

## Niveles de asimilación económica del estado de Guerrero

*Levels of economic assimilation of the state of Guerrero*

*Níveis de assimilação econômica do estado de Guerrero*

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### Resumen

Este trabajo tiene como objetivo central exponer la configuración del estado de Guerrero, con base en la teoría de la asimilación económica y la tipificación probabilística. Esta propuesta teórico-metodológica de la geografía económica coadyuva a la interpretación de la relación que guardan los componentes sociales, económicos y físicos, en un espacio particular. La metodología empleada es fundamental para la construcción de tipologías que comprendían el comportamiento de los indicadores seleccionados, con la finalidad de ponderar desproporciones territoriales, las cuales son interpretadas a la luz de los escenarios socio-territoriales reconocidos por los postulados de la asimilación económica. Este artículo revela once niveles que dan cuenta de un proceso de asimilación económica significativo en aquellas demarcaciones que contienen centros turísticos consolidados (Acapulco e Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo), función política-administrativa (Chilpancingo), un papel notable en el abastecimiento regional de bienes y servicios o aquellos que reportan actividades agropecuarias con rendimientos considerables.

**Palabras clave:** asimilación económica, tipología, territorio, Guerrero, México.

## Abstract

This work aims to expose the configuration of the State of Guerrero, based on the theory of economic assimilation and the probabilistic classification. This theoretical-methodological proposal of economic geography contributes to the interpretation of the relationship that are social, physical, and economic components in a particular space. The methodology used is fundamental for the construction of typologies that summarize the behavior of the selected indicators, in order to consider territorial imbalances, which are interpreted in the light of socio-territorial scenarios recognized by the postulates of economic assimilation. This article reveals eleven levels that account for a significant economic assimilation process in those districts that contain consolidated resorts (Acapulco and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo), political and administrative function (Chilpancingo), a notable role in the regional supply of goods and services, or those that report agricultural activities with substantial yields.

**.Key Words:** economic assimilation, typology, territory, Guerrero, México.

## Resumo

Este trabalho tem como objetivo expor o estado de configuração de Guerrero, com base na teoria de assimilação econômica e classificação probabilística. Esta proposta teórica e metodológica da geografia econômica contribui para a interpretação da relação a componentes sociais, econômicos e físicos em um espaço particular. A metodologia é fundamental para a construção de tipologias que resumem o comportamento dos indicadores selecionados, a fim de ponderar desproporções territoriais, que são interpretadas à luz dos cenários sócio-territorial, reconhecidos pelos postulados de assimilação econômica. Este artigo revela os níveis de onze que respondem por um processo de assimilação econômica significativa nesses distritos que contêm consolidadas resorts (Acapulco e Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo), função político-administrativa (Chilpancingo), um papel notável na oferta regional de bens e serviços ou aqueles que relataram atividades agrícolas com rendimentos consideráveis.

