

## THE OPEN-MARKET ATTRACTION SPHERES OF THE TOWNS OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN

by

DR. I. PÉNZES

An important measure of the attraction of towns and their influence on the neighboring settlements is the daily open-market trade. The author feels that with the help of data of this trade it is possible to assess reliably which are the settlements that are so organized as to provide the daily supply of the towns and which are those that owing to greater distances, bad road conditions, or the attraction of other settlements etc., play such a role only intermittently. In order to determine the attraction spheres of the markets the author has collected pertinent data in the past few years (1968—71).

The following questions were examined in the survey:

- a) Where did the commodity come from?
- b) What means of transport was used by the seller?
- c) What sort of commodity and how much of it did the seller bring to the market?
- d) Was the commodity household farm or cooperative farm product?
- e) At what price did the seller sell each particular commodity?

The days for survey were chosen on the basis of experience and in agreement with the advice of the councils of the areas involved. At least two market days a week are characteristic of each settlement having a market of its own. Practical experience and the author's data prove that the territorial influence of the market is best shown by the main market days of each center; consequently in each place the data of the main market day were collected.

Of the data collected, the number of local traders and their territorial distribution proved suitable for determining the attraction spheres of the markets. Mapping and evaluation of data led to the following conclusions:

1. In the southern Part of the Great Hungarian Plain (henceforth Southern Plain) it is the town of Szeged which has the most important market supply zone. Szeged, as the regional center of the Southern Plain, attracts the majority of the local traders and the bulk of the marketed commodities from its territorially important integrant microsector.

a) To the inner market supply zone of Szeged belong Röszke, Mórahalom, Zákányszék, Bordány, Forráskút, Zsombó, Balástya, Szatymaz, Sándorfalva, and Deszk; similarly Tápé, Algyő, Szőreg, and Gyálárét,

which were attached to Szeged earlier this year, and Kiskundorozsma, which has a different character and role.

a/a. Szőreg, Tápé, Gyálarét and Algyő clearly belong to the inner supply zone of Szeged. Their surplus products, like those of Újszeged, are sold exclusively in Szeged.

b/b. The role of Domaszék differs from that of the afore-mentioned villages in that some low percentage of its surplus products are sold in Kiskundorozsma. The ratio of local traders is 48:13 in favor of Szeged. Otherwise, from the point of view of its market supplying role this settlement also belongs to the inner supply zone of Szeged.

c/c. Kiskundorozsma, owing to its important market with 3 market days a week and resulting from its former administrative status, attracts part of the local traders from its former village outskirts. But while earlier it took only a small number of local traders away from Szeged owing to its lower interior demand, as a result of changes in the last 10 years the ratio now is 43:12 in favor of Kiskundorozsma against Szeged. It has considerable attraction for other settlements too (Forráskút 10:9, Üllés 6:3, and Bordány as against Szeged. Thus Kiskundorozsma occupies a special place in the immediate market attraction sphere of Szeged.

b) The so-called secondary or outer zone of Szeged is made up of Ásótthalom, Rúzsa, Újszentiván, Tiszasziget, Kübekháza, Ferencszállás, Klárafalva, and partly Kiszombor. These settlements were put in this category partly on account of the smaller number of local traders and partly on account of their agricultural structure which is characteristic of the outer supply zone. With the exception of Kiszombor they gravitate exclusively toward Szeged on the basis of daily market trade and state purchase.

c) In the case of Szeged and Kiskundorozsma, the lower level of self-sufficiency and the variety of commodities suggest that specialization has progressed in the agriculture of these settlements (production of certain commodities on a larger scale has become characteristic, while the production of other commodities has been transferred to the outer zone); again, these data point to the autarchic (polycultural) character of the agriculture. Many kinds of commodities are produced but only small quantities are marketed; therefore the missing articles are brought to the markets of Szeged and Kiskundorozsma from the outer zone. Similar tendencies seem to obtain for example in the case of Kiskunmajsza, too.

