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## Article

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# Unification of Economic Systems in the Global Economy: Barriers and Preconditions

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the article is to determine barriers and preconditions for reducing the differences in the level of development in the global economy's countries and to develop recommendations for solving the problem of the global economy's economic systems unification.

In order to determine the gap between developed and developing countries, the authors use the comparative analysis method. In order to determine possibilities, problems, perspectives, and threats to overcoming the gap by developing countries, the authors use the SWOT-analysis method. For studying the global economy's economic development disproportions, this research uses specially developed proprietary analysis of gap depth in economic development.

As a result of the analysis, the authors determined that the level of economic development of the most developed countries exceeds the level of developing countries by more than four times. This reflects a huge gap depth and a high level of differentiation for countries in the global economy.

The authors conclude that barriers of unification of economic systems in the global economy are primarily related to socio-political factors. Preconditions to reducing the difference in level of economic development for countries in the global economy are predetermined by the influence of globalization and international integration of economic systems.

## KEY WORDS:

Problem of Unification, Economic System, Global Economy, Economic Development Disproportions

## JEL Classification: F63

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## Introduction

It is difficult to overestimate the actuality of the studying the problem of unification of economic system.

The global economy's change in polarity after the

breakup of the Soviet Union increased the gap between Northern American and Central European developed countries and the rest of the world, i.e., a large group of African and post-Soviet developing countries.

Among developing countries, there are many economic systems that develop very quickly and create separate categories of countries, including NIC, BRICS, etc. They cannot be considered to be developed countries yet, but in the near future they can reach this

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level or even exceed it. These countries are the most perspective players in the system of modern international economic relations, and their economic state is the most predictable.

At a first glance, it may seem that such structure of the global economy is normal. In macro-economic research, the system that is built according to the pyramid principle (with a massive foundation from the least secured groups of the population at the bottom, a narrower middle part comprised of a population with medium welfare, and small top represented by the elite of a society with the highest level of income) is, as a rule, considered to be the model.

Stability of the macro-economic pyramid is ensured by means of low socio-economic mobility of population and high level of securing a social position with various categories of economic subjects. However, on a global scale, social lift works faster because with the reduction of living standards, citizens of the least developed countries strive into developed countries, which strengthens migration flows.

As a result, developing countries lose their most valuable human resources, which required state budget assets to develop. This loss reduces their capability for economic development. On the other hand, developed countries receive a lot of refugees without money and knowledge of the language, which increases the size of the population of marginal groups and reduces the population's living standards.

The concept of economic development does not presume reducing the developed countries' living standards, which will lead to stagnation of the global economy, but increase of living standards in developing countries for overcoming the gap between these categories of countries and achieving relatively even global economic growth. On the one hand, developed countries are interested in keeping their competitive positions and preserving their advantage of an elite position in the global economy. On the other hand, mass migration negatively influences their economic development and motivates them to support developing countries.

Despite the gravity of the global economic system's situation and the necessity for a solution, which all members of international economy realize, there are no working methods for overcoming the growing gap between developed and developing countries. The pur-

pose of this article is to determine barriers and preconditions to reducing the differences in the level of economic development in the global economy's countries and to develop recommendations for solving the problem of the global economy's economic systems unification.

## Literature review

Many modern authors have studied and researched the issue of the global economy's economic disparity by analyzing economic systems' existing vectors and growth poles; determining the global economy's causes and consequences of unequal development; and comparing the economic systems' possibilities and conditions for development (Bhanumurthy & Singh, 2013; Bozkurt, Erdem, & Eroğlu, 2015; Caporale & Spagnolo, 2012). The disproportions of economic development are a difference between the rate of economic growth and living standards in various countries (Gehring, 2014). They emerge due to different geographical conditions and cultural traditions, a difference in methods of economic activities, and various approaches to conducting business, etc. (Jahfer & Inoue, 2014). These disproportions negatively influence the most and the least developed countries (Al Mamun & Sohag, 2015). There are ongoing studies analyzing the possibility for increasing the rate of economic growth and its qualitative transformation by reducing the expansion of exhaustible resources, and shutting down ecologically unsafe industrial produced, developed, and manufactured innovative products and services (González-Pernía & Peña-Legazkue, 2015; Leonida, Patti, Marini, & Navarra, 2015; Odhiambo, 2015; Pogosov, 2015; Popkova, Yurev, Stepicheva, & Denisov, 2015b; Bartolini & Sarracino, 2015; Zeira & Zoabi, 2015; etc.).

