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DOI <https://doi.org/10.26661/2414-0287-2024-2-62-14>**ANALYSIS OF ASYMMETRY OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT:
THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS****Selishcheva A.V., Kovalenko A.V.***Zaporizhzhia National University
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ORCID: 0000-0001-8391-6636***Key words:**

global economy, asymmetry, development, factors, competitiveness, indicators, polarization.

The asymmetry of the development of the global economy, which is determined by the change of key players in the world market and their influence on the development of the world economy, is studied. To assess the degree of asymmetric development, certain factors are singled out: economic structure – a larger country or a country that enjoys a monopoly on certain resources can use them for its market power in order to obtain better trade conditions; political system – the global political system gives disproportionate power to several players; global institutions – the global rules of international organizations are equal in their desire to guarantee equality of rights among all countries; geopolitics – geopolitical rivalries can also lead to the formation of alternative economic and financial networks of ties that undermine multilateralism and ultimately lead to fragmentation. To assess and compare competitiveness at the global level, a rating system is used, which allows to distinguish advantages and disadvantages, to identify the weaknesses and strengths of players in the world market, as well as to determine ways to improve individual structural elements. It has been proven that the rating of global competitiveness to a certain extent demonstrates the internal imbalance of the country from the point of view of external evaluation compared to other participants of the world economy. The conducted analysis made it possible to ascertain the existence of a relationship between global competitiveness and asymmetry of development at the world level. After all, if a country has a level of competitiveness, it determines the features of polarization at the global level. In connection with the above, it is quite difficult for many developing countries to reach the level of development of leading countries, to increase their position and influence in the international economic system. In recent decades, this has been evidenced by signs of an increasing gap between the standard of living and the profitability of the economic activity of the leading countries of the world from all other economic systems.

**АНАЛІЗ АСИМЕТРІЇ ГЛОБАЛЬНОГО РОЗВИТКУ:
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глобальна економіка, асиметрія, розвиток, чинники, конкурентоспроможність, індикатори, поляризація.

Досліджено асиметрію розвитку глобальної економіки, що визначається зміною ключових гравців на світовому ринку та їх впливом на розвиток світової економіки. Для оцінки ступеня асиметричності розвитку виокремлено певні чинники: структура господарювання – більша країна або країна, яка користується монополією на певні ресурси, може використовувати їх для своєї ринкової влади, щоб отримати кращі умови торгівлі; політична система – глобальна політична система надає непропорційну владу кільком гравцям; глобальні інституції – глобальні правила міжнародних організацій є рівноправними щодо прагнення гарантувати рівність прав між усіма країнами; геополітика – геополітичне суперництво також може призвести до формування альтернативних економічних і фінансових мереж зв'язків, які порушують багатосторонність і в кінцевому підсумку призводять до

роздробленості. Для оцінки та порівняння конкурентоспроможності на глобальному рівні використано систему рейтингів, яка дозволяє виокремити переваги та недоліки, визначити слабкі та сильні сторони гравців на світовому ринку, а також визначити шляхи вдосконалення окремих структурних елементів. Доведено, що рейтинг глобальної конкурентоспроможності в певній мірі демонструє внутрішню розбалансованість в країні з точки зовнішньої оцінки порівняно з іншими учасниками світової економіки. На основі проведеного аналізу визначено, що на сучасному етапі розвитку економіки інтегрованість національних економік у глобальне середовище загострює проблеми асиметричності взаємозв'язків та взаємозалежності між елементами світової економіки. Проведений аналіз дозволив констатувати існування взаємозв'язку між глобальною конкурентоспроможністю та асиметрією розвитку на світовому рівні. Адже, якщо країна має рівень конкурентоспроможності визначає особливості поляризації на світовому рівні. У зв'язку з зазначеним для багатьох країн, які розвиваються, можливість досягнути рівня розвитку провідних країн, підвищити свої позиції та вплив у міжнародній економічній системі досить важко. В останні десятиріччя про це свідчать ознаки збільшення відриву життєвого рівня та прибутковості економічної діяльності провідних країн світу від усіх інших економічних систем.