2. In the case the towns of Makó and Hódmezővásárhely the high level of internal supply is indicative of varied agricultural production. In the case of some branches of production there is specialization, but a high level of self-sufficiency is characteristic of these towns with wide outskirts. The smaller characteristic external supply derives from the production structure of the nearby settlements, which agrees to a great extent with that of these towns; consequently the goods marketed sell at a low price or may not sell at all. Therefore the settlements of the neighborhood sell their surplus products to the largescale purchasing agencies as thus they can sell them at nearly the same price. In the

market of the towns those neighboring settlements are represented by the largest number of local traders which can send products that are scarcely or not at all produced on the outskirts of these towns. In the case of Hódmezővásárhely for instance Mártyély supplies apples while Makó supplies onions, parsley and carrots.

a) Mártyély and Székkutas clearly constitute the *inner supply zone* of Hódmezővásárhely. The local farmers of Mártyély can sell their products exclusively in the markets of Hódmezővásárhely, while the majority of the local farmers of Székkutas sell their goods in Hódmezővásárhely and an insignificant percentage of them sell their goods also in the markets of Orosháza.

b) *The outer market supply zone* of Hódmezővásárhely is essentially limited to two settlements: Mindszent and Makó. Car-owning farmers of Maroslele and remoter settlements also occasionally appear.

c) Car-owning farmers of Makó and its neighborhood sell their goods in the daily markets of the larger settlements of the Southern Plain and in the open markets of the South-eastern Plain on account of the important onion, greens, and carrot production in those parts. It is due to this traditional specialization of Makó and its neighborhood that Makó is part of the supply zone of both Szeged and Hódmezővásárhely.

d) *The inner supply zone* of Makó — owing to its high level of self-sufficiency — is, like that of Hódmezővásárhely, of small extent. Its settlements are: Magyarcsanád, Maroslele. Apátfalva which is also part of the outer zone of Mezőhegyes, partly belongs here, and so does Kiszombor, which on the other hand is one of the outer suppliers of Szeged.

e) The markets of Makó have no territorially definable outer market supply zone. Occasionally a few marketers from the neighboring villages, Óföldsé, Királyhegyes, Kövegy, Nagylak and Csanádpalota sell their goods in its markets.

3. The market attraction of the towns of Szentes and Csongrád shows the characteristic pattern of areas with two centers. The supply zone of Szentes has largely developed in the areas east of the river Tisza, whereas the supply zone of Csongrád has developed in the areas near the Tisza between this river and the Danube.

a) *The inner supply zone* of Szentes is made up of the villages of Szegvár and Mindszent.

b) The inner market zone of Csongrád comprises Felgyő and Csanytelek.

c) *The secondary market supply zone* of Szentes is composed of the villages of Derekegyháza, Nagymágocs, Magyartés and Felgyő and the town of Csongrád.

d) *The secondary market supply zone* of the town of Csongrád comprises the villages of Tömörkény and Magyartés and the town of Szentes.

e) The market supply zones of both market centers Szentes and Csongrád are of small extent. This suggests first of all a high level of the internal supply, the varied structure of production, but also a narrow specialization, most often on just one branch of production, and thirdly

an identical or nearly identical production structure of the nearby settlements or supply zone.

f) The small market supply zone characterizes well the economic role, level of industrialization and urbanization of the centers, the distribution of the population according to professions i.e. all the factors that determine the outward structure of agricultural production.

4. In the market attraction of the twin centers *Békéscsaba and Gyula* the leading role of Békéscsaba clearly appears.

a) *To the internal market supply zone of Békéscsaba* belong Békés, Murony, Doboz, Szabadkígyós, Újkígyós, Gerendás, Kétsoprony, and Gyula.

b) *The inner supply zone of the town of Gyula* is limited to the village of Gyulavári.

c) *The outer market supply zone of Békéscsaba* is made up of Sarkad, Nagykamarás, Pusztatutlaka, Kondoros, Telekgerendás, and Orosháza.

d) *To the outer market supply zone of Gyula* belong Doboz, Gerla, Sarkad, Kőtegyán, Kétegyháza and Elek.

e) The market supply zones of the two towns clearly show their roles. The more urban role of Békéscsaba manifests itself in the fact that its inner market supply zone is far more important than that of Gyula but also in the fact that the market attraction of Békéscsaba in the secondary attraction zone of Gyula is usually more powerful than the market attraction of Gyula.

