34
Borsuki	9	9	10	Zabolot'e	3	9
39				Melekhovka	8	23
Stulovo	6	18	13	Esino	3	11
11				Abretino	10	29
Zamosh'e	6	19	19	Eshkino	6	17
19				Bobenysheva	5	15
Kvashnia bolshaia	9	28	32			
7						
Shinkariova	7	21	27			
34						
Vakhromeevo	8	24	14			
16						
Vaskova	7	20	27			
21						
Tikhanova	2	7	6			

Soil – slim-like, harvest and meadows – medium. Forest for building - fir and pine, for fuel – birch and asp. Peasants grow rye, barley, oats, sometimes – wheat, pea. Best harvest of rye and barley.

Wild animals: bear, wolf, fox, hare, squrrell, lynx, river otter. From time to time: moose and wild goats, badger, marten.

Wild birds: wood-grouse, black grouse, hazel-grouse. On waters: warious kinds of ducks, sand-piper, ?????, great snipe, wood cock. In spring ans autumn fly through: goose, swan. In marshes: crane and heron.






## Military and court districts for 1914



Military districts are shown in color; court districts – by red boundaries.  
Black line illustrates modern boundaries of the Russian Federation.

By 1914 there were about 8 various types of special division. Usually they did not correspond each other.

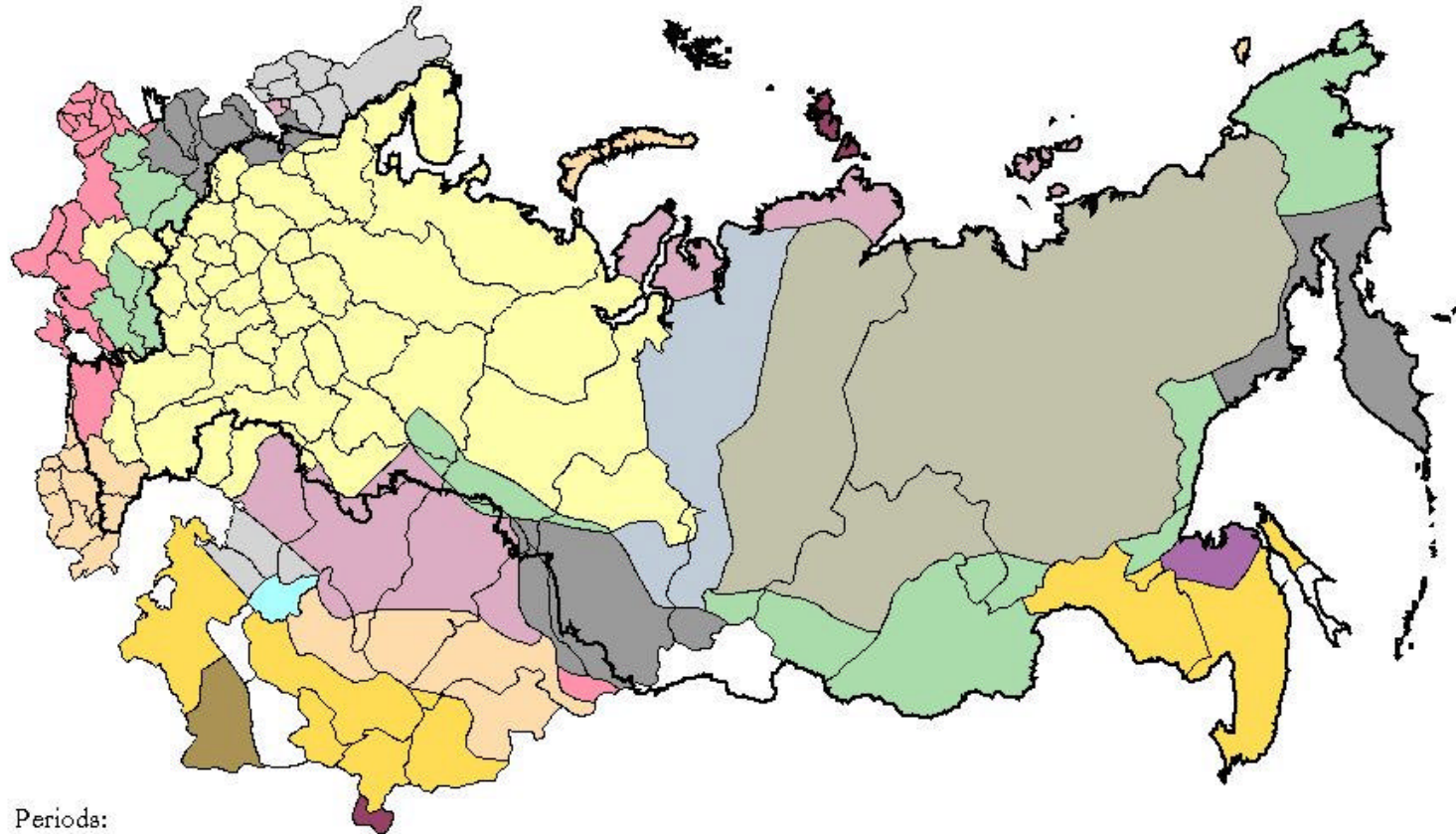
## Main steps

- ✓ **Basic layer for 1914;** 
- ✓ **Database “Map Bibliography”;** 
- ✓ **Geodataset “Administrative boundaries”;**
- ✓ **Metadatabase on statistical sources, organized by administrative units;**
- ✓ **Database “Settlements”;** 
- ✓ **Searchable information system in the Web with cartographic interface;**

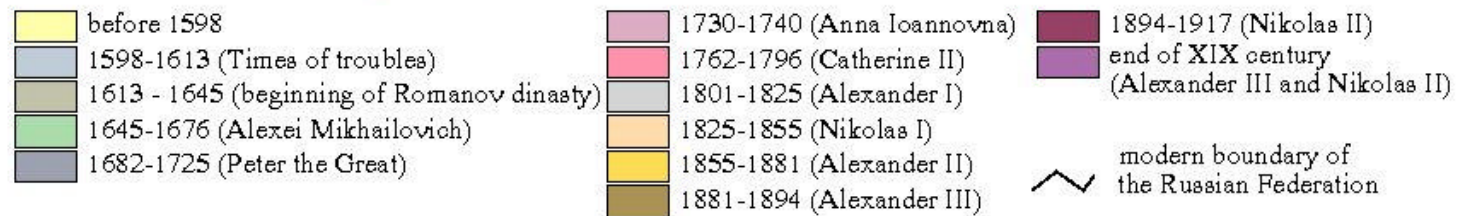


Work started

## Expansion of the Russian Empire



Periods:





