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Abstract

The article analyzes the most important and general features of the processes of globalization as a major phenomenon in the modern world. This phenomenon takes place almost in any area of economic, political, social and cultural life, being one of the most important factors in international relations. Secondly, this paper aims at explaining the role of the European Union in regionalization processes, since the EU is one of the leading actors upon the global scene. This research requires to point out principal international conditions that influence processes of globalization, then to synthetically define what globalization is and finally, to explore the degree and the way in which the European Union has been involved therein.

Keywords

Regionalization – Globalization – International relations – European Union – Balance of power

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Introduction

The definition of globalization has undoubtedly ranked among the most widely spread ones in modern world, while, at the same time, being construed in a number of different ways. It has been used to explain a wide range of processes taking place almost in any area of economic, political, social and cultural life. They manifest themselves both in international relations and domestically, in certain countries. Some of them have been inconsistent with each other or even have precluded one another. Globalization is transgressing in its development to a higher stage – stage of global regionalization. A large number of various bodies and actors have been involved in processes of regionalization, the European Union being certainly one of the most important ones.

This study does not aim at any detailed analysis of the very term of regionalization. Nor it is intended to focus upon the role of the EU as a very peculiar actor of international relations, whose specific characteristics make it different from either any single State or any classic international organization. However, the fact that the European Union has been involved in processes of regionalization as one of the leading actors upon the global scene requires several analytical steps to be taken. Firstly, it is necessary to point out principal international conditions that influence those processes, then to synthetically define what globalization is and finally, to explore to what a degree and in which way the European Union has been involved therein.

General Context

As far as general perspective of modern international relations is concerned, it has to be considered, first, the nature of mutual relationships among principal actors of international relations. In other words, it has to be explored what may be referred to global arrangement of power, also called an international system, order or deal. It is against such a broadly outlined background that an attempt may be made to set the European Union more precisely against a general picture of international relations, including in the context of globalization.

An international power arrangement that is visible in international relations may primarily be seen as an anarchic system. There are two basic implications arising out of that statement. Firstly, it means that all those involved in the system theoretically share equal rights or – according to several hundred years-old tradition of Westphalia deal logic – there has neither been any official superior authority nor dependence among them. In other words, *“the key attribute of members of communities within States has been their sovereignty – that is independence from any superior source of authority”*¹. The issue of how the category of “actor of international relations” should be understood remains to be explained. Due to an indefinite status of the European Union, a category of political entity could be used to consider it, understood – according to the idea put forth by R.Aron – as *“territorially organised political community”*². To be sure, this not only refers to States but to supra-national structures such as the EU as well.

Secondly, an anarchic nature of the system also implies that there has been no central body entitled to exert power and capable of ruling such an international community,

¹ D. Armstrong, *Revolution and World Order. The Revolutionary State in International Society* (Oxford, 1993).

² R. Aron, *Pokój i wojna między narodami (teoria)* (Warszawa, 1995).

that is to impose any standards of behaviour thereto or to control the way such standards are complied with. This, however, is not meant to suggest that such system is, either *de facto* or *de iure*, any kind of chaos, void of any governing rules. To describe it, B. Buzan uses the definition of “mature anarchy” understood as “a system that consists of States that are strong (in terms of their high degree of socio-political cohesion) in the frame of well-developed international community (a dense network of mutually accepted standards, principles and institutions)”³.

In order to analyse this very broad issue, an important category of an “international balance” may prove helpful, derived from the field of international relations studies. Among other things, it enables one to rank particular States according to their relative importance, both in their mutual relations and in broader, global perspective. This stems from the fact that we have to deal with an actual hierarchy of States, one that S.B.Cohen called “*hierarchic integration*”. An international system is seen from that perspective as horizontally (globally) as well as vertically (regionally) ordered structure⁴. Such an order may be introduced according to various criteria, more or less open to verification: such as size of States, degree of their mutual interdependencies, their demographic potential, etc. Another possible criterion relates to what may be called power status in either one or in several areas together⁵. Moreover, relationships among actors of international relations have quite often been regulated through a dense network of mutual obligations, mainly of legal nature (agreements, treaties, arrangements, etc.), adopted bi-laterally, multi-laterally and/or within the scope of activity of a great number of different institutions, including, in the first rank, various international organizations.

This way, we have to deal with a system of an “ordered anarchy”. Its operation involves a complex cluster of different issues. Here it is relevant to name just a couple of them, such as those regarding evolution of categories of a State sovereignty or national interest. While those categories have been very important, their significance stems from their reference to a State as a basic participant of international relations. Accordingly, they are not always useful in exploring the case of the European Union. It should nevertheless be observed that an evolution in the way they are understood (as it is in the case of other key categories, such as that of safety) leads to their meaning being broadened. In consequence, this results in an extension of the scope of their respective relevancies to include other actors of international relations as well, including such political entities as the European Union.

Therefore, there have been some interesting issues arising in the context of these considerations, concerning a degree to which a category of interest or that of sovereignty influence the way the EU Member States (constituting sovereign legal and international subjects, after all) and the Community institutions behave. One has to remember in this context that the issue of legal and international subjectivity of the latter ones is a more complex matter. In other words, questions arise as to whether the European Union has its own international interests, independent of its Member States’ ones, as well as whether a concept

³ B. Buzan, *Security, the State, the ‘New World Order’, and Beyond*. In *On Security*, edited by Lipschutz, R (New York, 1995).

