

Globalization and Transformation of the Nation State

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Abstract—Some contrastive approaches, which are presented in the social science literature on the analysis of processes proceeding within the framework of globalization, are featured in this article. At the same time some peculiarities of the impact of the globalization on society's social, political, economic and other spheres, as well as the issues of transformation of the nation state as a result of it, are discussed. In the conclusion it is stated that the globalization processes inevitably transform traditional institution of state which causes both new challenges and new possibilities.

Keywords—globalization, security, nation state, information, technology.

I. INTRODUCTION

21ST century's changeable processes are characterized by big transformations encompassing all the spheres of life, in which overall integration and unprecedented development of the information sphere are the objective preconditions for both consolidation and separation of humanity's spiritual and material potential.

There is an opinion spread in the expert community that merging of the local societies into one so called "megasociety" is taking place. What is meant here is absolutely new type of social organization, which is based on a widespread use of computer and information technologies.

It should be mentioned that globalization is a global process of economic, political and cultural multilateral integration and unification, which can be described as process of interweaving of economies of separate countries. At this grounds the formation of common global network market economy and weakening of sovereignty of nation-states are taking place.

II. ANALYSIS OF GLOBALIZATION

It should be underlined that in modern society several approaches to the analysis of globalization and its processes were formed. Y. Volkov and A. Lubski mention: "On the whole the intellectual world has been divided into two camps. According to the adherents of one camp globalization includes several aspects: mental, or cultural-ideological, territorial,

economic, information and communication, ethical as well as organizational (we mean here the activity of the so-called Global government). The main content of the current stage of globalization is uniting of the world, ending of the formation of common global Ego and the final goal is to put an end to wars and to any geopolitical confrontation. The representatives of the other camp, those who oppose the globalization, state that on practice globalization transforms into total spiritual and intellectual slavery, authoritarianism and loss of national identity. Some academicians consider globalization as the "age of chaos", "new world disorder" [1]. Here the observation by S. Silvestrov is worth quoting that the globalization is characterized as "...irreversible process, doom of the world progress; globalization can be neither good, nor bad" [2].

Continuing to present the observations of the supporters and adversaries of globalization the observations by V. Lisichkin and L. Shelepin are worth mentioning. According to them globalization is used as a kind of "camouflage" for global dictatorship [3]. On the other hand in the opinion of E. Azroyants globalization, as such, is a goal of the historical process. Its turnover is conditioned by the opposition of the integration and disintegration tendencies. The current stage of globalization process can be characterized as the stage of internationalization [4].

According to P. Hertz and G. Thompson the radical version of globalization tends to dismantle the policy-makers and hamper the strategic approaches to the management of national economies. Such judgments are unequivocally correct in respect to the discussions concerning "international competitiveness" [5].

In the scholar literature you can also meet a little different explanations of the globalization as phenomenon. Thus, according to M. Orlov the first approach to globalization is formulated by the result of a new quality of economic relations. According to this approach globalization is an intensification of the economic development, which has a positive impact on other spheres of public life. The tendency of time and space compression and centralization is a new phenomenon, which acts as a factor of revolutionary productiveness of economy. In this respect, in order to understand globalization, constructive qualitative changes in the aspect of scientific and technological progress, strengthening of democracy, human wellbeing, increasing of their cultural level, etc. are critical [6].

According to other point of view, globalization is a

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destruction of traditional political order, which is based on principles of state sovereignty and national and cultural integration. The representatives of this group are mostly concerned by intensive weakening of traditional means of political guidance and vacuum of the authority caused by it. As a result world begins to develop by itself, “avoiding” attempts of fixing and directing them. Thus, W. Beck within the framework of his “risk society” conception, characterized globalization as a process of de-politicization and disarrangement of societies [7].

