

## CONTAMPORARY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT’S FACTORS

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*At the turn of the third Millennium, significant changes have affected the global world. The contemporary world economy, the world order, international organizational and economic relations are all involved in the intensive process of global development. There is no country in the world that is able to form and implement foreign economic policy without taking into account the behavior of other participants within the world economic system. Scientific and practical analysis of the subject area of the existing research has predetermined the key objective of this article – to determine the factors of contemporary global development.*

**Keywords:** world economy; globalization process; external politics; international relations; global community; glocalization

### Introduction

The key feature of the current stage in the global economy development is the fact that no states or countries of the world can exist, develop and ensure their effective functioning outside the framework of the globalized world due to the enormous degree of mutual dependence between absolutely all subjects of the world economy.

The process of globalization is developing rapidly. The global community is greatly influenced by the transformational factors of both globalization and regionalization. Since the end of the Cold War, the world has become more interconnected and interdependent, vulnerable, and affected by liminal factors than ever before.

Globalization is a permanent process of formation and development of the global community, parallel formation of a single economic and political world order, in which the world systems not only consolidate the previously separated elements into the whole, but also have a deep liminal influence on them. In fact, it is a question of creating a global community in which the functioning state entities act as relatively independent components. At the same time, a new model of the global community has not been developed yet, as we can tell from the current situation in the world and geopolitics in particular. Global community today is experiencing a new wave of rapid growth, taking on new adaptive features under the



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## CONTAMPORARY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT'S FACTORS

influence of megafactors. Globalization thus can be seen as the result of a very complex concentration of political, socioeconomic and civilizational processes in today's world order.

As some researchers note, "the prospects for globalization are seen differently from the capitals of world leaders and small underdeveloped countries. Globalization offers a unique opportunity for the West countries that occupies leading positions and in this situation the lagging South countries have to choose between dependency and isolation. According to the accumulated potential, some are more equal than others in the mega-community, as the growing interdependence is asymmetrical. At the same time, the interest of the mega-society's mischief-makers in eliminating the most egregious imbalances in the world development is increasing. Despite their goals, they cannot ignore what is happening in the areas of disaster and upheaval" (Kuvaldin, 2018).

Considering that globalization is a complex process, there is a need to formulate and develop the concept of special thinking, a specific approach to the structure of the world as a single system, for further figuring out of the solutions to global problems, and political dialogue on the most important issues of global security, international cooperation and sustainable development of the world civilizations. Lack of aspiration towards interstate cooperation, lack of developed philosophy of security, escalation of global threats and risks can lead to deceleration of the globalization process.

The main line of scientific diagnostics of the contemporary world development is the objective strengthening of the role of regional factors in the global political and economic life of countries and civilizations. Such dynamics is gaining momentum both on the planetary scale and leads to the formation of the changed regional map of the world. Regionalization is objectively considered as a trend that is going along with the trends of globalization, especially since all global problems are regional in nature. This determines an interesting vector in scientific research of many theorists and practitioners with the ambition to solve the most acute global problems.

### **Theoretical Background and Literature Overview**

Along with the integration processes in the world economy "globalization" is considered to be an integral concept. Today we can with surety state all that integration processes in the world proceed from globalization.

In 1999, Volodin A. G. and Shirokov G. K. summarized the concept in question, arguing that "globalization is a gradual transformation of the world space into a single zone where capital, goods, services move easily, where ideas are freely distributed and their carriers move without restraint, stimulating the development of modern institutions and polishing the mechanisms of their interaction" (Volodin & Shirokov, 1999).

This confirms that globalization is directly associated with such concepts as "integration" and "internationalization", which means "strengthening of interrelations between individual countries and societies in economic, political, military, cultural spheres".

These concepts also involve improvement of communications, development of the transport network and electronic communication systems, manifold growth in the exchange of goods, services and technologies, active migration of population between countries etc.