**Palavras-chave:** assimilação econômica, tipologia, território, Guerrero, México.

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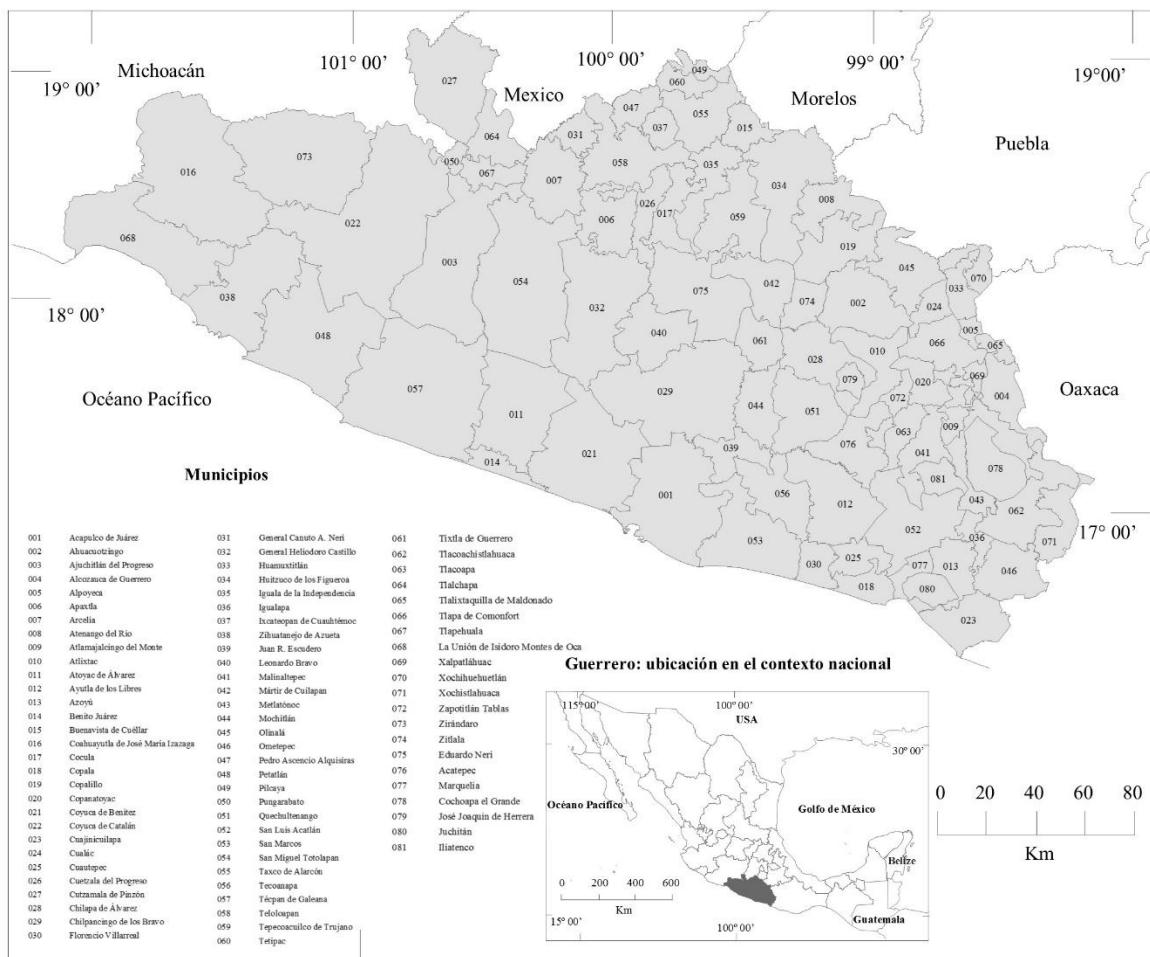
## Introduction

The geo-historical evolution which took place on a physical environment changed, has given a special character to Guerrero. So let glimpse the socio-economic contrasts that prevail between its different municipalities. From the coast northern region and the Montaña to the Tierra Caliente, the entity is biodiverse and has a vast cultural - ethnographic - historic heritage which gives it a significant place in national life. However, only a few sites, including Acapulco, Ixtapa-Zihuatanajo, Chilpancingo, Iguala and Taxco, have the highest concentration of inhabitants, economic investment and productive activities profitable, mostly belonging to the tertiary sector. Also, these demarcations are home to the most important towns of the entity. In most of them, the economic - demographic expansion recent is due to its tourist activity, its political and administrative role or even his remarkable role in the regional supply of goods and services.

This research examines the particularities of economic - territorial of the State of Guerrero, from the standpoint of economic assimilation and the probabilistic classification. Both cognitive referents are basic for the comprehensive analysis of the socio-territorial characteristics of an entity such as Guerrero, Since the systemic approach of assimilation, as well as the preparation of typology and thematic cartography, it is a substantial contribution to the elucidation of the regional disparities of this Mexican entity. The work is structured as follows: in the first section the main socio-economic characteristics that distinguish are exposed to the State of Guerrero. In subsequent sections will delimit the cognitive background of this research, explains the methodological peculiarities of the probabilistic classification and reveal the economic assimilation levels found in the municipalities of Guerrero.

### Socio-economic characteristics of Guerrero

Guerrero is located to the South of the Mexican Republic and has an area of 63 794 km<sup>2</sup> (3.2% of the national territory). The entity is divided into the following regions: North, Central, Acapulco, Tierra Caliente, Montaña, Costa Grande and Costa Chica. Mountain has the largest number of municipalities, nineteen in total (Figure 1) (Government of the State of Guerrero, 2016). Along with the Costa Chica constitute the areas with significant presence of indigenous population. In 2010, this totaled 475,099 people, 7% of the national total. Also, 36% were Nahuas, 29% Mixtecos, 25% Tlapanecos and 9% amuzgos (INEGI, 2016).

**Figure 1.** Guerrero: political-administrative division, 2010

Source: elaborado con base en INEGI, 2016.