⁴ S. Bieleń, *Podmiotowy aspekt równowagi międzynarodowej (An Objective Aspect of International Balance)*. In *Stosunki międzynarodowe i polityka. Wyzwania końca stulecia. Księga Jubileuszowa na 65-lecie Profesora Bogusława Mrozka* (Warszawa, 1995).

⁵ S. Bieleń, *Podmiotowy aspekt równowagi... y P. Kennedy, Mocarstwa świata. Narodziny, rozkwit, upadek. Przemiany gospodarcze i konflikty zbrojne w latach 1500-2000* (Warszawa, 1999).

of its sovereignty may be raised as a separate one from that of its Member States?⁶ While this issues is not going to be considered in this study, it should be emphasised here that answers to those questions not only depend on research assumptions adopted, but also – or perhaps mainly – on political and ideological views of an author.

As basic assumptions of the system that shapes contemporary international relations are known, an attempt may be made to define its main characteristics. It is not an easy task, as it would be too superficial just to admit that there is no single description or uniform characteristics of modern world. Perhaps there are as many visions of international relations as there are scholars, observers or politicians involved therein. On the other hand, it doesn't mean that no attempt may be made to put up a more or less verifiable catalogue of fundamental characteristics, defining most important events, phenomena and processes that take place within the scope of such relations.

It should be stressed in the first rank that the present system of international relations has been unstable. It has undergone abrupt changes before our very eyes and it has only just begun to develop. Its evolution has been a result of interplay of a number of basic factors of political, economic, military, social and cultural nature, such as, principally, globalization, industrial and technological revolution (including, among other things, a growing role of information technologies and mass-media), expansion of principles of democracy and of human rights, evolution of international safety, *etc.* Under influence of such factors the world indeed becomes a “global village”, as foretold by McLuhan. This is in no case meant to suggest uniformisation, but it does imply a huge growth of inter-dependencies among various actors (in many cases becoming more and more individual) that have played different roles in different interactions.

One of the key characteristics of factors that have shaped modern international relations has been an enormous (on a historic scale) acceleration of general development of humanity in general terms of civilisation. Once again, instead of going any further in broad consideration of such an extensive subject, it is sufficient to present the scale and pace of such development, illustrating the arguments put forth in studies of J. Schumpeter⁷. It may be concluded that, starting from late 18th Century, successive attainments in the area of science and technology, culminating in the form of consecutive „waves”, have shaped the image of our civilisation both to a growing degree and at a growing rate. While the first “wave” lasted sixty years (1785-1845), the fourth one took just forty (1950-1990) and the present fifth one, bringing dissemination of new, revolutionary technologies, is expected to last only thirty years. (Considering the fact that it reaches into the future up to 2020, this period may eventually prove even shorter).

However, consequences brought by both growing acceleration and scale of general civilisation development – together with influence of other factors – are unequivocal. On the one hand, in wealthy, well-developed countries post-industrial information-based society has been shaped. It makes an extensive use of state-of-the-art methods of creation and

⁶ W. Czapliński; I. Lipowicz; T. Skoczny y M. Wyrzykowski. (eds.), *Suwerenność i integracja europejska. Materiały pokonferencyjne* (Warszawa, 1999); Z. Leszczyński y S. Sadowski. (eds.), *Suwerenność państwa we współczesnych stosunkach międzynarodowych [Sovereignty of the State In contemporary international relations]*. (Warszawa, 2005) y J. Symonides, *Unia Europejska – państwo – region, nowe pojmowanie subsydiarności i suwerenności*. In *Unia Europejska: nowy typ wspólnoty międzynarodowej*, edited by E. Haliżak and S. Parzymies (Warszawa, 2002).

⁷ A. Kukliński, *Unia Europejska jako przełomowe wyzwanie dla Polski XXI wieku*, *Studia Europejskie* Vol: 1 (1999).

distribution of knowledge and technology (via Internet, among other means) and undergoes the process of globalization. On the other hand, disproportions in terms of development have increasingly spread into new areas and deepened at a rate that is nothing short of scaring. This process precipitates growing numbers of people living in developing countries, those who haven't been able to enjoy benefits of progress in civilisation to any but a marginal degree, into traps of poverty, fame, armed conflicts and into all kinds of more and more acute social problems. In addition to other urgent problems, such as overpopulation or degradation of natural environment, this results in a situation that is extremely dangerous for the future of our planet. It features extreme contradictions, lack of balance and a deepening gap between rich and comprehensively developed North and increasingly poor South that is shoved into a backstage of development of humanity.

Materials and Methods

Globalization is accompanied by significant changes in all spheres of human activity. Scientists all over the world realize the need to understand the trends of its development and influence on the global economy actors, public consciousness and consumer behavior. Among the measures of intensity and scale of globalization development, the KOF-index of globalization which is compiled by the Swiss Economic Institute is mostly widespread and it is applied in the present research. The index is based on three dimensions, or core sets of indicators: economic, social, and political. Via these three dimensions, the overall index of globalization tries to assess current economic flows, economical restrictions, data on information flows, data on personal contact, and data on cultural proximity within surveyed countries.

However, on the basis of the studies that have observed the principles of KOF-index of globalization calculating there have been revealed the simplification in the determination and degree of the indicators accounting, used as the basis of it, distorting the objectivity of the data. In this connection, it is necessary to improve the KOF-index calculation methodology, to expand the indicators list and to develop more objective measuring instruments of globalization.

