

Chapter 86

Historical and Methodological Approaches to the Analysis of International Labor Migration in a Globalizing World Economy

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ABSTRACT

International labor migration is a multi-level, multi-dimensional, social phenomenon studied by specialists of different branches of science. The scientific views on the content of the concept, causes and factors, consequences, etc. have been developing together with the progress of the phenomenon and are developing until now. The chapter is devoted to the influence of the world economic trends (globalization, integration, transnationalization) on the international labor movement and change of theoretical approaches to its analysis in the historical development of society on the example of modern concepts.

The contemporary world economy is a collection of national economies an associated system of international economic relations, an organic unity of interconnected and interdependent parts that is generating a process of human society development. The global economy and the system of international economic relations in process of historical development passed through different stages with distinctions both in quantitative and qualitative characteristics. Historical approach to analysis of socio-economic phenomena requires knowledge of objective historical laws process and study of the phenomenon in the development: how it appeared? what stages were passed? what results were found?

Under this approach an international migration process against the background of the historical development of late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries were analyzed. Period boundaries are defined by qualitative changes in the productive forces, caused by scientific and technological revolution as well as by major socio-political phenomena: collapse of colonial system, collapse of socialist system, disintegration of the Soviet Union.

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Since World War II, a complex structured system of international economic relations has been formed by several interconnected and continually developing forms of entities, both long ago involved (States and intergovernmental organizations) and new (international governmental and non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, firms, associations, unions, etc.).

Qualitative changes in the world economy is basis for development of international division of labor and internationalization of production, under the influence of scientific and technological revolution, in the second half of the twentieth century led to regional economic integration and transnationalization. In the last quarter of the twentieth century developed countries have begun their transition from industrial to post-industrial society, which is based on productive forces, combined global information technology systems, transition to the global economy.

Deep analysis of the global economy was made by Manuel Castells. For Castells, M. globalization is associated, first of all, with economy. He started using a term “global/the informational economy”. Processes of globalization in the world are new and highly significant factor in contemporary migration, but migration itself is increasingly playing role of tool for globalization development.

According to this scientist, a global network which is the result of revolution in information technology has created a material basis for economic globalization. And this stage is new and differs from pre-existing economic systems. Economy is global, because the main economic activities and production factors are organized globally, either directly or with the use of an extensive network linking economic agents; economy is informational because productivity and competitiveness depend primarily on the ability to generate, process and use the information based on knowledge effectively (Castells, 2000, 80-81).

According to Castells, M., a principal difference between information technology revolution compared with its historical antecedents is that the new information technology almost immediately covers space around the world. However, the scientist recognizes that international economy is not global in general, it only goes on the path of globalization; large share of GDP and employment in most countries continues to be depended on activity of the domestic economy, but not from the global market.

However, there are significant areas that are not included in the modern technological system in the world. Castells (2000) makes a major conclusion: different levels of people, regions' and countries' access to technologies are the reasons of inequality in the modern world.

Edge of this process is the threat of exclusion of all national and even continental economies (for example, African) from the global information system and, consequently, from the global division of labor (Castells, 2000, 53).

Consequences of globalization trends on migration are also analyzed by Massey, D. Scholar writes (2002): “In the context of economic globalization, market transition and capital-intensive production practices lead to a large-scale displacement of people from their traditional way of life Research shows that international migrants do not come from poor isolated places that are cut off from world markets. Migrants arrive from those regions and countries that are undergoing rapid changes as a result of their inclusion in the global trade, information and production network. International migration is not the result of insufficient market development, but just development of markets themselves” (Massey, 2002. 162).

Eppleyard, R. highlights another important aspect of globalization - a higher level of organization, where national identity is blurred and all major political and economic decisions eventually spread to the whole world.

International labor migration is the relocation of the working population movement from one state to another, due to economic and other reasons.

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