The author's vision on the concepts of "integration", "integration processes" and "globalization" proceeds from the fact that integration may or may not relate to the economic side of the issue, but somehow denotes strengthening of the system's influence which is

affected by certain factors of internal and external environments and strives towards common goals, objectives and solidarity. Integration processes are part of the overall integration that is characterized by its own features with significant differences in various regional economies on the background of the direct effects from the integrated market participants.

Regionalization in terms of scientific and practical viewpoints can be considered from the positions of several approaches. Regionalization is a classical instrument in the theory of international relations, assuming differentiation of the world into 7-8 civilizational parts (regions). On this basis, traditionally distinguished are: Asia-Pacific region, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, USA, Russia as a region, and Europe.

Particular attention can be drawn to the Asia-Pacific narrative which appeared in the USA back in 1970, when it became necessary to validate the military-political actions of the United States to consolidate its hegemony in East Asia and the Pacific. Since the mid-2000s, the concept of the Indo-Pacific region (ITR) has become widespread in the world political discourse. This has been predetermined by the fact that in the early 21st century, geopolitical relations between the Indian ocean region and the Western Pacific region began to increase in the geoeconomic aspect and in relation to global security issues.

As it is known, "since the beginning of the 2010s the concept of Indo-Pacific region is firmly entrenched not only in the world political discourse, but also in official documents, as well as in public speeches of the USA and Australian government officials. In 2013, the wording "Indo-Pacific" was included in Australian government's Defense White Paper. In the US, the concept of "Indo-Pacifica" has been used since 2008 by the Obama administration. After the change of government in 2016, the concept of "Indo-Pacific region" has firmly entered the official vocabulary of the President Trump administration, who needed ideological justification for his policy in the Asian direction (Streltsov, 2018).

At the same time, the observed interdependence and unity of the processes of globalization and regionalization are usually referred to as "glocalization". In the last few decades, the study of this phenomenon holds a special place in the global scientific community and in contemporary Russian scientific discourse. "Glocalization" (a term meaning a combination of globalization and localization processes, proposed by the head of the Japanese Corporation "Sony" Akio Morita) is a combination of the modernization processes of local cultures with the achievements of the emerging global multicultural civilization. It occurs as a result of cultural hybridization, i.e., constructive cooperation and mutual enrichment of cultures within cultural regions" (Denisenko & Tovancova, 2018).

## **Results**

The changing modern conditions of the evolutionary existence and development of the global community have shown that multifunctional geopolitical factors in the new wave of globalization and intensive development of innovative technologies in various spheres of economic life not only have not weakened their influence on the specific dynamics of the energy sector, but also, to some extent, have become the determining factors in this process. Under their influence, a new structure of the global economy and new forms of international relations have been shaped, following the trend towards the balance of forces.

As fairly noted by researchers of this problem, "there is a kind of system in which the problems of individual countries, nations, regions and other entities (corporations, various associations, global media holdings etc.) are combined in one. Particular local issues and

## CONTAMPORARY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT'S FACTORS

conflicts now have the power to affect many countries. At the same time, decisions in the most important centers of the world affect the fate of peripheries. In general, "the processes of globalization in the broadest sense are characterized by a sharp increase and complication of mutual relations in the main areas of economic, political and social life, acquiring a planetary scale". Globalization is an extremely diverse process that affects all areas and sides of life. Many both positive and negative phenomena are also becoming global, for example, the struggle for environmental protection, the anti-globalization movement, terrorism and crime, drug trafficking etc" (Grinin, 2008).

The global world in the 21st century is being formed according to different concepts and principles, its hierarchy is determined by the geopolitical status of global players. The structure of today's global world is very much perceptive to changes, thus, general rules and principles of life are expected to be flexibly adaptive. The global processes these days traverse not according to rules and international legislation, but according to economic and geopolitical interests of global actors. The scale of globalization processes is encompassing and influencing an increasing number of peripheral regions, and this number will only grow in the near future.