The study used a systematic approach and scientific methods. The methodical basis of the presented economic and statistical analysis is a complex of universal and specific tools of scientific research, applied in accordance with the individual structurally separate parts of the work. The study assumes the use of general scientific methods of research, in particular: methods of analysis and synthesis, system analysis, abstract-logical method. An important component of the study is the use of economic research methods such as: systematization and generalization, index method, tabular and graphical method, correlation and regression analysis.

Correlation analysis is a method of investigating the interdependence of characteristics in the general population, which are random variables with a normal distribution pattern.

The main requirements for applying the correlation analysis are a sufficient number of observations, a combination of factor and performance indicators, as well as their quantitative measurement and display in information sources. Correlation analysis is closely related to regression analysis, therefore it is often called correlation-regression analysis.

The main tasks of the correlation analysis are: determining the form of communication, measuring the tightness (strength) of communication, determining the influence of factors on the outcome. In the present study, the correlation between the gross domestic product and exports from the EU countries was calculated. The implementation of the correlation analysis includes several stages:

- 1) the formulation of the problem and the choice of characteristics;
- 2) collection of information and its primary processing (groupings, elimination of anomalous observations, verification of the normality of a one-dimensional distribution);
- 3) preliminary characterization of relationships (analytical groupings, graphs);
- 4) elimination of multicollinearity (interdependence of factors) and refinement of a set of indicators by calculating paired correlation coefficients;
- 5) investigation of factor dependence and verification of its significance;
- 6) evaluation of the analysis results and preparation of recommendations on their practical use.

At the second stage, the outgoing information for the study is evaluated using different statistical criteria (mean square deviation, coefficient of variation), and then a correlation model is formed, the formation of which involves determining whether it will be a pair correlation or multiple.

By the nature of the correlation, the correlation models can be linear and nonlinear. In linear models, the tightness of the relationship between the measured indicators is measured using a linear correlation coefficient (Pearson) using the formula:

$$r = \frac{\overline{xy} - \bar{x} \times \bar{y}}{\sigma_x \times \sigma_y}$$

Wherein:

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{\overline{x^2} - (\bar{x})^2};$$

$$\sigma_y = \sqrt{\overline{y^2} - (\bar{y})^2}.$$

The correlation coefficient acquires a value within ± 1 , as a result of which it displays not only the tightness of the connection, but also its direction. So, a positive value indicates a direct connection, and a negative one indicates a reverse link.

What It Is Globalization?

The category of globalization has been a kind of conceptual frame binding interpretations of all those phenomena and processes together. The starting point for its exploration may be in considering a couple of fundamental features of the above-mentioned acceleration in development of modern world in general terms of civilisation⁸.

The first of such features is rapid growth of inter-dependencies, not only among all participants of international relations, but among an entire set of economic, political, social, cultural and other phenomena taking place within particular countries and regions or on the global scale. Some authors go as far as to speak about an “*extension of a network of mutual dependencies upon the global scale*”⁹. This means that even things that take place in remote regions and in relation to matters that don't seem to concern us at all may nevertheless exert either an indirect or even direct influence upon our lives.

Another basic feature of globalization is great intensification of those phenomena that have transgressed national borders already for some time, leading to what may be called “shrinking” of our globe in terms of both time and space. This can be easily seen as regards present possibilities of travel and transport of goods as well as in the areas of communication and exchange of information in such a short time and at such great distances. Compared to experiences and output of previous generations, this forms a wholly new civilisation quality.

An additional element is found in emergence of major facilitations in dissemination of any kind of standards and patterns, starting with production or management know-how through models of consumption or cultural patterns. In other words, the world becomes, as a consequence of globalization processes, more and more unified by an increasingly dense network of comprehensive relations, resulting in its relative diminishing and growing homogeneity.

The process of globalization has not only been initiated by economic processes, as mentioned above, but its nature and the way it evolves have still been determined and shaped by such processes. Factors that motivate globalization form a dense tissue of determinants that influence one another. They include development of new information technologies (aptly symbolised by an extremely dynamic growth of the Internet web), which, in turn, results in considerable reduction of costs of acquiring and transmitting of information, better access to new technologies and systems of production and management, and, in particular, globalization of financial markets. This, in turn, favours labour and capital mobility and, especially, development of different kinds of foreign investment, such as capital, production and other investments. Coupled with this process are changes in economic policies of countries (featuring far-reaching liberalisation of economy, including deregulation and privatisation) and great, supra-national corporations, the operating range and

⁸ Z. Bauman, *Globalization. The Human Consequences* (London-New York, 1998); U. Beck, *What is Globalization?* (London, 1999); H. Lacher, *Beyond globalization: capitalism, territoriality and the international relations of modernity* (New York, 2006); R. Munck, *Globalization and contestation: the new great counter-movement* (London, 2007); J. Osterhammel y N. Petersson, *Globalization: a short history* (Princeton, 2005); R. G. Patman, *Globalization and conflict: national security in a 'new' strategic era* (London, 2006); T. Sporek. (ed.), *Internacjonalizacja, globalizacja i integracja we współczesnej gospodarce światowej* (Katowice, 2006) y K. S. Zimmerer, *Globalization & new geographies of conservation* (Chicago, 2006).