Problem statement

At the current stage of economic development, the integration of national economies into world trends of global economic development exacerbates the problems of uneven development of different countries, asymmetric relationships and interdependence between elements of the world economy. The «big seven» countries control a significant part of the production and consumption of goods, services, the latest technologies and innovations, and even without the use of political and economic pressure, they have a decisive influence on the structure and volume of international trade in goods, services and technologies and the movement of capital.

And in our time, when the nature and structure of the trade balance, the country's involvement in international technological exchange determine its level of development and place in the global economic space, such states have unconditional advantages over another, more numerous, but less developed group of countries.

In connection with the strengthening of world economic trends, for many countries of the «second world», the opportunity to reach the level of development of leading countries, to qualitatively improve their place in the international economic system, is decreasing. In recent decades, this has been evidenced by signs of an increasing gap between the standard of living and the profitability of the economic activity of the leading countries of the world from all other economic systems.

Analysis of recent studies and publications

A significant number of works devoted to the asymmetry and imbalance of global development are presented in the scientific literature. Among foreign scientists, D. Geld and E. McGrew paid considerable attention to the issue of the relationship between globalization and asymmetric development of the world economy [1]. Global asymmetries of economic development were studied by Ukrainian scientists, including: Stolyarchuk Y.M. [2], Z. Lutsyshin, N. Kravchuk [3-4], V. Z. Zapukhlyak, L. T. Herman [5],

A. M. Kolot [6], O. G. Belorus, Lukyanenko D. G. [7] and others.

Highlighting previously unsolved parts of the overall problem

Today's realities demonstrate a significant polarization of the world economy and asymmetric development, which is confirmed by a significant number of theoretical and practical research by scientists. However, the mentioned issue requires in-depth research from the point of view of asymmetric changes in the world economy.

Objectives of the article

The main goal of this work is to study the theoretical and practical foundations of the asymmetry of global development and to highlight the consequences for the development of world economies.

The main material of the research

The national economy within the framework of the world economy and international economic relations at the end of the 20th century. – at the beginning of the XXI century. was characterized by the asymmetry of its condition and development. This was primarily reflected in the increase of inequality between them. Market reforms in the transition economies of the post-Soviet countries contributed to the strengthening of asymmetry in states and the development of national economies around the world. The systemic transformational crisis of the 90s of the 20th century, both quantitatively and qualitatively changed the place of the post-Soviet countries in the world, pushing them far back. The successful development of the Chinese economy against the background of the transformational crisis of the economies of the post-Soviet countries also increases the asymmetry of the world economy. Even within individual, especially large multinational countries (India and others), the homogeneity of the economy is practically absent and there is an asymmetry in its development. This also applies to a sustainable regional community such as the European Union.

In recent decades, structural changes in the world economy have significantly changed the role of innovations in the economic development of countries. The successful development of any company or government, as well as their prosperity in competition, are inextricably linked to new inventions – innovations and their constant implementation. Despite notable progress in developing countries in recent decades, they currently lag far behind developed countries. At the same time, developed countries are losing their advantages under the influence of endogenous and exogenous factors.

The United States maintains its pretensions to be the world’s leading power, as first among equals. Therefore, the dialogue on equality between the US and the EU, which the Europeans so desire, will be based exclusively on interdependence, that is, interdependence, and involves an asymmetric distribution of forces. Despite a unified internal market and an existing legal framework, member states have problems in coordinated action and tend to adopt protectionist measures. These remedies operate against the interests of other countries outside the EU. In terms of soft power and economics, Europe has a lot to offer, but it is not enough to create a symmetrical relationship or a partnership between equals. Various studies show that the political and economic importance of Europe will be reduced. This fact leads to demographic changes and the shift of the economic center of gravity to Asia.

In support of the above argument, the predetermination theorem can be cited. According to the terms of this theorem, competition between two countries is considered in two directions: economic and social efficiency. One country leads in the first direction, another in the second. This situation determines the following mechanism of competition between two countries that follow a symmetrical strategy: one of them seeks to preserve its advantages in terms of economic efficiency, while at the same time trying to catch up with its competitors in terms of social achievements; the other is an attempt to fix its social model of leadership in the economic sphere. Thus, each country carries out large-scale borrowing from its opponent.