Of course globalization would not be possible without tremendous upgrowth in technologies, first of all in the sphere of electronics, communication and transport. Fast development of microprocessors technologies, digital technologies and means of communication should especially be underlined. In consequence necessary conditions for the formation of global information environment came forward. On the international scale the technological progress has considerably reduced the price of information accumulation, processing and transferring, which cannot but have its impact on the rates of economic growth. Cutting of distances and fast information transfer influenced the essence of the authority relations both inside the states and on the international level. The audience has an opportunity to follow the events in real time, to become a part of them. In general uniting of computer capabilities with telecommunication networks “compresses” time and space, reduces the significance of the state borders and gives the individuals some feeling of communicating with some global community, joining it [8].

There is no doubt that under the current globalization process the economic factor is of key value. As V. Kirakosyan mentions “Globalization is more than formation of global economy. The later implies inclusion of the country in the international labor division, world trade and financial systems” [9]. At the same time, economic globalization gradually forms such a common economic system which can work in real-time mode and throughout the entire world. It is featured by both increasing level of interrelatedness of economies and higher speed of turnover of the capital, technologies, goods and services throughout the borders. According to observation of Sh. Sahakyan, “in consequence of integration and globalization the world has turned into a global market. Supranational companies approach the world from this stance, considering it as a single whole, as one market, though real life dictates other rules and approaches” [10].

The observation made by celebrated American political scientist H. Kissinger concerning the impact globalization has on economy is characteristic: “For the first time in history emphasizes, a single worldwide economic system has come into being. Markets in every continent interact continuously. Communications enable capital to respond instantaneously to new opportunities or to lowered expectations. Sophisticated credit instruments provide unprecedented liquidity. Globalization has encouraged an explosion of wealth and a rate of technological advance no previous epoch could ever

imagine. And by passing growth on interdependence, globalization has served to undermine the role of the nation-state as the sole determinant of a society's well-being-though this is far less true in the United States than in many other regions” [11].

It is worth mentioning that the process of globalization can be observed not only in economic, communication or cultural spheres but it can be felt in social and political sphere either.

Well-known American sociologist I. Wallerstien created world capitalist system theory, according to which the core countries (the so-called “golden billion”) dominate over semi-periphery and periphery countries, dictate them policy which is profitable for them first of all in the sphere of economy and oppose bringing others into their fold. But, according to him, “...this is not that of an already established, newly globalized world with clear rules. Rather we are located in age of transition, transition not merely of a few backward countries who need to catch up with the spirit of globalization, but a transition in which the entire capitalist world system will be transformed into something else. The future, far from being inevitable and one to which there is no alternative, is being determined in this transition that has an extremely uncertain outcome” [12].

While speaking about global social changes, first and foremost, it should be accepted that over the last decades the loss of most part of the social reality, the so-called “second world”, world of former socialist countries, took place. Currently macro-social model of two worlds exists: “first world” – developed countries and “second world” – the rest. The researchers often call this model “North-South”. It is also necessary to mention that the disappearance of the “second world” caused change of the essence of the global ethics. If previously the macro-ethics was built on the principle of “peaceful coexistence”, which took the “form of Cold war” in the last fifty years, then ethics of North and South relations is more often built on and described as one of the “cold war”. This global ethic system is characterized by the following tendencies:

- “first world” imposing on the “second world” relations of economic and if necessary military and political dominance and subordination;
- deepening inequality between rich and poor, growth of population possessing minimal material and vital resources;
- growth of spiritual inequality; increasing of a gap between the rich and poor in the aspect of receiving reliable information;
- disastrous antagonist tendencies between dominating world religious systems;
- reduction of the level of activity of social justice principle and growth of social inequality between genders, age groups, races, etc.;
- discrepancy between the states and nations in the aspect of global social privileges and obligations, combination of social chaos and order;
- absence of correlation between economic growth and

quality of life;

□ growth of social marginalization against the background of reduction of social functions of political institutions and states [13].