The state of Guerrero has 3 388 768 inhabitants (3% of the Mexican population). Of the total of Guerrerenses, 23% reside in Acapulco (789 971 inhabitants), 7% in Chilpancingo (241 717 inhabitants), 4.1% in Iguala (140 363 inhabitants), 3.6% in Chilapa (120 790 inhabitants), 3.5% in Zihuatanejo Of Azueta (118 211 inhabitants), 3.1% in Taxco (104 053 inhabitants), 2.4% in Tlapa (81 419 inhabitants) and 2.2% in Coyuca de Benítez (73 460 inhabitants). These eight municipalities account for 49% of the state population. The rest are distributed in the other 73 constituencies, of which 54 do not individually exceed 1% of the total number of guerrerenses (INEGI, 2016).

Only a few municipalities have received federal, state and private capital, related to activities such as tourism, mining or agro-industries, among them Acapulco, Iguala, Zihuatanejo de Azueta, Taxco and Eduardo Neri. In addition, there are few spaces that owe their territorial relevance to the political-administrative function (Chilpancingo). They have also played a fundamental role in the regional supply of goods and services (Tixtla, Tlapa, Arcelia, Teloloapan, Atoyac de Álvarez, Petatlán).

The state has shown a steady exodus of peasants seeking better incomes in the main cities of Guerrero, other states, or the United States. Approximately 73,000 Guerrerans travel to Oregon, California, Arizona, Mississippi, Florida, New York, Virginia, or North Carolina each year. Also, each summer about 128,000 state laborers migrate to work in the agricultural fields of Sonora, Chihuahua, Baja California or Sinaloa. In recent years, the Guerrero territory has positioned itself among the five entities of the Mexican Republic that present greater emigration (INEGI, 2016).

According to the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), in Guerrero there are 1 112 000 people living in extreme poverty, that is, 31.7% of the Guerrerians. In the entity, 78.5% of the inhabitants have deficiencies related to access to social security; 59% associated with basic services in their homes; 39.4% linked to access to food; 33.4% related to the quality and dimensions of housing; 26.8% presented educational backwardness and 25.4% showed deficiencies in access to health services (CONEVAL, 2016).

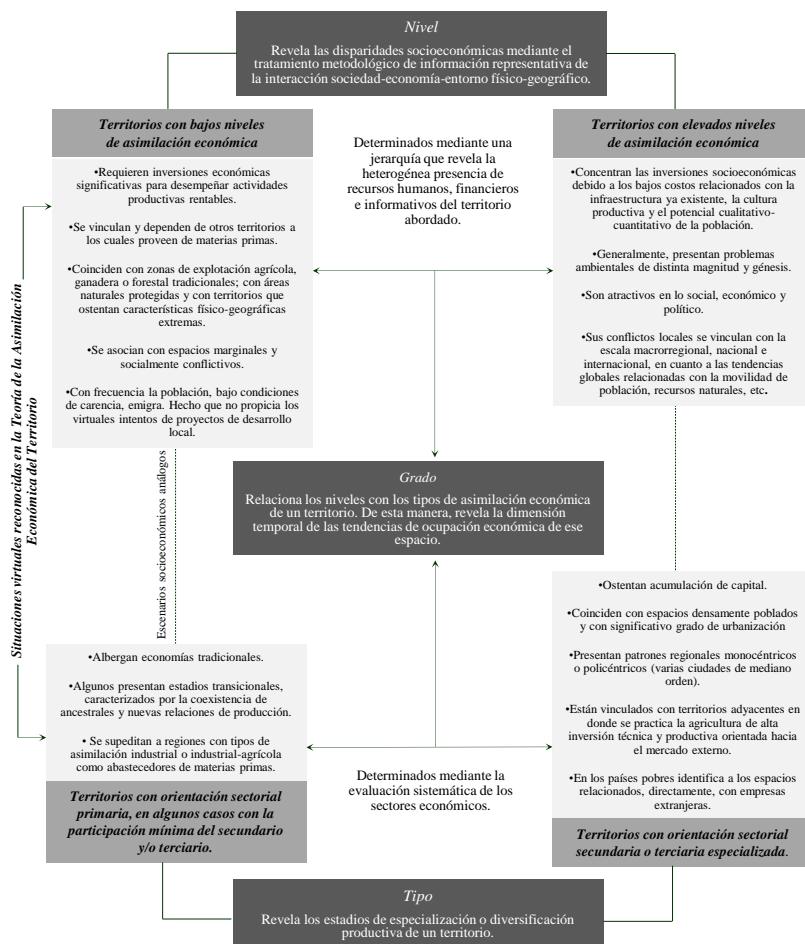
### **Cognitive support**

In the specialized literature it is pointed out that economic assimilation must be conceived as the gradual incorporation of different spaces into the economic life of the territory to which they belong. The particularities of this integration are a result of the moment in which it takes place, the social relations in which it is inscribed and the physical characteristics of the space in question. In relation to these factors, it is important to specify the following questions: first, there are often simultaneous processes of economic assimilation in a territory, a situation associated with the different stages of development of the productive forces inherent to it. Second, the abandonment of some already assimilated sites is also common; Due generally to the depletion, destruction or loss of the value of their natural resources (García, 1993).