⁹ J. S. Nye y R. O. Koehane. (eds.), *Governance in a Globalizing World* (Washington, 2000).

importance of which, in terms of global economy, increased dramatically during the recent couple of decades. As a result of worldwide activities of such corporations the process of production has been rendered international. This, backed by more and more dynamic growth of international trade, leads to actual degradation of economic importance of State borders.

It should be emphasised once more that the above-mentioned factors have formed a specific complex of determinants. One can hardly apply a causation and effect method to study them, since an influence of any of such determinants made other ones appear and, at the same time, was determined thereby. For example, liberalisation of economies has been at the same time a result and a reason for globalization of financial markets, while international corporations both stimulated processes of globalization and were their beneficiaries.

Additionally, some authors put forth a very controversial thesis that genesis of processes of globalization should be sought back as early as in the 14th Century, that is at the time when global trade began to emerge.

However, one should firmly underline in this context that globalization must not be identified only with economic phenomena.¹⁰ It has become a “*contemporary mythology, a secular religion fed by neo-liberal beliefs deeply rooted in the Western culture*”¹¹. As mentioned above, it also has its distinctly outlined social, cultural and political aspects, the influence of which has been subject to a great deal of far-reaching, heated controversy.

Advocates of globalization have emphasised numerous benefits drawn from the process, experienced not only in economic terms. According to them, such benefits manifest themselves, among other things, in improvement of competition (that has become, to a higher and higher degree, one of principal driving forces of economic development) and, as a result, in growth of efficiency of production, trade and services. Moreover, they also take a form of social benefits, consisting, above all, in upgrading general living standard or even more broadly – of general progress made in terms of civilisation over greater and greater areas worldwide.

Opponents of globalization, on the other hand – if not prevalent in numbers, then more notorious in any case – stress negative aspects of the process, mainly those of deepening the already huge developmental gaps, occurring not only among regions and States, but also within particular industries, sectors and socio-vocational groups. This is conducive to formation, on both international and national scale, of poles of poverty and backwardness on the one hand and, on the other hand, wealth and progress. Furthermore, among other threats such socio-economic pathologies as disintegration of traditional values and social structures, dehumanisation of production processes, and, in particular, structural unemployment are mentioned. They have been derived, among other things, from the fact that social functions of State have been restricted by the very process of globalization. This way, State is being increasingly hindered in its involvement in policies of developing social services, including, in particular, counteracting and fighting unemployment (which has been generated, in many cases, as a result of decisions made abroad).

¹⁰ Additionally, some authors put forth a very controversial thesis that genesis of processes of globalization should be sought back as early as in the 14th Century, that is at the time when global trade began to emerge.

¹¹ D. P. Calleo, *Rethinking Europe's Future* (Princeton-Oxford, 2001).

Globalization is transgressing in its development to a higher stage – stage of global regionalization, thus becoming one of the most important development trends of the modern world. Thereby, it acts as integration of local communities and shows itself in localization, borders formation between territorial and social complexes, emerging of self-sufficient economic and political formations, preservation of cultural differences of ethnic and social groups, and intensification of their feeling of difference¹².

“The process of new regions formation is accompanied by reorganization of their relationships with the state, inside of which they emerged and, simultaneously, by change of relationships with neighbor territories inside the state, as well as outside”¹³. Thus, global regionalization changes both geopolitical and geoeconomic world structure.

Results

As those issues are examined in further detail, two important points come to the forefront. Firstly, in-deep analyses have shown that ultimate influence of globalization is too weak to serve as an explanation for irregularities in global development that, on a long-term scale, have been growing up. This means that globalization itself has not been responsible neither for developmental successes nor for defeats of particular political entities. At the same time it occurs that the largest beneficiaries of globalization are those who have been actively involved therein. Admittedly, not only well developed countries may be such beneficiaries, but certain developing ones as well. On the other hand, the biggest losers in the process are those who simply do not participate in it, either due to the lack of possibilities (such as the poorest countries) or of eagerness, such as countries ruled by dictatorship regimes hostile to Western civilisation¹⁴.

Secondly, contrary to opinions that are heard quite often, globalization has not lead to either limitation, or, according to others, decline of a role of national States. They allegedly lose their true (as opposite to official) competences, in the first rank to the benefit of supra-national corporations that grow stronger and stronger. Furthermore, this is believed to be related, generally speaking, with growing importance of all kinds of international or global relations, while, at the same time, regional or local bounds tend to lose their strength.

The existence of obvious facts that have been evidence of growing internationalisation in almost every area of life (reaching, as already mentioned, from economy to culture) can hardly be denied. However, one should point out in this context that political factor remains in its full force and importance. It manifests itself in the form of comprehensive activity of contemporary State. It is the State that remains the fundamental, principal actor of international relations. Its organisational role can hardly be overestimated – in spite of all restrictions, resulting from general rejection of the State’s excessive protective role as observed in “welfare State” or “real socialism” systems. (This issue was not only related with phenomena of globalization, but with the fall of the latter system and with both ideological and economic-and-social crisis of welfare State model as well.) After

¹² L. Bullon-Cassis, Towards «Post-Globalization»: Neoliberalism and Global Governance after the Global Financial Crisis. Available at: <http://cris.unu.edu/sites/cris.unu.edu/files/W-2011-1.pdf>.