Economic growth is one of the most important indicators of an economic system's development (Choi & Shin, 2015). It reflects the volume of national production in dynamics and comparison with other countries of the world (Lee & Oh, 2015). Economic growth is a method for overcoming the gap of the least economically developed countries (Castiglione, Infante, & Smirnova, 2015).

Additionally, there is current research into the reasons for developed countries' domination in the global economic system; evolution of their formation, mov-

ing forces, and conditions of their development today; peculiarities of state management, social specifics, and character of business activities and innovational activities; and the role of developed countries in activities of international organizations and efforts to reduce the gap between them and developing countries (Chechina & Sultanova, 2016; Fan, Cui, Li, & Zhu, 2015; Gevorkyan & Semmler, 2015; Kandil, 2016; Sekine, 2015 etc.). In the modern global economy, the most developed countries are in Western Europe and the USA (Tsenkov, 2015) because their population's have the greatest inclination for implementating innovations and a high regard for the entrepreneurial spirit (Anderson, Sutherland, Severe, 2015).

Oddly, state management in the most developed countries stimulates free competition, which is considered to be a source of economic growth and development (Popkova, Abramov, & Chechina, 2015a).

There is also research into the possibilities of developing countries' economic growth; reasons and perspectives of overcoming the gap between them; structure of their economic systems; level of their involvement in integration and globalizing processes in modern global economy; the relationship between state and business structures; methods for attracting investments; and approaches to diversifying an economy (Chen & Chen, 2015; Dowlah, 2015; Dögl & Behnam, 2015; Kuruppu & Willie, 2015; Regmi, 2015). Many developing countries possess huge natural and human resources, which creates conditions for their successful development (Sarmiento Espinel, Silva Arias & Van Gameraen, 2015). However, the level of entrepreneurial and innovational activity in these countries is rather low (Dube & Sivakumar, 2015). The state strives to realize protectionist policies and monopolize the economy in these countries (Jeníček & Grofová, 2015).

Nevertheless, despite large interest in the problem of unification of economic systems in the global economy, its solution has not yet been found. This leaves a space for further research in this sphere that should not be theoretical, but rather applicable in nature. This research should also be aimed at searching for mechanisms to reduce the level of differentiation of economic development of various countries in the global economy and develop perspective models for activating developing countries' economic growth.

## Method

In order to determine the gap between developed and developing countries, this paper uses the comparative analysis method. For determining possibilities, problems, perspectives, and threats to developing countries' overcoming the gap, the SWOT-analysis method is used. For studying the global economy's economic development disproportions, this research uses a specially developed proprietary method of analysis of gap depth in economic development.

Within this method, several of the most typical systems for each of three categories of countries (in this article, three countries of each category was selected in order to stay within the limits of the scientific article) are selected, and the most significant indicators of their economic development are viewed:

- growth rate of national GDP;
- structure of GDP;
- volume of investments into the economy;
- share of innovational products in structure of national production; and
- migration flows (number of emigrant and immigrants).

It is assumed that these indicators show the difference between developed and developing countries, and these indicators are accessible as reflected in international statistical data.

The selected methods are used to classify countries in the international economy. It is acknowledged that developed countries have a post-industrial GDP structure (domination of the service sphere), low rate of GDP growth, substantial volume of investments into the economy, high rate of innovational products, and positive migration flow (number of immigrants is higher than the number of emigrants).