The objective of the theory of economic assimilation is to reveal the degree of dominance of a territory by assessing the intensity of its use, the level of development of its productive forces, the history of settlement and other peculiarities of the territory (Zailsev, 1972 quoted by García, 1993). The use of this theoretical body is useful to propose ordering criteria; By jointly revealing the speed with which the territories analyzed are integrated into certain socio-economic processes, the limits that still constitute certain attributes of the physical-geographical environment and the nexus between the intensity of the economic use manifested by a specific space and its environmental problematic . Consequently you can:

Establish territorial projections based on the patterns detected and, above all, influence through the deeper knowledge of territorial processes in a better organization for the use of space, a more efficient use of resources, a more regional distribution of Productive forces and a better relationship with nature in the country (Propin, 1989 citado por García, 1993, p. 73).

The theory is integrated by three basic cognitive lines that are: the levels, the types and the degrees of economic assimilation of a territory (figure 2). The first has been used in a significant number of investigations, to evaluate the socioeconomic disparities that exist within the space addressed. In these works, the level is defined as the measurable expression of the interaction process of multiple factors such as economic, political, cultural and physical-geographical factors that cause the "geographical location" of a particular territory (Privalovskaya, 1982 cited by Propin, 2003, P. 60). Such qualitative-quantitative dimension is determined by the methodological treatment of previously selected criteria and related to certain political-administrative units. The result is an integral picture of the heterogeneous presence of the population and their productive activities. Therefore, the different levels of economic assimilation "should not be associated with supposed patterns of economic or social development" (Propin y Sánchez, 1998, p. 60).

**Figure 2.** Investigative categories of the economic assimilation of the territory

Source: elaborado con base en García, 2011.

## Method

This work uses information generated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). Previous research, based on economic assimilation, has used the following variables: territorial extension, number of inhabitants, urban population, annual value of agricultural and industrial production and length of terrestrial communication channels. From these five variables, socioeconomic indicators were generated that allow us to glimpse the spatial disparities that prevail in a territory. Below are the main features. Densidad de población (DP). Muestra la relación entre el total de habitantes de una unidad espacial de análisis y el área de ésta.

Degree of urbanization (GU). It is a percentage value that shows the proportion of the population living in an urban settlement, where 15,000 or more people live (Unikel, 1978), in relation to the total number of inhabitants registered in the analyzed space unit.

Regional concentration of irrigated land (CTA). The value corresponding to this indicator reveals the percentage of irrigated land, present in each municipality, in relation to the state agricultural area of that type.

Spatial concentration of industry (CTI). It refers to the figure that results from dividing the value of the production of the basic branches of the secondary sector between the surface of the space unit in which such economic activities take place.

Density of road (DV). Thus, the relationship between the length of the road network that each spatial unit of analysis and the area of the analysis is called was called. In subsequent works the width of the railways is also pondered, due to its transcendence in the economic dynamics of the evaluated territory.

The statistical management of these indicators is regulated by the method of probabilistic typification whose characteristics are exposed in the ones of Propin (2003), Hernandez (2007), Mollinedo (2008), Ortiz, Villaseñor and Gerónimo (2009), Aguilar Villagrán (2013). The following steps are then synthesized to determine the levels of economic assimilation of the state of Guerrero.

- a. Conformation of the data matrices. Statistical information was integrated into two tables showing the quantitative behavior of variables and indicators in each of the eighty-one municipalities. This data compendium is the basic work platform to determine the levels of economic assimilation of a territory (Table 1 and 2).

**Table 1.** Example of quantitative behavior of socioeconomic variables

Municipio	Extensión territorial km <sup>2</sup>	Población Total	Población urbana	Superficie irrigada ha	Producción industrial USD	Longitud vial km
Acapulco de Juárez	1882.6	789971	673479	1558	476290278	548.5
Ahuacuotzingo	388.4	25027	0	118.5	114862	395.5
Ajuchitlán del Progreso	1983.6	38203	0	6563.75	988746	388.0
Alcozauca de Guerrero	551.6	18971	0	123.25	152545	211.2
Alpoyeca	155.4	6637	0	938.25	225804	13.0

Source: elaborado con base en INEGI, 2016.