¹³ V. E. Reutov, “Global Regionalization as a Way to Counteraction the Global Financial Threats”, *Nierówności społeczne a wzrost gospodarczy* Vol: 31 (2013) y V. E. Reutov; D. D. Burkaltseva; V. M. Yachmeneva; M. V. Algina; E. A. Smirnova y A. S. Tyulin, “Features of socio-economic systems’ transformation processes management”, *Amazonia. Investiga* Vol: 8 num 22 (2019): 467-474.

¹⁴ P. H. Lindert y J. G. Williamson, *Does Globalization Make the World More Unequal?* NBER Working Papers Series (Cambridge, 2001).

all, processes of globalization have all taken place within political and legal, economic and social framework defined by authorities of sovereign States. Accordingly, no actor involved – not even the most powerful corporation – can operate in an international vacuum. Rather than that, it has to conform to regulations put in place by States themselves or by international regimes established thereby, such as, for example, regulations introduced by the World Trade Organisation.

The fact that such regulations have been applied emphasises the role of States in the world economy, as *“an eagerness to render trade less restrictive that brought States to a table of negotiation is not meant to suggest, after all, that their political power is decreased”*. Moreover, *“in a similar way globalization exposes a growing dependence of global markets on rules and regulation, formulation and implementation of which depends, in turn, on diplomatic efforts”*. All in all, this means that *“globalization generates a new area of foreign policy, rather than dissolves it in market operation”*¹⁵.

At this point we reach an issue that is extremely important in the context of these considerations. It concerns the way in which particular actors of international relations have been involved in processes of globalization, including not only States but various international organisations and structures established by them as well¹⁶. Before we proceed to issues regarding the European Union itself, close relationship between globalization and regionalisation on the one hand, and integration on the other hand, should be observed. Relations between the two may be seen, generally speaking, from two different perspectives. According to the first one, phenomena of regionalisation may be regarded as a kind of a phase or a transitional stage in the process of further development of globalization, while, from another point of view, one may conceive regionalisation as a form of defence or counteracting processes of globalization.

Leaving such conceptual ambiguities aside, it seems more appropriate here to adopt a dialectically synthesising attitude. To justify this, the fact may be mentioned that recent years have brought intensification of both globalization and regionalisation. This is an evidence that these are not processes or phenomena that preclude each other. Then, they may be analysed in different dimensions.

This way, globalization has been, to a very considerable degree, the area of economic activity of huge entities, such as supra-national corporations. They have been driven, among anything else, by logic of free competition and maximisation of profit and, accordingly, they are not keen to involve in the area of public welfare. The role of great corporations in the process of globalization can hardly be overestimated since they have contributed to a critical degree to its initiation and development, being one of its principal driving forces, both in the past and at the present.

Regionalism, on the other hand (manifesting itself mainly in intensification of international integration processes) has been stimulated, in the first rank, by initiatives taken up by particular States¹⁷. They have endeavoured to attain, in the frame of co-operation with one another and through a number of different measures, such as interventionism,

¹⁵ M. Keens-Soper, *Europe in the World. The Persistence of Power Politics* (London-New York, 1999).

¹⁶ D. Held y A. McGrew. (eds.), *Governing Globalization. Power, Authority and Global Governance*. (London, 2002).

¹⁷ S. A. Shirm, *Globalization and the New Regionalism: Global Markets, Domestic Politics and Regional-Co-operation* (London, 2002).

objectives that in most cases have not only been economic goals but other as well: political, social, in the area of military safety, protection of environment, and so on. According to H. Halizak: *“the core of the new, post-Cold War regionalism is transgression beyond the traditional area of economy and safety and orientation towards social and humanitarian problems as well as those of ecology, comprehensive growth, culture – such as favour development of a new regional cohesion and identity that have been more than just a function of trade and investment”*¹⁸.

The European Union in the Processes of Globalization

The above description seems to perfectly fit the case of the European Union¹⁹. As defined by M. Keens-Soper, *“no other region in the world has a greater economic interest in globalization than Europe does”*²⁰. This is mainly justified by position the EU occupies in the world’s economy, including, in the first rank, in international trade. It should be pointed out that the EU as the largest global exporter seeks to make the most of its opportunities in that respect. To prove that, it is sufficient to remind that the EU Member States record the total surplus in their foreign trade, while the United States has an enormous deficit. However, one should remember at the same time that in spite of the size of its internal markets, the EU, unlike the USA, hasn’t been economically self-sufficient. Nor it is immune to such shocks as those experienced during the recent decade by Asian “tiger” economies. This means that, while being – as the leading economic power in the world – a very important party to processes of globalization, the European Union is at the same time more sensitive to any political and economic perturbation taking place on the global scale than its principal partner and rival, the United States. Further economic growth of the European Union depends, to a much higher degree that it has been in the case with the USA, on trade exchange with other countries. The dependence of the EU countries on exports of goods can be confirmed by analyzing the degree of influence of exports on the GDP of the countries for 2001-2017 with the help of correlation and regression analysis and calculation of a one-factor econometric model (Table 1).

