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DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEORY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY IN RUSSIA

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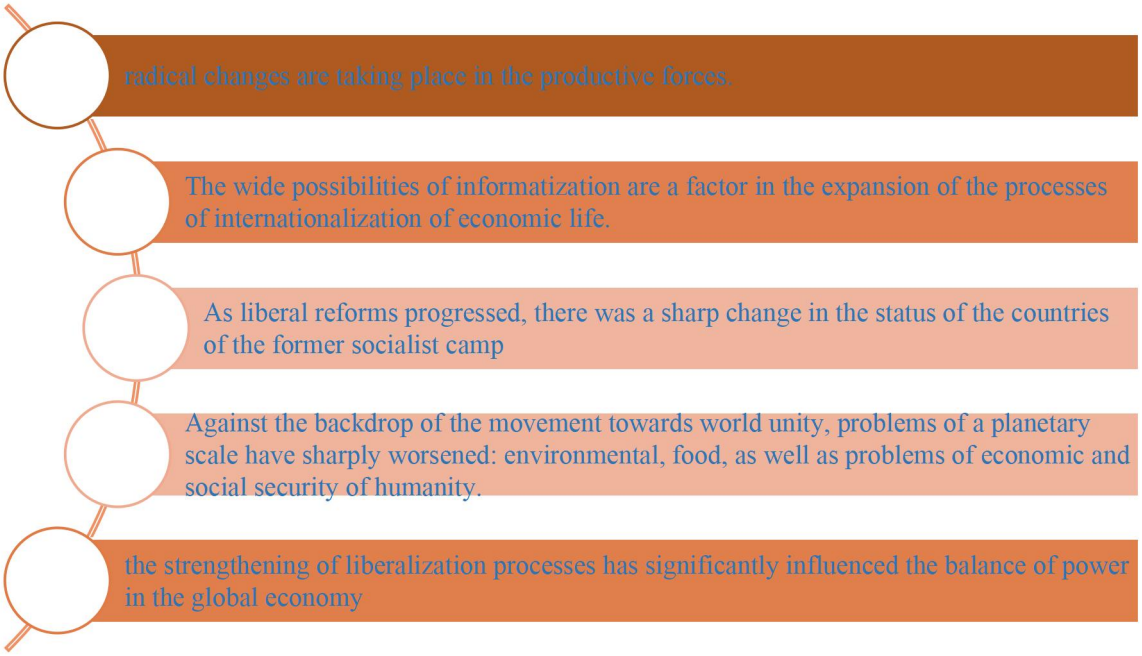
Abstract. This article highlights the manifestations of globalization and its connection to the development of economic theory. The primary focus is on substantiating the need to develop a theory of national economics. It is demonstrated that any theory is "nationally loaded." The theoretical and methodological foundations of national economics are presented.

Key words : globalization, object and subject of economic theory, structure of economic theory, “national burden ” of economic theory, national economy, national interests

Introduction

Since the late 20th century, two major trends have emerged quite clearly in the development of the modern global economy, intertwined in a complex, ambiguous, and contradictory manner. On the one hand, there is an accelerated integration of economic activity; on the other, there is a growing disintegration, manifested in regional isolation and the formation of local alliances of neighboring countries. Both of these phenomena, while not new to the international economy, have been evident for some time. However, in recent decades, these processes have acquired a number of new substantive aspects. First, fundamental changes are occurring in productive forces. The information-based nature of technical and economic relationships is becoming increasingly dominant, giving rise to the so-called "new economy," a new information-driven, "technotronic" stage in human development. Second, the broad capabilities of information technology are driving the expansion of the internationalization of economic life. In particular, advances in telecommunications and transportation have resulted in the unification of various markets, from goods, services, and information to financial markets. This gives many economists reason to talk about the emergence of a single global space. Third, the intensification of liberalization has significantly impacted the balance of power in the global economy. The emergence of polycentrism in the global economic and political systems has led to increasing differentiation between various countries. Fourth, against the backdrop of the movement toward global unification, global problems have sharply intensified: environmental, food, and economic and social security issues. Fifth, along with liberal reforms, there has been a dramatic shift in the status of former socialist countries, for example, Russia's transformation into a "raw materials appendage" of the West.

