

Introduction

This issue of the «*Outlines of Global Transformations*» taps on the problem of interaction between the state and big transnational businesses in present-day global economy. This topic is comprehensive and virtually rich. It can be viewed both from the prospective of globalization, and from the standpoint of the advancing regionalization. That is why in some ways the current issue follows up the previous issue – «Global economy on its way to regionalization» (№ 4. 2017).

This time around the authoring team focused on the issues of globalization. Nowadays optimistic anticipations fuelled by the triumph of globalization have much abated as compared the late 20th century when this complex economic and socio-political development was hailed as an earnest of civilization's accelerated progress. Sceptics started talking of inevitable archaization and the advent of «Neo-Medievalism». But is this despondency expressed by some of the intellectuals in relation to global deceleration in economic growth and non-uniformity of scientific and technological progress that well founded?

The articles within this issue attest to more prudent estimates. It could be epigraphed by the title of B.A.Heifetz's article «Globalization does not end up, it just becomes different». This article shows that slowdown of globalization processes is temporal and centers mostly around traditional resources. At the same time the new stage of globalization is driven

by Internet technologies, 3D printing, robotization, renewable energy sources, etc. They basically change the idea of rational location of the production and cut the transnational corporations' need for transportation of traditional commodities and some forms of foreign investments. As a result serious redesign of some established value networks might take place in the future.

Despite the tradition of economic determinism, strengthening of transnational corporations hardly leads to dilution of political sovereignty and diminishing of national state's authority. Those two elements – transnational corporations and the state – reside in a state of dynamic equilibrium. The role of business in transforming the world's political organization is described in the article by M.M. Lebedeva and M.V. Harkevich.

Several articles deal with the influence of transnational corporations on global and regional economic processes. For example, the article by S.A. Afontsev shows that liberalization of foreign direct investments continued during the entire port-crisis era – even in the years when protectionist sentiments kept growing in the area of international commerce regulation. Furthermore it became apparent that strengthening of world politics state actors' role in the context of sanction wars and other conflict manifestations in foreign affairs increasingly forces business interests onto the backburner. The article by E.N. Nikitina attempts to investigate the influence of ongoing fundamen-

tal changes in the Arctic region (global warming, socio-economic and institutional transformations) on Arctic internalization and transnational corporations' activities in Arctic nations' polar areas, as well as the specifics of corporate social responsibility in the Arctic region.

Ya.M. Mirkin and K.M. Lebedeva reveal steady interdependencies between the world's financial markets and the way their underlying cause-effect mechanisms are related to global transformations. Their article showcases a high-level interdependence of Russia's and Brazil's financial markets, as well as other emergent markets of Latin America (through the example of shareholding and national currencies). The analyses of yet another important issue of transnationalization following a specific country's example is presented in the article by K. Liuhto. Considering the example of two large scale foreign investment failures by Finnish state-controlled companies he brings up an issue that is relevant to Russia – effective management in state-owned transnational corporations as compared to more conventional transnational corporations.

Needless to say the growing role of “shadow economy” addressed in the article by A.I. Efomova and usually overlooked by transnational corporations' researchers also deserves attention. Shadow economy issue is related to the subject of Republic of Cyprus economic development dealt with in the article by Yu.D. Kvashnin. The author comes to an important conclusion that the island's economical growth in early 21st century against the backdrop of «deoffshorization» process was propelled mostly by one temporal factor, that is by economic expansion in Russia itself.

As many as three articles in the issue are dedicated to Russian problems. For instance, O.V. Kuznetsova considers strengths and limitations of the whole

variety of state policy tools for attracting foreign direct investments to Russian Far East. Herewith the author showcased that preferential regimes established in Russian Far East have attracted mostly national, not foreign investors. Case study of transnational tourism corporations' activities in Russia carried out by I.B. Orlov and V.E. Abelinskaite reveals the upside and the downside of their interaction with Russian businesses and authorities. Thereat the article by those authors starts from the analyses of a more fundamental issue – the description of international tourism as a specific manifestation of globalization in the second half of 20th century and early 21st century. The article by A.S. Chetverikova and Yu.A. Baronina delves into a non-typical aspect of bilateral trade and economic relations, providing a detailed study of interterritorial cooperation exemplified by relations between Russia and France. Different forms of such interaction are considered, as well as their dynamics and prospects in current political and economic conditions. The description of Russian regions notable for the integrity of their French relations is given, first of all of Kaluga region that has attracted much foreign investment.

Such a broad-scale interest to Russian circumstances is for a reason, as true understanding of the direction of global economics transformation is important not only to find out which of the rivaling schools of thought is right. First of all, it is important to clear up this issue to find more effective tools to sanitize national and economic body of our own country.

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