In the works of foreign scientists there are conclusions that "economic, cultural, political, social, religious and other relations are characterized as global; between the states there is an expansion of interaction of various public levels; the level of interrelation between economic systems at the expense of numerous networks of the modern communications created by means of new information technologies is growing" (Rose, 2013).

No less noticeable tendency that characterizes the global world in its political aspect in the context of the globalization processes' dynamics is the manifestation of instability and unpredictability, which is growing in parallel to the formation of a multipolar system of the global world. This system lack common "rules of the game", principles and norms of behavior for the global actors, as well as institutions and organizations that could effectively regulate and control the interaction of different centers of power in the global world.

Scientific and practical analysis of the subject area of our research allows us conclude that in contemporary conditions of the globalizational development of the world economy, it is possible to identify certain features of the emerging world order: the impossibility of countries' development under the strategy of isolationism; strict ranking of countries in terms of income and achievements in the technological sphere; development of integration processes in all aspects, manifestations and varieties; formation of transcontinental alliances; blurring borders and liberalization of domestic and foreign policies of the states; unification of the legal framework within the global space; giving more importance to economic powers of countries; transition of more power to such economic entities as TNCs and TNBs; development of trends deepening the processes of the international division of labor (Dubovtsev, 2007).

The existing international institutions and structures (the UN, the European Parliament, the OSCE, the G-7 and the G-20, the World Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), which proved to be effective in the past, these days, or rather, since a new global format of the international relations began to manifest itself, have become imperfect instruments. Today we can clearly see that international institutions of governance and control are lagging behind when compared to the development of the global geopolitical system in terms of speed, dynamics and scale of the ongoing developmental

processes. In the future, further degradation of these well known international organizations seems to be is very much possible.

It has to be noted that analysis of the causes for geopolitical conflicts in the globalization era should stem from the fact that interaction of interests on the international scene in itself is often confrontational in nature. In other words, it is impossible to eliminate conflicts from international agenda as such; thus, knowledge of how to manage them, minimizing possible costs and damages, is required.

The task of developing a new concept that will take into account the specifics of the geopolitical methodology for studying international conflicts and, at the same time, would take into account the reality of the globalizing world order within the visible horizon of transformation trends is objectively important for all today's scientists and researchers. Increasing pressure from the actors of globalization processes causes a situation within which all local and regional conflicts acquire a completely different scale and tend to be rapidly growing into geopolitical ones.

Under the new world order, the tendency to counteract the process of globalism is increasing, since all the advantages from forming a "single world space according to the Western model" are significantly offset by the growing threats of potential conflict situations.

This aspect is predetermined by the fact that the crises of globalization processes and the shaping of the world order are caused not only by contradictions of geoeconomic and political nature. At the same time, conflict situations arise under the influence of unilateral organizational initiatives of the world's political elites, represented by industrialized countries in their relation to others. These include the well-known double standards of Western democracy and the artificial differentiation of rogue states which are supposedly "not following the principles of democracy".

Emphasis here should be placed on the fact that "the change in the scaling of society associated with its globalization and the solution of geoeconomic problems is directly related to its internal structure and functional restructuring, as a result of which the fundamental orientations of social development were repositioned: from local and global sustainability – to risk, variability, global and local dynamics. At the same time, axiological and anthropological poles switched their places: from mass satisfaction of basic needs to mass satisfaction of higher needs (personal self-realization and development, spiritual and cultural self-improvement). As a result, the philosophy and ideology of security in this context (metatheoretic, semantic aspect) requires a radical revision" (Starostin, 2018).

Thus, globalization and regionalization take place as multidirectional parallel processes of the world development and also within the system of international relations. And it seems wrong to point to the dominance of one of them in this course. Both of these trends coexist in today's geopolitics and the global economy and should be taken into account during the formulation of appropriate domestic and foreign policies around the world.