Thus, the globalization process proceeding in the world brings forward both new capabilities and new challenges. As it was mentioned, constantly growing social polarization, as well as immensely increasing social and economic gap between developed countries and others, can be classified as modern challenges. As well-known American financier and advocate of “open society” G. Soros says: “The global capitalist system has produced a very uneven playing field. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider. This is dangerous, because a system does not offer some hope and benefit for the losers is liable to be disrupted by acts of desperation” [14]. The statement made by the celebrated French geographer, historian and one of the founders of the French geopolitics Jacques Élisée Reclus made more than a century ago is remarkable: “Today all the nations are drawn into a common round dance... Now progress of the whole world is out of question. Well-being of one is achieved at the cost of others. This is the most painful aspect of our vaunted semi-civilization, which cannot be called other way, because it brings welfare only to a part of Earth. Though on average, people became not only more active and more vigorous but also happy than in the times when mankind divided into tribes and clans did not realize itself one integral whole, nevertheless, the gap of morality in the level of life of the privileged strata and poor became much bigger. Miserable became even more miserable: their poverty was supplemented by envy and hatred which aggravate their sufferings and forced abstention” [15].

In this context it is worth to quote the provision of Australia’s National Security Strategy, according to which the overall security of a nation is inextricably linked to economic stability, resource sufficiency, good governance and social cohesion [16].

III. TRANSFORMATION OF THE STATE

The threat to the existence of state in its traditional meaning should be acknowledged as the key challenge of the 21st century. As S. Shaninya and V. Soghomonyan mention: “globalization implies the reduction and annihilation of the role of the nation-state and after that democracy becomes mere word and it is even needless to say about protection of human rights. Globalization implies common criteria and parameters as well as common, global cultural field and no matter how universal and humanitarian it is, nevertheless, it is in contradiction with national cultures and tends to occupy their spiritual field” [17].

The majority of modern researchers say that not all the countries manage to be successfully involved in new global economic field. International economic processes which have been regulated in the past on bilateral level transfer into foreign relations and in consequence obscuring and devaluation of state’s regulating functions is taking place.

Information, financial and other processes connected with the globalization cut the capabilities of the national government in the aspect of domestic situation control and management [18].

On the other hand, according to other opinion, modern nation-state as a standard of organization is a form of globalization. Thus, according to B. Axford, despite the fact that the world is fragmented and divided in sovereign administrative unions, and the latter is a part of consciously built world order [19].

Within the context of the considered issue the following observation made by M. Sargsyan and V. Harutyunyan is remarkable: “... nation-states which borders were formed in consequence of constant wars for territories and resources are no more prevailing which was conditioned by such phenomenon of late 20th century as globalization. Considering the latter as the natural result of the third social-technological and democratization wave it becomes clear that by expressing the economic, political and social structural changes of the post-modern world it conditions the necessity of creating qualitatively new system of changes” [20].

As the prime-minister of RA Tigran Sargsyan mentioned in his well-known article, the state as it exists now and as we know it and which corresponds to the industrial type of society is dying. It is going to be substituted by absolutely new, network types of society organization which imply free association of people in one network on a basis of self-organization where the level of intellectual development allows taking power not as a form of compulsion but as an acknowledged commitment of undertaking some duties and responsibilities which contributes to the fullest self-actualization of an individual [21].

In the aforementioned context the words of the first prime-minister of the First Armenian Republic Hovhannes Qajaznoui are worth mentioning: “Today, while the state divisions and state confrontations exist, each nation is obliged to create its own state, because otherwise it cannot have its Home, its Motherland. In the future without states, motherlands, the centers of national culture will have no need of state mechanism in order to sustain their vital fire”. [22].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion we would like to mention that dominating supranational types came forward as the aftermaths of global information society. Besides, absolutely new historical actors, such as transnational corporations, international and non-governmental organizations, the actions and interests of which are often out of general control, come to power.

It is a fact that the processes of globalization inevitably transform the traditional institution of state. In geopolitical reality the institution of state is considerably losing its weight, meanwhile the shape of a new “alternative” state is not outlined yet. Special concern is caused by the process of weakening of the nation-state in such regions where within the context of many existing problems such a tendency can cause the escalation of tension.

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