**Table 2.** Example of quantitative behavior of socioeconomic indicators

Municipio	DP hab/km <sup>2</sup>	GU %	CTA %	CPI USD/km <sup>2</sup>	DV km/km <sup>2</sup>
Acapulco de Juárez	419.6	85.3	1.6	252996.0	0.3
Ahuacuotzingo	64.4	0	0.1	295.7	1.0
Ajuchitlán del Progreso	19.3	0	6.6	498.5	0.2
Alcozauca de Guerrero	34.4	0	0.1	276.5	0.4
Alpoyeca	42.7	0	0.9	1453.1	0.1

Source: elaborado con base en la tabla 1.

- b. Qualitative classification of indicators. The values of each of the indicators were sorted in descending order to observe their variation. This facilitated the conformation of five ranks as channels of qualitative generalization (Propin, 2003). The qualifiers used and their numerical coding are very high (5), high (4), medium (3), low (2) and very low (1) (Table 3). Subsequently, a new matrix was developed in which the amounts of the five socioeconomic indicators were replaced by combinations of classification indexes corresponding to each municipality, according to the range assigned to their value (Table 4).

**Table 3.** Qualitative ranking of indicators

Indicador	DP	GU	CTA	CPI	DV
Rango	hab/km <sup>2</sup>	%	%	miles USD/km <sup>2</sup>	km/km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Muy alto</i>	> 300	> 80	> 6.0	> 260	> 1.0
<i>Alto</i>	> 200,...,300	> 60,...,80	> 3.96,...,6.0	>70,...,260	> 0.6,...,1.0
<i>Medio</i>	> 50,...,200	> 50,...60	> 2.64,..., 3.96	> 14.5,...,70	> 0.4,...,0.6
<i>Bajo</i>	> 35,...,50	20,...,50	>1.32,..., 2.64	> 3.5,...,14.5	> 0.2,...,0.4
<i>Muy bajo</i>	< 35	0	< 1.32	< 3.5	< 0.2

Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados.

**Table 4.** Examples of weighted indicators

Municipio	DP	GU	CTA	CPI	DV
Acapulco de Juárez	5	5	2	4	2
Acatepec	3	1	1	1	2
Ahuacuotzingo	3	1	1	1	5
Ajuchitlán del Progreso	1	1	5	1	1
Alcozauca de Guerrero	1	1	1	1	2
Alpoyeca	2	1	1	1	1

Source: elaborado con base en las tablas 2 y 3.

- c. Formation of typological clouds. It was essential to draw up a list of the combinations that were presented, as well as the frequency of each one (Table 5). This allowed to know all the codes that showed the entity, the most recurrent were considered nuclei from which were linked others that indicate the existence of circumscriptions with similar socioeconomic behavior. Continuous line was used when the codes deviated from each other in the range of a single indicator. Segmented stripes connected those that did not meet the above condition. In that case, it was essential to weigh the affinity between a particular cloud and the code that is attached.

**Table 5.** Frequency of codes

Código	Casos	Código	Casos	Código	Casos	Código	Casos
1 1 1 1 1	9	2 1 1 1 1	1	2 3 5 2 3	1	3 2 3 2 2	1
1 1 1 1 2	12	2 1 1 1 2	8	3 1 1 1 2	5	3 2 4 1 4	1
1 1 1 1 3	1	2 1 1 1 3	3	3 1 1 1 4	1	3 3 1 2 2	1
1 1 1 1 4	1	2 1 1 1 4	1	3 1 1 1 5	1	3 3 1 3 1	1
1 1 2 1 2	3	2 1 1 2 1	1	3 1 1 2 2	1	3 3 2 5 1	1
1 1 2 1 3	1	2 1 2 1 2	1	3 1 1 2 3	2	3 4 1 3 1	2
1 1 3 1 1	2	2 1 3 1 2	1	3 1 1 2 5	1	4 2 1 2 4	1
1 1 4 1 2	1	2 1 3 1 4	1	3 1 2 1 3	1	4 3 1 4 4	1
1 1 5 1 1	1	2 2 1 1 2	2	3 1 2 3 2	1	4 5 1 4 1	1
1 2 4 1 1	1	2 2 3 2 2	1	3 1 3 1 2	1	5 5 2 4 2	1
1 2 5 2 2	1	2 3 1 3 1	1	3 1 4 2 1	1		