Multiple R	0,943370601
R Square	0,889948091
Adjusted R Square	0,882611297
Standard Error	1026,234465
Observations	17

Source: calculated by the author according to: <http://www.trademap.org/>

Table 1

Regression Statistics

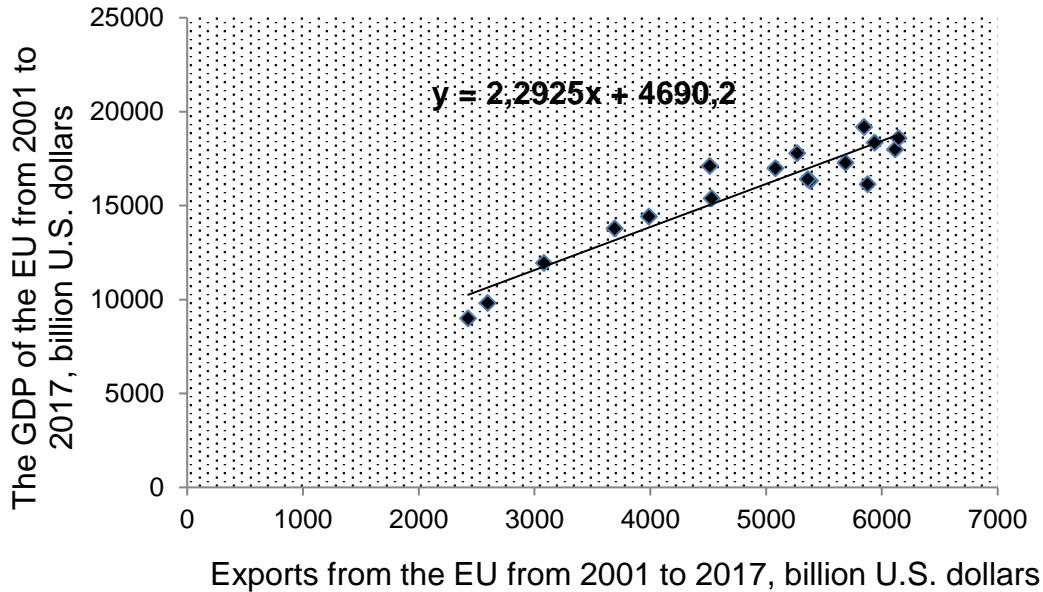
¹⁸ E. Haliżak, *Współzależność integracji ekonomicznej i politycznej w Unii Europejskiej – przyczynek do rozważań o istocie ekonomii politycznej stosunków międzynarodowych*. In *Unia Europejska: nowy typ wspólnoty międzynarodowej*, edited by E. Haliżak and S. Parzymies (Warszawa, 2002).

¹⁹ R. Axtmann. (ed.), *Globalization and Europe: theoretical and empirical investigations* (London, 1998); A. Kukliński y B. Skuza, *Europe in the Perspective of Global Change* (Warsaw, 2003); A. Kukliński; C. Lusiński y K. Pawłowski (eds.), *Towards a New Creative and Innovative Europe* (Nowy Sącz, 2007); D. Milczarek, *European Union and Globalization – General Aspects*. In *Globalization, International Business and European Integration*, edited by A.Z. Nowak, J.W. Steagall, M.N. Balamoune (Warsaw-Jacksonville, 2004) y Ch. Piening, *Global Europe: the European Union in World Affairs* (Boulder, 1997).

²⁰ M. Keens-Soper, *Europe in the World...*

By calculating a linear correlation coefficient to determine the close relationship between GDP and exports of goods, it can be concluded that the relationship between the two indicators is high and direct, since $R = 0.943$ ($0.9 < R < 1$).

Based on the fact that the multiple determination coefficient $R^2 = 0.89$, it can be argued that exports have a significant impact on the GDP of the EU countries. The linear regression equation is $y = 2,2925x + 4690,2$.



Source: compiled by the author

Fig. 1
The dependence of GDP of the EU countries from exports

The coefficients of the linear regression equation make economic sense. There is a positive linear dependence, that is, the increase in exports from the EU is accompanied by GDP growth. With an increase in exports by 1, the GDP of the EU countries will change by an average of 2.29 (the regression coefficient shows a change in the effective indicator y with an increase or decrease in factor x).

By substituting x in the regression equation, can be determined the predicted values of the effective $y(x)$ for this observation. Based on the fact that the relationship between y and x is determined by the sign of the regression coefficient b , in our case – the relationship between GDP and exports is direct ($b > 0$).

Fisher's criterion is used to test the significance of the regression equation. When the tabular value $F_{table} = 4.54$ and the calculated criteria $F_{fact.} = 121.24$, the reliability of the regression equation and the significance of the relationship of the studied features are confirmed, since the $F_{fact.} > F_{table}$.

The analysis of the results of the model confirmed the significant dependence of the EU countries on the export of goods to the foreign market.

The vulnerability of the economies of the EU before the fluctuations of the world economy is aptly illustrated by another tendency, defined, in turn, by another important

macro-economic factor, namely the scale of foreign direct investments. The American trade deficit (occurring mainly in exchange with Asia and Europe) has been more than compensated for in the form of an inflow of foreign investment, while the European Union has been a market relatively less attractive for investors (although in absolute numbers it has an advantage over its US rival). This situation is mainly determined by the fact that the EU Member States have been keen on investing, in defence of their trade and economic interests, in other regions of the world, this way protecting their own markets (agricultural ones in particular) and defending themselves against an excessive inflow of foreign capital.