## Technical characteristics of information sources

Stage	Surveys, notable data sources	Territorial coverage	Approximate scales	Projection	Units mapped	Statistical record corresponds
<u>Late medieval stage</u> (pre-Petrine), XV-XVII century	<b>no surveys</b> , reconstructions could be done from Books of Survey - <i>Pistovye knigi</i>	Forest zone of the European Russia	N/a	N/a	N/a	Village, <sup>to:</sup> landlord, <i>volost'</i>
<u>Petrine stage</u> , beginning of XVIII century - 1775	<b>early map surveys.</b> Kirilov Atlas (1734), Big Academic Atlas (1745)	European Russia and Siberia	1:420.000 to 1:1.500.000	De l'Isle	<i>Uezd</i> , province	City, <i>uezd</i> , province
	Regional surveys (e.g. Nerchinsk Atlas, Atlas of Don)	Siberia, other regions	1:420.000 to 1:840.000 and other	De l'Isle, Mercator	<i>Volost'</i> , <i>Uezd</i>	City, <i>volost'</i> , <i>uezd</i>
	Statistical surveys (e.g. by Tatischev (1730th); Lomonosov (1756); censuses of peasant population, statistics of army recruits, forest statistics)	European Russia; Siberia	N/a	N/a	N/a	City, <i>volost'</i> , <i>uezd</i>
<u>Stage of stability</u> (post-Petrine ) 1775 – 1800	<b>General Bordering Survey</b> (1765-1822) (parcel plans, <i>Uezd</i> atlases, <i>Gubernia</i> maps)	European Russia	plans (8.400), <i>uezd</i> atlases (33.600-84.000), <i>gubernia</i> maps (420.000 - 840.000)	Mercator except plans	L.parcel, <i>volost'</i> , <i>uezd</i> , <i>gubernia</i>	Land parcel, village, <i>uezd</i>
	Several overview Atlases based on Bordering survey data (1755 - 1800)	European Russia, Siberia, part of Central Asia	Small	Mercator	<i>Volost'</i> , <i>uezd</i>	no
<u>Stage of stability</u> (XIX century)	<b>Military surveys</b> Schubert survey (1821-39)	European Russia	1:420.000	Bonne	<i>Uezd</i>	<i>Uezd</i>
	Mende survey (1848-1866)	Central European Russia	<i>Uezd</i> atlases (33.600 – 84.000 – 168.000), L.parcel plans 8.400)	Bonne	Land parcel, <i>Volost'</i>	Land parcel, <i>uezd</i>
	Map of Strel'bitskii (1863-1872)	European Russia	1:420.000	Bonne	<b><i>Volost'</i></b>	no
	<b>Exploratory surveys</b> (late XIX – 1917)	Siberia, Far East, Central Asia	1:84.000, 1:210.000	various	Various	Settlements

# Scheme of administrative division of the Russian Empire in 1914 – 1917

*includes part of modern Finland and Poland*



- 1 Uleobortskaya
- 2 Kamchatskaya oblast'
- 3 Nizhegorodskaya
- 4 Viatskaya
- 5 Suval'skaya
- 6 Vilenskaya
- 7 Lomzhinskaya
- 8 Chernomorskaya
- 11 Kholm'skaya
- 12 Lyublinskaya
- 13 Radom'skaya
- 14 Kelet'skaya
- 15 Kurliandia
- 16 Tavastgusskaya
- 17 S.Mikhel'skaya
- 18 Tambovskaya
- 19 Pherganskaya oblast'
- 20 Samarkand'skaya oblast'
- 21 Kharkov'skaya
- 22 Vazaskaya
- 23 Zabaikal'skaya oblast'
- 24 Ekaterinoslav'skaya
- 25 Riazanskaya
- 26 Semipalatinskaya oblast'

- 27 Kurskaya
- 28 Tul'skaya
- 29 Abobierneborgskaya
- 30 Zakaspiiskaya oblast'
- 31 Arkhangel'skaya
- 32 Bakinskaya oblast'
- 33 Primorskaya oblast'
- 34 Elisovetopol'skaya oblast'
- 35 Akmolinskaya oblast'
- 36 Kalishskaya
- 37 Nyuland'skaya
- 38 Orlov'skaya
- 39 Varshav'skaya
- 40 Irkutskaya

- 41 Poltav'skaya
- 42 Plot'skaya
- 43 Estliand'skaya
- 44 Kuoptovskaya
- 45 Petrokov'skaya
- 46 Lifiandia
- 47 Vyborg'skaya
- 48 Tiflisskaya
- 49 Olonetskaya
- 50 Kheronskaya
- 51 Kostrom'skaya
- 52 Tom'skaya
- 53 Vladimirskaia
- 54 Kutaisskaya
- 55 Sukhum'skaya
- 56 zemla Uralskogo kazachego voiska

- 58 Astrakhanskaya
- 59 Grodnenskaya
- 60 Sankt-Peterburgskaya
- 61 Yakutskaya oblast'
- 62 Kaluzh'skaya
- 63 Stavropolskaya
- 64 Volyn'skaya
- 65 Uphim'skaya
- 66 Vitebskaya
- 67 Pskov'skaya
- 68 Ural'skaya oblast'
- 69 Simbir'skaya
- 70 Samar'skaya
- 71 Saratov'skaya
- 72 Minskaya
- 73 oblast' voiska Donskogo
- 74 Simbir'skaya
- 75 Novgorod'skaya
- 76 Eniseiskaya