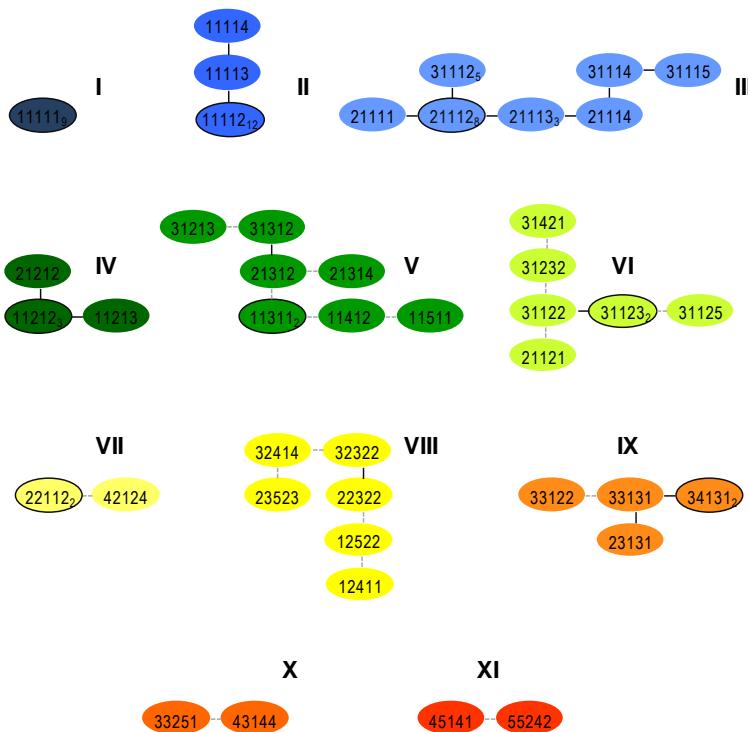
Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados

Subsequently, it was necessary to establish the level of economic assimilation referred to by each group of codes conformed. These were ranked based on the behavior of the correlation coefficients exhibited among the five socioeconomic indicators. Those who have a high reciprocity were taken into account to decide which place would occupy a particular typological cloud (Propin, 2003). On this occasion there were significant values between the spatial concentration of industrial production and the degree of urbanization, as well as between the former and the population density (Table 6). Through the mentioned procedure the groups of municipalities with similar basic qualities that integrate the different levels were revealed (figure 2).

**Table 6.** Coefficients of correlation between indicators

Indicadores	DP		GU	CTA	CPI	CV
	DP	-				
GU	0.541530165	-				
CTA	-0.05735876	0.103817078	-			
CPI	0.620795781	<b>0.805706316</b>	0.049274499	-		
CV	0.304215233	-0.13816334	-0.036182488	-0.089078686	-	

Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados.

**Figure 2.** Grouping of codes in typological clouds

Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados.

d. Revelation of the typology. Each formed cloud was codified by a nomenclature that took into account the number of occasions in which the range corresponding to each socioeconomic indicator was presented (Table 7). The variations of this were expressed from the four forms exemplified below (Propin, 2003).

1: He pointed out the existence of very low values in more than 90% of the codes of a cloud.

23: Indicated the predominance of a low range indicator (between 80 and 90% of the set of circumscriptions that make up the level). Secondary cases were presented as subscripts.

2 (3): Revealed the relative predominance of low values (between 50 and less than 80% of municipalities shows this condition). Subscripts and parentheses were used to express other ranges of the indicator in question.

2,3: It meant that the low and middle amounts appeared with the same frequency. This balanced situation was registered through the use of numbers of equal size.

**Table 7.** Characteristics of indicators by levels

Indicadores Niveles	DP	GU	CTA	CPI	DV
<b>I</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>II</b>	1	1	1	1	2 3 4
<b>III</b>	2 (3)	1	1	1	2 (3)
<b>IV</b>	1 2	1	2	1	2 3
<b>V</b>	1 (2) (3)	1	(2) 3 (4) (5)	1	1, 2 (3) (4)
<b>VI</b>	3 2	1	1 (2)(4)	2 3	1, 2, 3 (5)
<b>VII</b>	2 (4)	2	1	1 (2)	2 (4)
<b>VIII</b>	1, 2, 3	2 3	3, 4, 5	2 (1)	(1) 2 (3) (4)
<b>IX</b>	2 3	3 (4)	1	2 3	1 2
<b>X</b>	3 4	3	1 2	4 5	1 4
<b>XI</b>	4 5	5	1 2	4	1 2