That kind of protectionist policy has been called by D.P. Calleo “*a globalistic neo-mercantilism*”, seen as an evidence of a more comprehensive attitude assumed not only as regards globalization, by global economic and political-and-social situation in general. Instead of global imbalance, caused by the US deficit and the Asian countries’ surplus in foreign trade, the European Union advocates global order. In the frame of such an order all States and regions should be able to maintain balance in their foreign exchange, as dictated by their need to preserve their internal economic balance. This is best evidenced by the EU Member States’ constant tendency to reduce the rate of inflation, budgetary deficit and public debt and keep them low. Such a policy has been firmly manifested in criteria and regulation in force, concerning the Economic and Monetary Union (such as convergence criteria of Maastricht and the Stabilisation Pact). It is the wish of Europeans that global economy as the whole relied upon such healthy principles, although they probably realize that “*no matter what liberals believe in, globalization in itself has been no recipe for a better harmony in international relations*”²¹.

There is a concern arising from this, expressed by the EU politicians and authorities, about effects of processes of globalization. This has been formulated by the European Commission in one of its documents in the following way: “*Although a number of European entities have benefited from effects of globalization to the full, yet at the same time voices of anxiety are heard about some countries and economic units gaining such a scope of influence that no one seems to be able to control any more*”. Consequently, “*there have been a number of areas in which it is necessary to introduce rules to regulate things that cannot be managed by the globalized market in any satisfactory way – such as social tasks, environment protection, wealth and complexity of cultures and lifestyles*” (Communication).

As can be seen, in the case of the European Union an aspiration to general economic balance or putting forth postulates to subject phenomena of globalization to some kind of control haven’t been aims in themselves. Leaving the very notion aside, as it is somehow vague, there nevertheless exists a European model of economic development. It provides, to a much higher degree than the American one, for filling social roles by the State as well as care for meeting various and more comprehensive needs of citizens, rather than just for an efficacy of the way the liberal free-market economy works. (It was not by case that the concept of a “welfare State” originated and developed in Europe.)

This means that the European Union has not been a group of purely economic nature. As observed by D.P. Calleo, “*it is dynamic, deeply-rooted trends of military, political, cultural and economic trends that make European States consolidate their Union and assume responsibility for their collective safety*”²². As a result, both the EU as the whole and

²¹ D. P. Calleo, Rethinking Europe’s Future...

²² D. P. Calleo, Rethinking Europe’s Future... 373.

its individual Member States have been involved in processes of globalization in a very complex way, not limited to just economic issues.

The statistic shows leading positions of the EU countries in the KOF Index of Globalization in 2016 and 2017 as shown in Table 2.

No	Country	The Index of Globalization 2016	Rank 2016	The Index of Globalization 2017	Rank 2017
1	Netherlands	91.7	1	92.84	1
2	Ireland	91.64	2	92.15	2
3	Belgium	90.51	3	91.75	3
4	Austria	89.83	4	90.05	4
5	Denmark	86.44	7	88.37	6
6	Sweden	85.92	8	87.96	7
7	United Kingdom	81.97	20	87.26	8
8	France	82.61	19	87.19	9
9	Hungary	85.78	9	86.55	10
10	Finland	85.47	11	86.30	12
11	Portugal	85.1	12	85.04	13
12	Cyprus	84.1	14	85.00	14
13	Czech Republic	83.6	17	84.88	15
14	Germany	78.24	27	84.57	16
15	Spain	83.73	15	84.56	17
16	Slovakia	83.62	16	84.36	18
17	Luxembourg	83.55	18	84.21	19
18	Italy	79.59	24	82.19	23
19	Croatia	75.59	35	81.39	24
20	Poland	79.9	23	81.32	25
21	Greece	80.4	22	80.60	26
22	Estonia	78.46	26	79.27	28
23	Lithuania	77.26	29	77.47	32
24	Slovenia	76.24	32	76.91	33
25	Bulgaria	77.16	30	76.89	34
26	Romania	75.1	36	76.51	35
27	Malta	75.0	37	75.86	36
28	Latvia	70.97	40	71.45	41

Source: <https://www.kof.ethz.ch/>; <http://chartsbin.com/view/41355>

Table 2

The KOF Index of Globalization of the EU-28 in 2016-2017

Within such processes the EU also keeps certain assets in the area of human rights and models of social life, including, among other things, matters of culture. While still being

a dynamic and attractive centre of civilisation, Europe has not only been able to “export” its cultural values, but to face challenges arising in this area as well. Certain EU Member States, France in particular, make efforts to stand in opposition to an inflow of American-style mass culture which has been excessive in their opinion and not only undertake certain preventive measures in order to protect their national identity (in the form of appropriate trade regulations, among other things), but actively promote their national culture, in audio-visual sector in particular. While this is not the place to consider controversies in this area any further – notably, cultural autarchy may prove as dangerous as a flood of alien culture – it should nevertheless be observed that this has been an evidence of an active attitude taken by Europeans towards challenges brought by the processes of globalization.

However, other aspects of such processes with respect to the European Union may be pointed out as well. This regards, for example, an excessive dependence of economic and social development upon new technologies (information technologies in particular) – a trend mentioned in a number of studies. It is, after all, globalization that makes dissemination of such technologies much easier. The problem is not peculiar to Western Europe (in fact, in the USA this is so much more evident, assuming a size that seems out of any proportion),²³ yet Europeans have already manifested a notable disposition to it as well. Such a tendency may lead to “*a belief that having enormous resources of information at one’s disposal provides for technological opportunities to substitute for politics or diplomacy*”²⁴. It seems, however, that in fact we only have to deal here with new types of instruments, rather than with any new way of exerting political authority or economic power. On the other hand, one cannot deny that globalization and revolution in information technologies have also influenced the very fundamentals of the EU and its Member States’ political systems and the way they operate²⁵. Additionally, globalization promotes emergence and consolidation, in Europe, of what is called knowledge-based economy. A number of various issues regarding processes of globalization might also be mentioned in this respect²⁶.