The realities of economic existence testify to the deepening asymmetry of the development of the global economy, which is determined by the change of key players in the world market and their influence on the development of the world economy.

Asymmetry includes certain factors (Fig. 1).

Note that the factors indicated in fig. 1 can be used to identify and assess the degree of asymmetry of development

and evaluate. Let us consider in more detail the influence of asymmetry factors:

- economic structures. A larger country or a country that enjoys a monopoly on certain resources can use them for its market power to obtain better terms of trade from its partners. This is the logic of optimal trade – a large country can obtain benefits of trade protection that are not available to a small country. Increasing profits and the resulting effects of agglomeration are other motives for the emergence of asymmetry;

- political system. Leadership matters because some roles, such as the role of issuer of international currency, cannot be distributed in proportion to the economic weight of each country, and the global system gives disproportionate power to a few players. There may be competition for key roles – there may be, for example, more than one international currency, or there may be two or three regulators competing to define the global standard;

- global institutions. Global rules based on agreements of international organizations are egalitarian in that they seek to guarantee equality of rights between all countries. The WTO’s global dispute settlement mechanism, for example, helps to reduce the natural asymmetry between Tunisia and the US, although it obviously does not eliminate the imbalance of market power between them. But power can be distributed in different ways within international organizations;

- geopolitics. Leadership positions in the global system are achieved through structures, political roles, or influence on institutions and take on a different meaning when they are aimed at serving geopolitical goals. Instead of primarily bringing economic benefits, they become tools of the struggle for power. Geopolitical rivalries can also lead to the formation of alternative economic and financial networks of connections that undermine multilateralism and ultimately lead to a fragmented world.

Based on the identified factors, it is possible to trace the evolution observed from the 1970s to the 2020s (Table 1).

However, the contradictions and asymmetries of global economic development have one very important aspect – it is a source of constant progress of the world economic system. From this point of view, the significant functions of the asymmetry of economic development are:

- distributive – determining the parameters of the distribution of the social product);
- differentiating – separating producers and consumers;

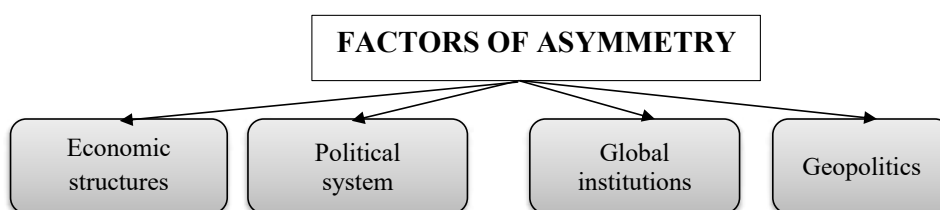


Figure 1 – Factors of asymmetry

Source: built by the authors based on [8]

Table 1 – Asymmetries and symmetries over five decades

Indexes	1970s Core-periphery	2000 year Globalization	2020s Polarization
Economic structure	Asymmetric core-periphery pattern	The second disaggregation: a flat world	The return of asymmetry (GVC, finance, data)
Political system	Dollar-oriented fixed exchange rate system	Greater national autonomy through a floating (but dominant currency paradigm)	Drift towards monetary and financial multipolarity
Global institutions	Multilaterality the rich	More often including institutions	Further inclusivity, but weakening multilateralism
Geopolitics	Opponent, weak interconnected economic spheres	Unipolar moment	Growing rivalry, tendency to armament economic power

Source: grouped by authors based on [8]

Table 2 – Ukraine's place in the world competitiveness rating

Indicator	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Place in the rating	56	54	50	59	59	60	59	54	59	54

Source: compiled by the authors based on: [9-11]