5. *Orosháza* belongs among the largely self-supplying centers. The development of its industry in recent years and the acceleration of its urbanization exert a growing influence on the production structure of its neighborhood.

a) Its *inner supply zone* consists of only one village, Kardoskút.

b) Its *secondary or outer supply zone* is more considerable. The increasing influence of the town in its neighborhood manifests itself in the reorganization of its supply zones. To its outer supply zone belong Csanádapáca, Székkutas, and Csorvás.

6. *Tótkomlós* is a self-supplying market center; the neighboring villages provide scarcely one third of its market supply, which proves the weakness of its influence on its neighborhood.

7. The southern and southeastern areas of Békés county are a part of the county with several centers. *Mezőhegyes*, *Battonya*, *Mezőkovácsháza* (the seat of the District Office) are also market centers.

8. In these areas the market supply of *Mezőhegyes* is the most considerable. Its supply zones can also be delineated.

a) *The inner supply zone of Mezőhegyes* is made up of Pitvaros and Mezőkovácsháza.

b) *Its outer supply zone* is relatively extensive; its villages are Nagyér, Ambrózfalva, Csanádalbertyi, Csanádpalota, Köveg, Makó, Kevermes, Orosháza, Végegyháza, Nagybánhegyes, and Tótkomlós.

9. *Battonya* is self-supplying without an inner supply zone. Its outer

supply zone extends to remoter areas and the nearest market centers. Its supply zone is Medgyesbodzás, Kunágota, and Mezőhegyes.

10. *Mezőkovácsháza is self-supplying.* Its daily market zones have not developed yet. Of the three settlements this has the smallest role in spite of the fact that it is a district seat. Among these settlements *Mezőhegyes* is taking on more and more urban functions owing to the high specialization of its agriculture. In consequence of the growth of its open markets it may become an important market center with well-definable supply zones.

11. *The market attraction of Kecskemét and that of Kiskunfélegyháza* are very similar. Both settlements exert a great influence on relatively remote villages. The difference between the two settlements manifests itself in the size of their inner zones in favor of Kecskemét.

a) *To the inner supply zone of Kecskemét* belong Ballószög, Helvécia, Városföld, and Jakabszállás.

b) *The outer supply zone of Kecskemét* comprises Lakitelek, Cserkeszőlő, Alpár, Kunszállás, Bugac, Fülöpháza, Hetényegyháza, Zöldhalom, and Lajosmizse.

c) *The inner market supply zone of Kiskunfélegyháza* comprises only Pálmonostora and Szank, so that Szank belongs also to the inner supply zone of Kiskunmajsa.

d) *The outer supply zone of Kiskunfélegyháza* is sizable. On some settlements Kiskunfélegyháza exerts an influence together with Kecskemét. The villages belonging to its outer supply zone are Gátér, Felgyő, Alpár, Pusztaszer, Csengele, Petőfiszállás, Jászszentlászló, Bugac, Kunszállás, and Zöldhalom.

12. *Kiskunhalas and Kiskunmajsa* are market centers. Data were collected only is Kiskunmajsa. On the basis of these data the following can be stated:

a) *Kiskunmajsa is a self-supplying* settlements with a market supply zone. *Its inner supply zone* has already developed. Kömpöc and Csólyospálos belong here.

b) *The outer supply zone of Kiskunmajsa* comprises Csengele, Kiskunhalas, Forráskút and Tázlár.

c) The market attraction of Kiskunmajsa provides an objective basis to the delineation of the western boundary of the integrant microzone of Szeged, too.

13. The independent role of *Baja* is clear not only in respect of other factors of attraction but also in respect of market attraction. The independent market zones of *Baja* are scarcely disturbed as there are no major settlements nearby or farther away. Bácsalmás, Mélykút, Bátaszék, etc. are too small settlements to affect the market attraction sphere of *Baja*. Kiskunhalas, Kalocsa and Mohács, on the other hand, are so far that their market attraction cannot be felt at *Baja*.

a) *The inner market supply zone of Baja* comprises Bácsbokod, Érseksanád, Sükösd, Bátmonostor, Szeremle, Nagybaracska, Dávod, and Vaskút.