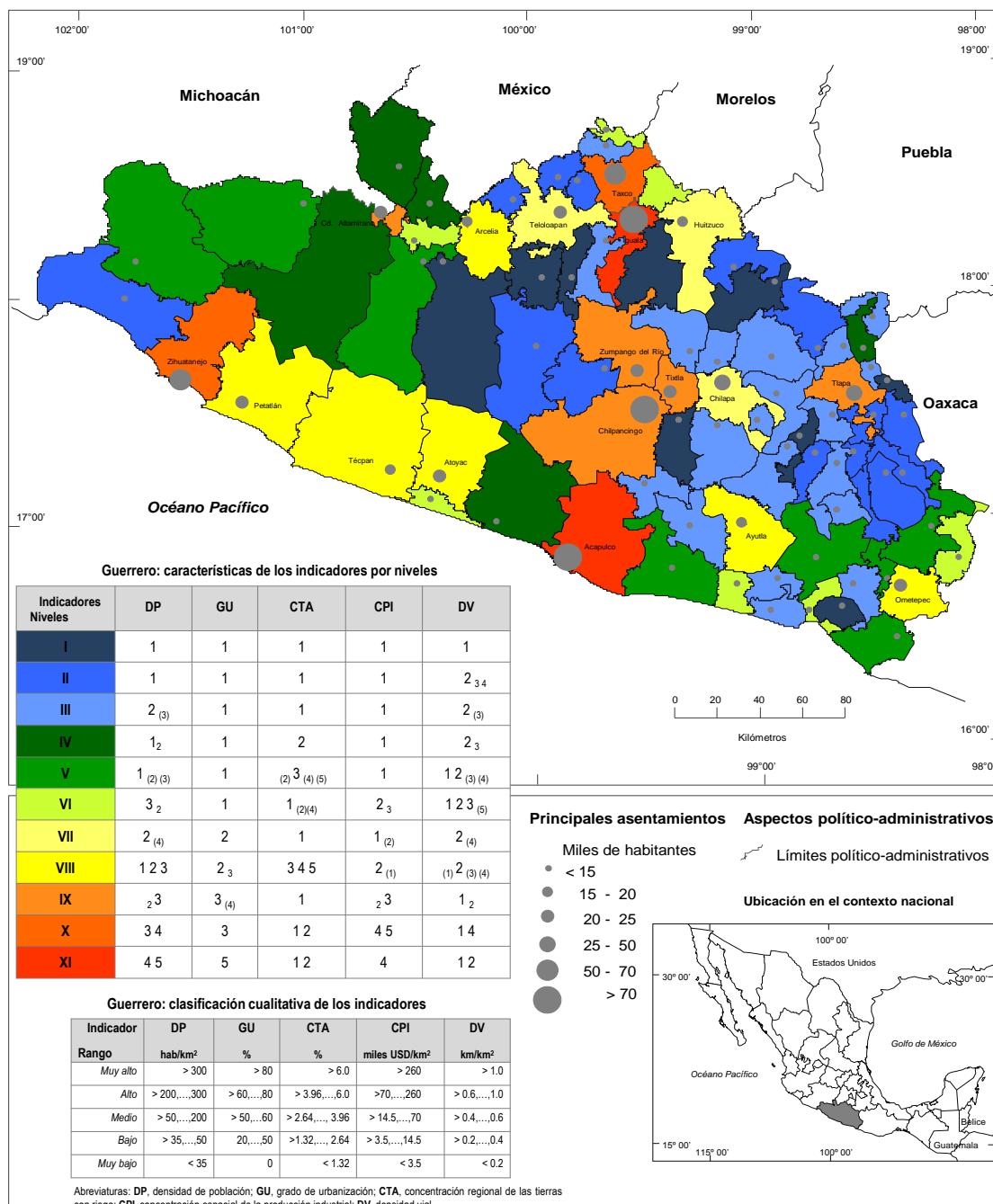
Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados.

## Results

Eleven levels were discovered in the state of Guerrero and the predominance of indicators with little quantitative significance revealed very low economic assimilation in forty-three municipalities (figure 3). An analogous socio-economic picture took place in all demarcations with levels IV, V and VI. They observed the existence of spaces with low assimilation (in total twenty jurisdictions), because, although in a lower proportion than in the first three strata, low and very low values were recurrent. Only a few districts reported some importance in relative population numbers, regional concentration of irrigated land or industrial production.

Based on the above, it was found that 77% of the municipalities of Guerrero showed minimal economic assimilation. Most of them have the following characteristics in common: it houses small, dispersed and sparsely articulated human settlements by some type of road. It has high levels of poverty, high levels of marginalization, substantial numbers of peasant families. Generally, these do not capture economic investments that give guidelines for performing profitable and sustainable agricultural and forestry activities. In addition, the secondary sector has not been stimulated significantly by any of the three levels of government or private initiative, registered investments are scarce (García, 2011).

Figure 3. Guerrero: levels of economic assimilation



Source: elaborado con base en el comportamiento de los indicadores ponderados.