Developing countries are characterized by industrial GDP structure (domination of industry), high growth rates of GDP, low share of innovational products, and positive migration flow (number of emigrants is larger than the number of immigrants). Large volumes of investments into the economy characterize the leading developing countries, and the underdeveloped countries are characterized by zero volume or even outflow of investments.

In the process of analysis of statistical information in the current state and dynamics of the given indica-

tors, regularities peculiar for each of the selected category of countries are determined. On the basis of these regularities, the system of scales for three categories of countries is developed.

After that, the received values in scales are compared, and the ratio of the largest value to the smallest one is found, and depth of the gap between countries as to all indicators is determined. Finally, the economic disproportion index (EDI) is calculated as an average of all the indicators. Correspondingly, the larger the index means the stronger the level of disproportion of economic development of the global economy's countries.

## Results

Using the developed proprietary method to study gap depth in economic development of developed as well as quickly and slowly developing countries, we will look at the developed countries of the USA, Norway, and Sweden; India, China, and the United Arab Emirates for the quickly developing countries; and Brazil, Russia, and South Africa for the slowly developing countries, which lag behind the most. These countries are selected based on their ranking of prosperity in the world in 2014 (Legatum Institute, 2015). Results of analysis of economic development of the selected countries are given in Tables 1-3.

Based on the data of Tables 1-3, it is possible to conclude that the highest rate of economic growth, more than 4% per year, is peculiar for quickly developing countries, which helped determine their name. Developed countries show an average national GDP rate of growth at 1.2% - 4% per year. The slowly developing countries, which lag behind, show the smallest rate of growth at less than 1.2% per year.

In developed countries, the service sphere accounts for 65% - 80% and determines their international production specialization, while quickly developing countries specialize in industrial production and their share of service sector accounts for 30%-45%. The slowly developing countries, which lag behind, have increased their volume in the service sphere, but still cannot reach the level of developed countries.

Developed countries have the largest investment attractiveness, and the volume of investments into these countries constitutes more than \$700 billion. For example, in the USA, this indicator was \$2,000 billion in 2014. Developing countries are ranked second for in-

vestment attractiveness, and they receive \$300-700 billion of investments annually. Underdeveloped countries pose less interest for investors and, as a result, this leads to a \$300 billion per year level of investments into these countries.

Share of innovational products in the structure of GDP of developed countries is the largest and constitutes more than 15%; in quickly developing countries it constitutes 4-10%; and it is less than 4% in underdeveloped countries. Developed countries received more than 10,000 immigrants annually, and less than 4,000 people emigrated. Quickly developing countries received 4,000-10,000 people annually, and more than 10,000 people emigrated.

This is due to the fact that quick level of development predetermines increase of birth rate of population, which leads to overpopulation. In underdeveloped countries, incoming migration flow constitutes less than 4,000 people annually, and outgoing flow comprised of 4,000-10,000 people. Based on this data, a combined table is compiled that reflects gap depth between different categories of countries for viewed indicators, (Table 4).

Calculation of economic disproportion index for the global economy in 2014 looks as follows:  $EDI = (4 + 5 + 7 + 7 + 3 + 3) / 6 = 4$ . The received value of index shows that the level of economic development of the most developed countries exceeds the level of underdeveloped countries by more than four times. It shows huge gap depth and a high level of differentiation of the global economy's countries. The gap between developed and developing countries is shown in Table 5. The most important barriers of unification of economic systems in the global economy are the following:

- deep socio-cultural development, leading to different attitudes to business, different levels of perceiving innovations, etc.;
- orientation at overcoming the development path for the purpose of achieving the level of developed countries instead of searching for its own innovational economic development path;
- lack of investments for realizing innovational projects; and
- lack of stimuli for developing national production due to a policy of protectionism and low level of competition in a relatively closed national economy.