It would also essential here to pay attention to the fact that "ambiguity of regional transformations is reflected in the emergence of supranational structures, the development of the principle of cross-border and transnational, the desire to create a multi-vector basis for integration. These trends are embodied in the emergence of new world political phenomena – global regions and, as a result, there is an output of regional policy at the global level. Therefore, it is fair to say that the current trend of world development is strengthening the new centers of power, including global regions, which are gradually turning into the key elements of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century world system" (Lagutina, 2015).

## CONTAMPORARY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT'S FACTORS

Developing this concept, it is important to note that the more actively the processes of globalization penetrate into various spheres of social development, the more significant the processes of regionalization become. This close relationship between the described processes is quite deep and multifaceted. Today, globalization is first of all clearly reflected in the rapid development of transnational corporations.

For a summary assessment of the findings, globalization, on the one hand, and regionalization, on the other – at the present stage – are the main processes in the development of today's world and formation of a new world order. They not only impose significant impacts on economic life, but also cause the emergence of new political, social, cultural and civilizational factors. The influence of these factors is then experienced by almost all the countries of the global world.

### **Discussion**

The world economy has become an open organizational and economic system due to the processes of internationalization and transnationalization of the economy, manifested in deepening expansion and intensification of international economic cooperation. Gradual complication and emergence of new types of world economic relations have led to a qualitatively new stage in the development of internationalization and integration process, in which human society and the states of the world enter a new phase of interaction characterized by lack of borders and growing universality at the same time. The result of globalization processes is the formation of a global space. The objects of such a space are subject to the action of uniform (global) laws, but such laws tend to have different dynamics and location within the global space.

As an objective analysis of global trends shows, today's world will not become more stable in the medium term. The dominant world processes of the current century are glocalization, regional integration, increasing disintegration and reintegration, which has a significant impact on the formation of a new system of international relations and political reorganization of the world. The emergence of new subjects within the world political system, their deepening interdependence and changes in the format of trade, economic and political relations between them, the need for their peaceful coexistence together necessitate the development of adequate approaches to combating threats and ensuring security of the world order, which includes ensuring the so-called "balance of powers". These factors should be fundamental in the process of formation -- by states and other actors of the geopolitical structure -- of the future development strategies and foreign policies.

Globalization today is merely an instrument for the removal of national peculiarities as such. This means globalization does not make the world more equal – it simply makes it less diverse! And universalization as the final stage of globalization is seen here as the means to establish some sort of “global sameness” through dissemination of common production standards initiated by the world leaders in industrial production (and these would be corporations, of course, which later would get the maximum advantages from this universalization) (Rubinskaya & Arkhipov, 2017).

It should be noted that discussions on the structure of the new world order are conducted in various countries, not only at the state level, but also inside various expert and scientific communities. At the same time, there is no generally recognized well-established theoretical and conceptual apparatus in the field under study, and this fact complicates not

only research on the political organization of the world, but makes it impossible to determine general approaches used by the international scientific and expert community in order to solve the problems related to global development, its new challenges and threats in implementation of foreign policies worldwide.

### **Conclusion**

In today's global world with its increased number of political conflicts, instability of the global system is also only increasing. As a result, geopolitical and economic interests originating from the new centers of power are very dynamic, unstable and rapidly changing. This manifests itself through rapidly changing directions of foreign policy in relation to both allies and enemies.

Today in many regions of the world intensive integration processes are taking place, leading to formation of large regional systems with the features of competition between them, each being headed by a regional power (USA, EU, China, Russia, Brazil, India, South Africa etc.). States-subjects of the world political and geoeconomic system, previously neutral, are drawn into the sphere of attraction of the state which is the regional leader or otherwise, are forced to make a choice in favor of one of the competing blocs.

The previous studies by some scientists have analyzed the work of international institutions and structures, and there is a relatively common conclusion that these institutions are mostly ineffective, because of the actual lack of mechanisms to manage the new global political system (Martin, 2003; Kiss, 2014).

Thus, the global world of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century is an objectively existing phenomenon, fragmented into large geopolitical spaces – regional systems, closely interrelated and interdependent.

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## CONTAMPORARY GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT'S FACTORS

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