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**THE CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL
STRUCTURE OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES IN THE USSR
(SECOND HALF OF THE 40 – 70`S OF XX CENTURY)**

Summary

Changes in the organizational and territorial structure of consumer cooperatives in the USSR (second half of the 40th - 70th years of XX century). The cooperative sector in the developed countries of Europe and North America takes one of the first places especially in agriculture. According to the purpose it helps small producers and consumers to combine efforts to minimize costs and to compete with large "impersonal" corporations and holdings. In our country, unfortunately, the cooperation has not taken its rightful place yet. One of the reasons for that is the legacy of the Soviet era, historical period, when the cooperative principles were levelled, and the consumer cooperation itself was actually nationalized. Taking it into consideration, we believe it would be appropriate to analyze in more detail certain aspects of consumer cooperation of the USSR and the changes in its structure in the postwar period, which destroyed the original cooperative principles in rural consumer societies of the Soviet Ukraine. On the basis of the methods of historical research

changes in the organizational and territorial structure of USSR consumer cooperatives (second half of the 40th - 70th years of XX century) were analyzed. It was found out that these changes were not caused by objective reasons of the development of a network of consumer societies, but took place because of the government policy propagation on enlargement of economic units in agricultural production. The main changes lay in the consolidation and elimination of small and unprofitable rural consumer societies and then their complete elimination within separate administrative units - districts and in the creation of regional consumer societies. Thus, the structural transformation that occurred in the studied period in the system of consumer cooperatives the USSR led to the consolidation of links, contributed to an even greater concentration of power in the hands of Soviet party bureaucracy, nationalization and depersonalization of cooperative ownership, reduction and total levelling of the role and value of owner-shareholders.

Key words: *consumer cooperation, structure, enlargement.*