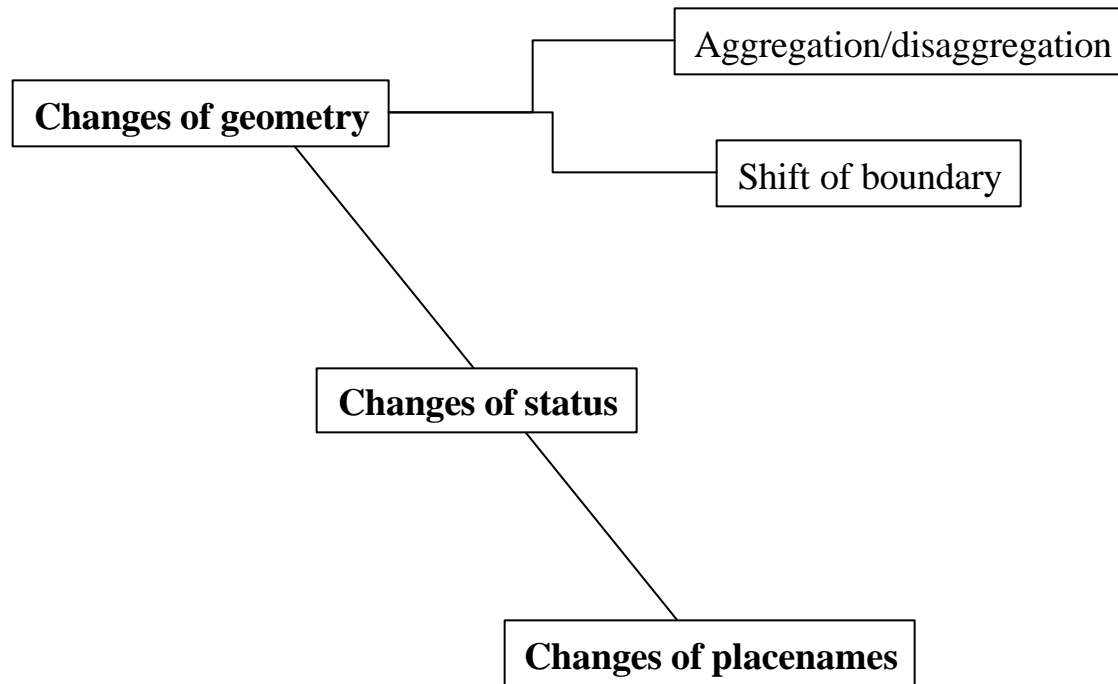
- 77 Permskaya
- 78 Mogilev'skaya
- 79 Kubanskaya
- 80 Tver'skaya
- 81 Terskaya oblast' a
- 82 Podolskaya
- 83 Smolenskaya
- 84 Batum'skaya oblast'
- 85 Bessarab'skaya
- 86 Tobolskaya
- 87 Turgaiskaya oblast'
- 88 Kiev'skaya
- 89 Karsskaya oblast'
- 90 Erivanskaya oblast'
- 91 Vologod'skaya
- 92 Chernigov'skaya
- 93 Dagestanskaya oblast'
- 94 Yaroslavl'skaya
- 95 Moskov'skaya

- 96 Primorskaya oblast'
- 97 Zakatal'skii okrug
- 98 Kazanskaya
- 99 Penzen'skaya
- 100 Semirechenskaya oblast'
- 101 Syr-Dariinskaya oblast'
- 102 Voronezh'skaya
- 103 Amurskaya oblast'
- 104 Tavricheskaya