Discussion

Which perspectives for a further development of processes of globalization, or broader – general international situation – we have to deal with? In relation to forecasts (always a tricky area in social sciences) a number of different opinions may be heard.

According to well-known theses of S.P. Huntington, contradictions between principal global civilisations, underpinned by particular religions, rather than confrontations between ideological and social systems, are going to act as the most important driving force of the future international system. While they are not fated to conflict between each other, this issue is going to depend on whether the Western civilisation gives up its tendency to impose its global monoculture to others (Islamic and Chinese civilisations in particular). Otherwise,

²³ This is suggested, among other things, by experiences learnt from activities undertaken by the US authorities in the area of fighting terrorism. Namely, they have relied to an excessive degree upon application of all kinds of technologies, while, at the same time, neglecting development of the so-called human factor.

²⁴ M. Keens-Soper, *Europe in the World...*

²⁵ B. Gavin, *The European Union and Globalization. Towards Global Democratic Governance.* (Northampton, 2001) y F. Vibert. *Europe Simple, Europe Strong. The Future of European Governance* (London, 2001).

²⁶ J. E. Bigo, *Taking the Sting Out of Globalization for Europe*, In *The European Union in the World System Perspective*, edited by R. Stemplowski (Warsaw, 2002).

a universal clash is not unlikely²⁷. In disagreement with that is Z. Brzeziński who has expressed a praise of maintenance of a unipolar arrangement of power in the world, of course dominated by the United States at best supported in that role by united Europe or other powers, such as Russia or China²⁸. Similar, although considerably softer opinions have been uttered by H. Kissinger, who underlined the need of broader co-operation and co-ordination between the USA and other principal powers in creation of a more balanced global deal²⁹. On the other hand, the famous diagnosis by F. Fukuyama proclaims “the end of history”. This means that in the historic rivalry the liberal political and economic model gained an uncontested win over any other one (“real socialism” in particular) and no significant alternatives are going to appear to it in the future. This, however, is not meant to say that there will be no regional or local conflicts emerging due to ethnic, religious or other reasons³⁰. L.C. Thurow, while agreeing that an overall win of capitalism has been the fact, observes that dynamics of its growth may fall down alarmingly as a result of a lack of any competitive system and (in opposition to the above-mentioned authors) emphasises other threats as well. Rather than from potential conflicts among various actors of international relations, such threats emerge from the successful system being unable to meet requirements posed by revolution in the area of science and technology³¹. The authors also conducted additional studies taking into account the forecast indicators of the institutions of economic security³². Ultimately, no matter which explanation of the present situation and forecasts for its future development we accept, it should be pointed out that the European Union, accounting for a considerable portion of the wealthier part of the world, has to take all implications resulting from the present global arrangement of power properly into account, as it influences, both indirectly and directly, its relations with an international environment. The scope and scale of such an influence have been defined in scholar studies in a number of different ways. As an example of just one of possible attitudes, opinions of R.G. Whitman may be quoted. According to him, there have been three principal objective factors determining a growth of importance of the EU in international relations: general transformation in global power arrangement, a growing institutionalisation of international relations and evolution of global economic system³³.

Conclusion

The end of the 20th century was marked by a significant strengthening of the regional integration blocs positions in the global economy, especially of the European Union. The globalization of the economy has created both challenges and opportunities for the EU. At the beginning of this century the EU started to feel pressure from the emerging new economies, but none the less the EU still plays a huge role in the world's economy by having the world largest market, being the largest exporter and importer of goods and services among regional unions. From a global perspective the future of the EU is rather good.

²⁷ S. P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order*. (New York, 1996).

²⁸ Z. Brzeziński, *Wielka szachownica. Główne cele polityki amerykańskiej* (Warszawa, 1998).

²⁹ H. Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (New York, 1994).

³⁰ F. Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Men*. (New York, 1992).

³¹ L. C. Thurow, *The Future of Capitalism. How Today's Economic Forces Shape Tomorrow's World* (New York, 1996).

³² D. Burkalteva; Yu. Vorobyov; L. Borsh; S. Gerasimova y V. Chepurko, “Structural modelling the system of ensuring the economic security of the complex territorial socio-economic system of the eurasec”, *International Journal of Applied Business and Economic Research* Vol: 14 num 9 (2016): 5683-5704.

³³ R. G. Whitman, *From Civilian Power to Superpower? The International Identity of the European Union* (Basingstoke-London, 1998).

By managing the regionalization processes the European Union will become stronger and stable. The EU has the role of a globalizer and it is influenced by the globalization process at the same time that is confirmed by the results of the correlation and regression analysis and rank of the EU member states in the KOF Index of Globalization.

Taken together, all this means that the European Union – with all its limitations and all reservations as to its true position and role in the world – has been and will remain a leading actor upon the international arena. This will especially hold true with respect to its far-reaching involvement in and influence on the phenomena of regionalization that, in turn, are going to affect the processes of European integration.

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