Categories VII and VIII are associated with a condition of intermediate economic assimilation, which was identified in nine municipalities. These are located in the northern area of Guerrero, along the coast and to a lesser extent in the Central region. An outstanding feature was that its municipal headwaters have more than 15 000 inhabitants and serve as centers of commercial supply for the adjacent districts. Also, agriculture and livestock have some economic relevance because there are some areas with physical characteristics favorable to the performance of these activities or have been provided with hydro-agricultural infrastructure for several decades. Another characteristic feature is the overexploitation of forest resources, located in the mountainous parts of coastal demarcations with average economic assimilation.

Meanwhile, the highly assimilated spaces are those that exhibited levels IX and X. In this circumstance were found seven municipalities that present the socioeconomic dynamics indicated below. They have a significant number of inhabitants of the state and have cities with more than 20 000 people. These settlements generally play a significant role in the regional supply of goods and services; Have received, to a greater or lesser extent, economic investments and are seen as attractive places for the rest of the Guerrerenses, who migrate to these places and because of their low job qualification usually perform tasks related to commerce or services. Logically, this situation has led to demographic expansion and growth of the tertiary sector in those localities of the entity. The characteristics mentioned in this paragraph are accentuated in the municipalities with the greatest economic assimilation of Guerrero, discovered in Acapulco and Iguala (level XI).

## **Discussion**

The weighting of the process of economic assimilation in Guerrero could be an initial reference for the design of public policies whose main objective is to encourage the positive transformation of the state economic-productive panorama. The determination of the levels of economic assimilation facilitates the identification of the areas where it is feasible to promote concrete economic projects and, on the other hand, those that demand the redesign of the instruments used by the state economic and social policy to increase the competitiveness of the different Circumscriptions. According to the levels identified in the territory of Guerrero, this type of actions are pressing, as it was found that 77% of the municipalities showed minimal economic assimilation.

The revealed typology, as is often the case in geostatistical-based investigations that resort to municipalities as a unit of analysis, provides an overall picture of the spatial coverage of socioeconomic characteristics expressed by each level of economic assimilation. In this sense, the content of the cartography presented summarizes the territorial patterns derived from the weighting of the category addressed in this research; However, a more accurate diagnosis of the municipal economic-productive configuration requires the analysis of the physical characteristics and the historical conformation of the state, as well as the contemporary social scene. Thus, as pointed out by specialists in this aspect of Economic Geography, it is crucial to refine the scenarios defined by probabilistic typification by consulting a set of complementary sources of information of great relevance for their treatment of spatial reality, although limited To their quantitative character.

## CONCLUSIONS

The set of cognitive elements revealed in this research on the state of Guerrero, derived from the application of the theory of economic assimilation of the territory, constitutes a qualitative-quantitative cognitive platform useful for elucidating the regional imbalances that characterize this space of The Mexican republic for centuries. However, it is noteworthy that it is from the second half of the twentieth century that the territorial disparities in the consolidation of Acapulco and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo as important tourist centers have become more acute, since, to achieve this, the state and national governments have invested a part (García, Villerías and Tello, 2016). In addition, it is important to note the importance of promoting tourism in the area of tourism and tourism.

Meanwhile, the modernization of the secondary and primary sector has not occurred due to the lack of public and private investments, despite the fact that the entity has several areas with both physical and socioeconomic characteristics that could favor the creation of different productive projects and, Thus, alleviating the lack of labor alternatives and the social problems associated with it. For example, through the establishment of agro-industries in the municipalities of San Marcos, Florencio Villareal, Ayutla, San Luis Acatlán, Marquelia, Copala, Cuajinicuilapa, located in Costa Chica; Or in Huamuxtitlán and Alpoyeca, in La Montaña (García, 2011).

Finally, the levels of economic assimilation found in Guerrero gave way to infer that, in the coming decades, the outsourcing of the municipalities of Acapulco, Zihuatanejo de Azueta and Chilpancingo is likely to continue. In addition, trade and services could be consolidated as the main source of work for the EAP, especially in those areas that house the cities of Guerrero and in the jurisdictions of the coast where the tourist corridor Acapulco-Zihuatanejo or other projects of that coast will be located. kind. On the other hand, in San Luis Acatlán, Metlatónoc, Tlacoapa, Atlamajalcingo del Monte, Malinaltepec, Acatepec and Zapotitlán Tablas could diversify the sectoral structure due to the imminent arrival of mining companies, an event that will detonate the contamination and destruction of the physical environment of La Montaña And the mountainous part of the Costa Chica, as well as different social conflicts due to the expropriation of several ejidos of those regions.

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