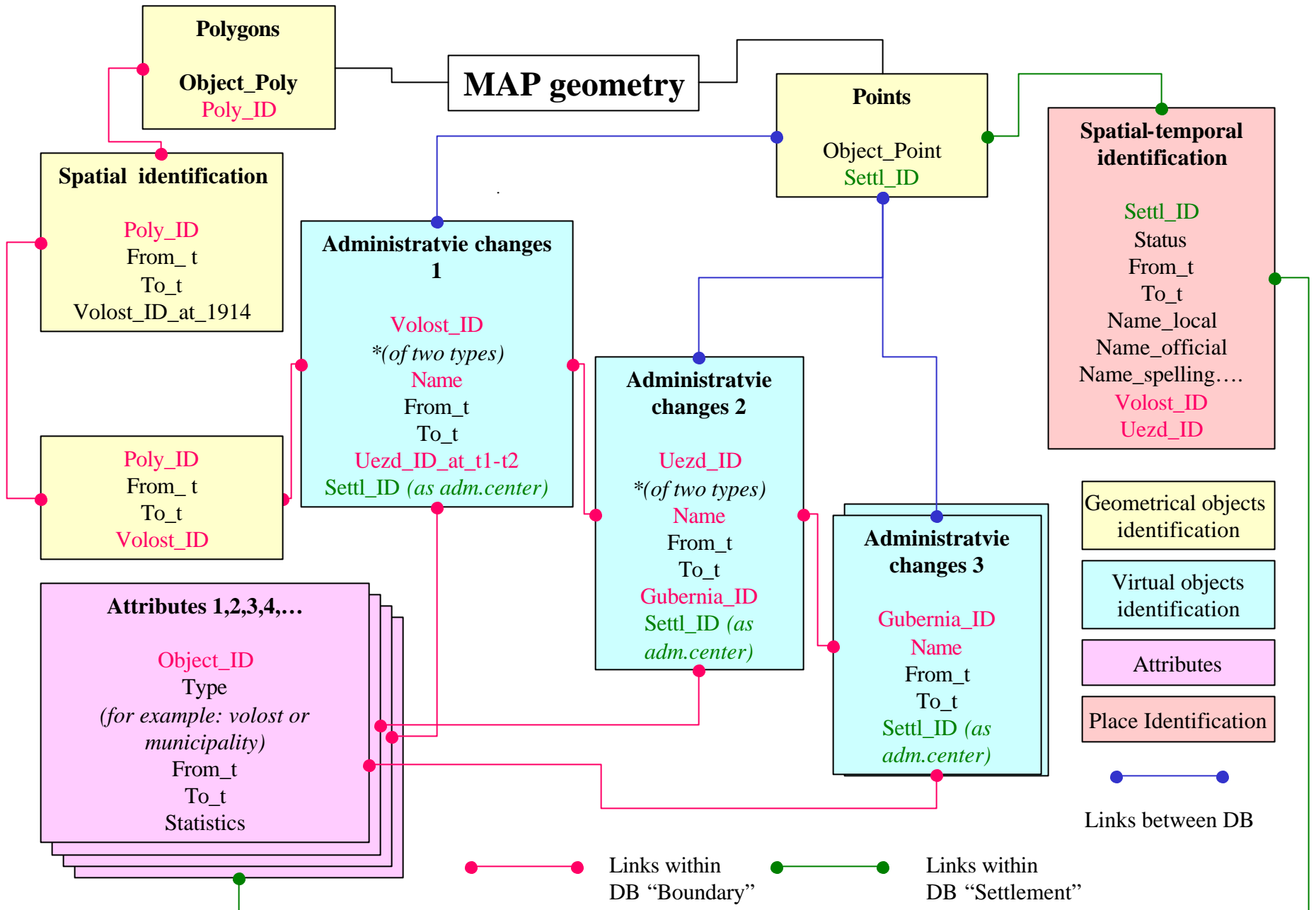
Semi-dependant territories:

- 9 BUKHARA
- 10 KHIVA

## Types of historical changes of administrative division



# Draft database structure



## **Conclusion**

- **The information system on administrative division changes is highly required;**
- **A lot of old materials is available and accesible now;**
- **The accuracy of the old maps corresponds to the modern one or could be converted;**
- **Historical GIS should be done as an open system, thus becoming a framework for other projects.**