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1 - picture. The processes have acquired

The aforementioned phenomena, characteristic of today's global economy, are referred to as "post-industrial," " post-economic " trends, manifestations of the contradictions of globalization, "challenges" of globalization, the essence of global processes, the "crisis of globalization," and so on. Interest in these global phenomena has been steadily maintained for three decades by scholars across a wide range of disciplines. At the same time, questions remain unanswered regarding the objective essence of globalization, its contradictions, manifestations, crisis-like nature, and its impact on the socioeconomic development of individual countries and the historical course of the global community as a whole. The search for ways to overcome global contradictions, eliminate the negative consequences of globalization, liberate it from neoliberal influence, and create conditions for a transition to a new paradigm of global economic order oriented toward social progress remains relevant. The interpretation of the relationship between globalization and neoliberal policies, and through the latter, the influence of globalization on the development of economic theory, is also ambiguous.

Analysis and results

Economic theory arose and continues to develop through the resolution of contradictions of both ontological and epistemological nature. Moreover, its structure contains problems that persist and are not resolved throughout its history. One such "eternal" problem is the relationship between the general (universal) and the particular (specific). The widespread and strongly supported opinion about the universality of modern economic theory is, in our view, a myth, a dogma, the overcoming of which is essential for the scientific community to find solid guidelines for the development of its discipline. By "modern economic theory" we mean that branch of economics that developed as a result of the marginalist revolution and which, under the name " economics, " currently dominates scientific and educational processes not only in Western countries but also in Russia. It can be concluded that

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economics is currently experiencing difficult times: the global crisis of 2008-2010 sharply highlighted (for the "public") its main "vice" – the separation of theory from practice. This is precisely the reason economists are being criticized today: their failure to foresee the crisis or develop effective recommendations for overcoming it. In countries undergoing catch-up development, including Russia, the inadequacy of modern economic theory and practice is more acute than in developed market economies, although even in the latter, its abstract nature, unrealistic nature, and ultimately its failure to fulfill its practical function have been recognized in academic circles and repeatedly criticized, at least since the "method debate." While recognizing the full extent of economic science's responsibility and without attempting to defend "modern economists," we note that the problem of the separation of theory from practice is, of course, a shortcoming and perhaps even a "vice" of economic theory, but one that cannot be eliminated while remaining within its framework. One could even say that this is its generic property, inherent to it due to the specific nature of theoretical knowledge in general and aggravated by the initial methodological principles that determine the formation of its subject matter. The fact is that the economy, as an object of economic theory, being a complex phenomenon, cannot be studied directly, as it appears to the everyday eye. In that case, it would be a simple accumulation of numerous real objects and things (factories and plants, bridges and roads, goods, etc.), phenomena and processes (demand, supply and price, investment, division of labor, etc.), subjects (consumers and producers, workers and capitalists, households, etc.). To bring all of this into any kind of system, it is necessary to apply special methodological techniques to create a specific theoretical framework, the initial attributes of which must express the essential features ("universality") of the studied area of reality. This is how the subject of science is formed. It should be emphasized that the relationship between the object and the subject of science is not reducible to the relationship between the whole and its part. An object is the reality under study by a given science. A subject is the same object, but theoretically transformed in one way or another (depending on the methodology) into a certain schema or model reflecting the fundamental characteristics of the reality being studied. It is obvious that science deals not with the object as such, but with its reflection in certain concepts, categories, laws, etc. In other words, in the transition from object to subject, what philosophers call the "idealization" of the object occurs. Moreover, the subject, being an idealization of its object, exists objectively. But not in the sense that it exists prior to, outside of, or independently of man, his will and consciousness. The subject is objective as a representative of the real object, reproducing its general, universal features and patterns in the public consciousness. In summary, one can say that in the formation of the subject of economic theory, a double abstraction occurs. The first is associated with isolating economic activity from the diversity of social connections; the second is associated with identifying its essential features that give it unity and integrity. At both stages, the national characteristics of individual countries, both economic and non-economic, are excluded. The result is a model of the economy that is believed to reveal properties, features, and patterns of a universal nature. It is clear, then, that the theory's universality is ensured by its method, as it defines the general principles for studying a real object and, thus, constructing its theoretical framework (subject). Without delving into all the complexities and subtleties of constructing the subject of economics , we note that its characteristic hypothetico-deductive method does not allow for the identification of universal connections in the economy and, thus, the construction of a subject that adequately reflects its universal patterns. We emphasize once again that the national economy, in all its rich content, is not and cannot be the direct subject of economic theory. At the same time, business practice (in the broad sense of the word) expects economic theory to provide forecasts and recommendations, seeing precisely this as its meaning and purpose. But from a universal theory, understood in the context of economics , only universal conclusions can follow, the same for all countries and at all times. And these conclusions are