**Table 1.** Analysis of economic development of developed countries

Indicators	Developed countries		
	USA	Norway	Switzerland
Growth rate of national GDP, %	2.4	1.8	1.3
Share of industry/Share of service sphere in GDP	20/80=0.25	20/75=0.26	34/65=0.52
Volume of investments into economy, \$ billion	2,093	63	307
Share of innovational products in structure of national production, %	35	14	12
Number of immigrants, thousand people	45	0.7	9
Number of emigrants, thousand people	3	0.2	3

Source: Adapted from "Ranking of countries as to the rates of growth of GDP in 2014" by NoNews (2015). Retrieved from <http://non-ews.co/directory/lists/countries/gdp-temp>; "Ranking of countries as to volume of direct foreign investments in 2014"; by Yes!travel (2015). Retrieved from [http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock\\_of\\_direct\\_foreign\\_investment\\_at\\_home\\_rank\\_order/](http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock_of_direct_foreign_investment_at_home_rank_order/)

**Table 2.** Analysis of economic development of quickly developing countries

Indicators	Quickly developing countries		
	India	China	UAE
Growth rate of national GDP, %	5.6	7.4	4.3
Share of industry/Share of service sphere in GDP	30/50=0.60	45/45=1.00	60/40=1.50
Volume of investments into economy, \$ billion	96	759	44
Share of innovational products in structure of national production, %	5	20	7
Number of immigrants, thousand people	5	0.8	8
Number of emigrants, thousand people	14	10	0.1

Source: Adapted from "Ranking of countries as to the rates of growth of GDP in 2014" by NoNews (2015). Retrieved from <http://non-ews.co/directory/lists/countries/gdp-temp>; "Ranking of countries as to volume of direct foreign investments in 2014"; by Yes!travel (2015). Retrieved from [http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock\\_of\\_direct\\_foreign\\_investment\\_at\\_home\\_rank\\_order/](http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock_of_direct_foreign_investment_at_home_rank_order/)

**Table 3.** Analysis of economic development of underdeveloped countries

Indicators	Underdeveloped countries		
	Brazil	Russia	South Africa
Growth rate of national GDP, %	0.3	0.5	1.4
Share of industry/Share of service sphere in GDP	30/65=0.46	30/60=0.46	25/65=0.38
Volume of investments into economy, \$ billion	248	272	93
Share of innovational products in structure of national production, %	4	3	2
Number of immigrants, thousand people	0.6	11	2
Number of emigrants, thousand people	1.7	11	0.7

Source: Adapted from "Ranking of countries as to the rates of growth of GDP in 2014" by NoNews (2015). Retrieved from <http://non-ews.co/directory/lists/countries/gdp-temp>; "Ranking of countries as to volume of direct foreign investments in 2014"; by Yes!travel (2015). Retrieved from [http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock\\_of\\_direct\\_foreign\\_investment\\_at\\_home\\_rank\\_order/](http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock_of_direct_foreign_investment_at_home_rank_order/)

**Table 4.** Combined table for determining the gap between levels of economic development of countries from different categories

Indicators	Countries			Gap
	Developed	Quickly developing	Underdeveloped	
Growth rate of national GDP, %	1.2-4	>4	<1.2	4
Share of industry/Share of service sphere in GDP	0.25-0.37	0.50-1.00	0.38-0.49	5
Volume of investments into economy, \$ billion	>700	300-700	<300	7
Share of innovational products in structure of national production, %	>15	4-15	<4	7
Number of immigrants, thousand people	>10	4-10	<4	3
Number of emigrants, thousand people	<4	>10	4-10	3

Source: Adapted from "Ranking of countries as to the rates of growth of GDP in 2014" by NoNews (2015). Retrieved from <http://non-ews.co/directory/lists/countries/gdp-temp>; "Ranking of countries as to volume of direct foreign investments in 2014", by Yes!travel (2015). Retrieved from [http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock\\_of\\_direct\\_foreign\\_investment\\_at\\_home\\_rank\\_order/](http://www.yestravel.ru/world/rating/stock_of_direct_foreign_investment_at_home_rank_order/)

