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**CHANGING SPATIAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE**

**Dániel KUTTOR** \*  
University of Miskolc, Hungary

**Abstract.** The economic development of East Central Europe within the last one and a half century can be simply divided into different sessions. Each session has had its own social, political system, which has essentially determined the spatial distribution of economy and the degree of regional disparities in terms of level of economic development. In this paper the five sessions of economic history of East Central Europe are analyzed and compared. The sessions are as follows: 1) Pre-industrial interval before the mid-nineteenth century; 2) The age of modernisation and industrialisation before the First World War; 3) The age of integration and disintegration during the inter-war period; 4) The age of emergence and decay of state socialism in the second half of twentieth century; 5) The age of transition with reorientation and reintegration after the early 1990es.

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\* Adress: University of Miskolc, Faculty of Economics, Institute of World and Regional Economics, H3515 Miskolc-Egyetemvaros, Hungary, Tel: (36) 46 565-11, E-mail: kuttor.daniel@uni-miskolc.hu