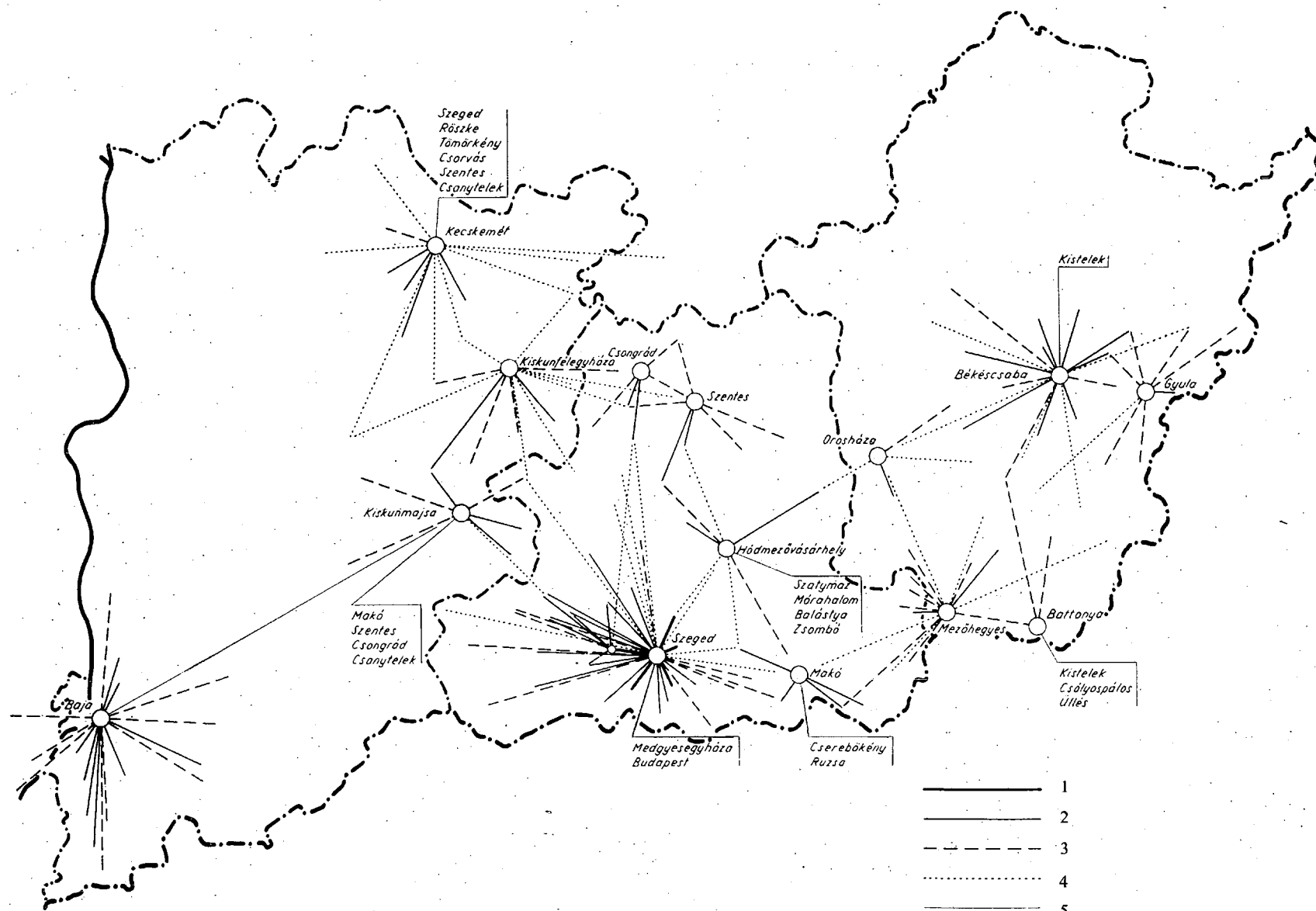
b) *The outer market supply zone of Baja* comprises the villages of

Alsónyék, Báta, Dunaszekcső, Csátalja, Hercegszántó, Bácsbokod, Felső-szentiván, Borota, and Dusnok (Figs. 1—2).

14. The assessment of the market centers of the Southern Plain is not complete. It would be necessary to assess also the markets of Kalocsa, Kiskőrös, Dunavecse, Kunszentmiklós, Kiskunhalas, Bácsalmás, Kistelek, Szarvas, Vésztő, etc., and the seasonal changes in the markets.