**Table 5.** Gap between developed and developing countries

Criterion of comparison	Developed countries	Developing countries
Leading sphere of economy	Service sphere	Industry
Role in industrial production process	Development of production, creation of technologies, production management	Direct manufacture of industrial products
Production factors based on an economy's functioning	Human capital, investment resources, entrepreneurial capability	Cheap workforce, cheap and abundant natural resources
Level of development of institutional and infrastructural basis	Advanced institutions and infrastructure	Underdeveloped institutions and infrastruce
Level of investment attractiveness of an economy	High level of investment attractiveness of an economy	Low level of investment attractiveness of an economy

Preconditions for reducing the level of economic development differentiation of the global economy's countries are the following:

- reduction of socio-cultural differences and transition to the policy of free-trading in the process of globalization;
- announcement of the course for building an innovation-oriented economy in developing countries; and

- strengthening capital flow from developed countries into developing ones under the influence of integration processes in the global economy.

Recommendations for solving the issue of unification of economic systems in the global economy are the following:

- development of the population's competencies through changing the existing educational pro-



**Table 6.** SWOT-analysis results for overcoming developing countries' underperformance

Capabilities of developing countries in the sphere of economic growth	Problems of economic growth of developing countries
Availability of accessible natural resources	Society's inadaptability for market conditions of economy
Cheap workforce	Lack of investment resources
Unexhausted potential for development	Low-competitive business environment
Perspectives of overcoming the developing countries' underperformance	Threats to overcoming developing countries' underperformance
Social changes under the influence of globalization of the world economy	Termination of social adaptation due to reducing process integration
Attraction of investments by means of creating a favorable investment climate	Inefficiency of measures to increase investment attractiveness
Development of business as a result of state support	Without support and market stimuli, business will not develop

grams and under the conditions of an innovation-oriented market economy;

- stimulation of development of innovational business through a simplified system of business registration, financial accounting and state financing for creating innovational startups; and
- creation of a favorable tax regime and provision of state guarantees for investors to attract foreign investments in order to realize innovational projects in developing countries.

Table 6. shows how the SWOT-analysis results demonstrate the developing countries' underperformance and how they can overcome it by realizing the given tendencies

## Conclusion

As a result of comparative analysis of economic development of developed countries, quickly developing countries, and underdeveloped countries, it was determined that the countries' level of development in the various categories differs by four times, which demonstrates a high differentiation of economic systems in the global economy.

The gap between developed and developing countries consists in their differences in their roles in the production process. Developed countries create technologies and produce management. On the other hand, developing countries are involved in the direct manufacture of industrial production and, as a result, take ecological risks and environmental losses by placing hazardous industries on the territory.

The developed countries' economy functions thanks to human capital, investment resources, and business capabilities; whereas, developing countries' economy is based on a cheap workforce and natural resources. Moreover, the developed countries have advanced institutions and infrastructure as well as are attractive for investments but developing countries are not as attractive for investments.

Barriers for unification of economic systems in the global economy are primarily caused by socio-political factors. The influence of globalization and the international integration of economic systems will help reduce the differentiation of the level of economic development of the global economy's countries. In order to resolve the issue of economic systems unification in the global economy, developing countries must acti-



vate their market processes, stimulate business development, and attract foreign investments.

As the results of the SWOT-analysis in overcoming the developing countries' underperformance demonstrate, the most important means of solving the problem of the global economy's economic systems unification is to institute effective state policies and develop their internal potential to create and grow innovative businesses.

The conducted research's results are limited by the reviewed criteria and countries selected for comparative analysis in the various categories, which could be a reason for not determining all of the peculiarities for developed, quickly developing, and underdeveloped countries. Further research may be developed by conducting a more complex and systemic analysis of the disproportions of the global economy's development.

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