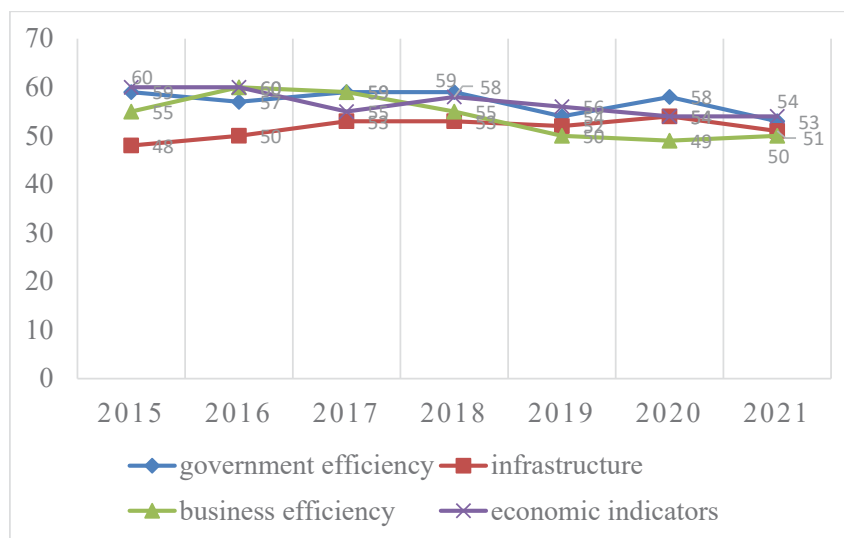


Figure 2 – Components of the competitiveness rating for Ukraine

Source: built by the authors based on [9-11]

– integrative-disintegrative – integration of isolated systems into a single economic system and destruction of old ones;

– stimulating-destimulating – simultaneous stimulation and limitation of economic growth) functions.

Note that the concept of «asymmetry» in the global economy is applied to the analysis of countries that differ in terms of territory size, level of socio-economic development, geopolitical position, etc. Based on the analysis of the asymmetry of global development, groups of countries are singled out and classified as center, periphery, semi-periphery, that is, the degree of polarization is determined as a tendency to build a multipolar system.

An important consequence of asymmetric development is the global competitiveness index, which allows one to assess the level of internal balance of the country and compare it with other participants in the external environment.

To assess and compare competitiveness at the global level, a rating system is used, which makes it possible to single out advantages and disadvantages, identify the weaknesses and strengths of players on the world market, and also determine ways to improve individual structural elements.

It should be emphasized that the rating of global competitiveness to a certain extent demonstrates the internal imbalance in the country from the point of view of external evaluation compared to other participants of the world economy.

In order to improve the directions of state policy and objectively assess the country’s opportunities on the world market, it is necessary to ensure systematic monitoring of the competitiveness of the national economy

Let us consider the changes in Ukraine’s position in the global competitiveness rating for the period 2012-2021 (Table 2). In 2022-2023, the specified indicator was not calculated due to military operations and the impossibility of providing an objective assessment. Note that in

2021, Ukraine took 54th position among 64 countries in the global competitiveness rating and reached the level of 2013. In the previous year, Ukraine was 5 positions higher.

In our opinion, in order to determine the directions of development to improve positions in the competitiveness rating, it is advisable to consider the elemental structure of the specified indicator (Fig. 2).

The analysis of the elements of the global competitiveness index of Ukraine for 2012-2021 indicates an insufficient level of development of the economic component (54th position in the «economic indicators» component). At the same time, «business efficiency» shows the best result – 50th position in the rating.

Conclusions and suggestions

Based on the research, it can be concluded that at the current stage of economic development, the integration

of national economies into the global environment exacerbates the problems of asymmetric relationships and interdependence between elements of the world economy.

The conducted analysis allows us to state the existence of a relationship between global competitiveness and asymmetry of development at the world level. After all, if a country has a level of competitiveness, it determines the features of polarization at the global level. In connection with the above, it is quite difficult for many developing countries to reach the level of development of leading countries, to increase their position and influence in the international economic system. In recent decades, this has been evidenced by signs of an increasing gap between the standard of living and the profitability of the economic activity of the leading countries of the world from all other economic systems.

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