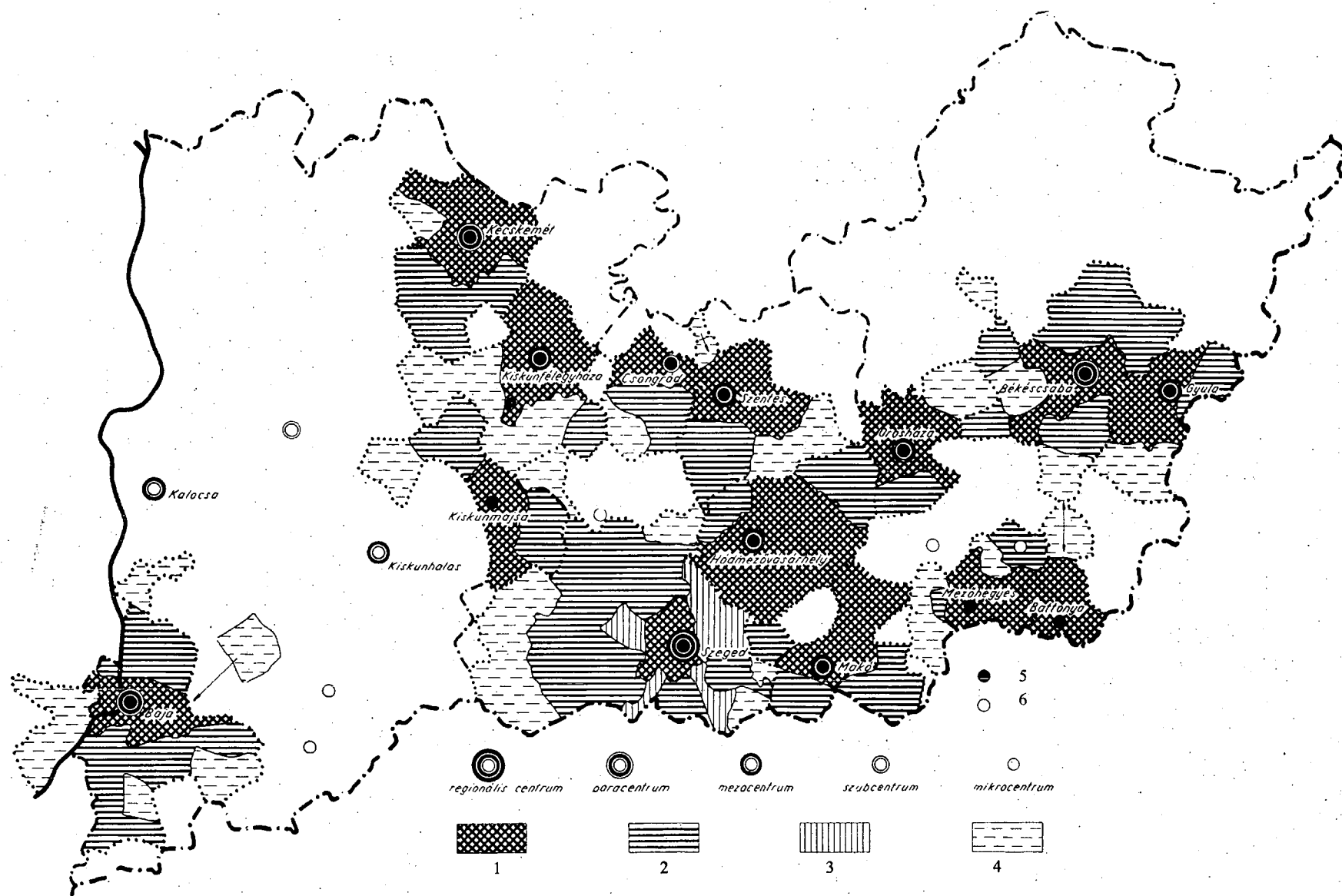
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# 1. Open market attraction intensity of the centers of the Southern Plain.

1. Agglomeration belt
2. Primary attraction
3. Secondary attraction
4. Tertiary attraction
5. Occasional attraction



## 2. Attraction spheres of the open market centers of the Southern Plain

### I. Inner zone

1. Area belonging to market center
2. Primarily attracted area
3. Agglomeration belt with markets similar to those of the center

### II. Secondary zone

4. Secondarily attracted area, outer market supply zone
5. Assessed market center
6. Unassessed market center