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inevitably ideological in nature, since economic theory, both by its structure and historically, is "ideologically charged" [3, p. 72].

The exclusion of national characteristics of economic development from the subject of economic theory is the first factor necessitating the development of a separate science—the theory of national economics or national economics. The second such factor is the tendency toward increasing complexity in the structure of economic knowledge (science) or, in O. Ananyin's more rigorous formulation, its fragmentation. He asserts that "after the new historical school, and especially marginalism, gained strength, economic science ceased to be a unified scientific discipline" [1, p. 51]. Indeed, not only economic science as a whole, but also modern economic theory is represented by a variety of different approaches, schools and trends: monetarism, the school of rational expectations, supply theory, post-Keynesianism , new neoclassicals, new Keynesians , evolutionary economic theory, “old” institutionalism and new institutional economic theory, behavioral economics, experimental economics, etc. However, despite the diversity of different approaches and schools, in economic theory there is not competition, but a monopoly of one paradigm, which is expressed by such a concept as “ mainstream” " Economics ". Monopoly in any field, as is well known, has negative consequences. In economic theory, it has led to a growing gap between theory and practice ("growing" – since it is inherent in the initial formation of the subject). The fact is that the development of "normal science" (T. Kuhn), and this is precisely the period that began after the marginalist revolution, occurs primarily due to internal factors (the internal logic of the development of concepts and categories) or through the "transition from one idea to another" (M. Blaug). "The transition from one idea to another" is formalism, which leads theory away from its real object. In this case, we can speak of an extensive form of scientific development (as opposed to the intensive form that occurs within the framework of scientific revolutions), facilitating the cumulative accumulation of knowledge. The content of science must correspond to its subject and method. Therefore, an extensive expansion of knowledge is possible only within the framework of the dominant paradigm, and therefore cumulative development is characteristic of the period of "normal science". This process is indeed "normal," but at the same time, it increasingly diverts economic theory from practice and the analysis of real economic systems. To a certain extent, the diversity of schools and approaches in modern economics serves as a way to resolve the contradiction between theory and practice. This is particularly evident in the widespread use of applied socioeconomic research. The development of econometric research and the emergence of such branches of economic knowledge as industrial market theory, labor economics, new institutional economic theory, and others are ultimately driven by the need to bring abstract theory closer to concrete economic practice. From the perspective of long-term economic development strategy, what is needed is not abstract ("pure") theory, but concrete (applied) theory, reflecting the unique, specific conditions and constraints of a given country at a given stage of its development. However, it should be emphasized that the validity of the idea of a national economy in modern conditions is predetermined not so much epistemologically as ontologically: its necessity is justified today not by the poverty of the subject of economic theory or the increasing complexity of its structure (although this too), but by the importance of ensuring Russia's economic security and, above all, its survival, as well as its taking a worthy place in the world system. We are talking about two interrelated circumstances. Firstly, a careful study of the history of economic thought allows us to conclude that any theory, even the most seemingly abstract and "universal", expresses and protects the interests of a certain nation (or nations due to the coincidence of historical conditions of existence and development), that is, it is "nationally loaded" or even "nationally committed". Typically, economists do not think about this or altogether reject the idea of a "fifth point" of their science. However, another approach exists and is gaining more and more supporters, which, to varying degrees, recognizes

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national interests as a factor in the evolution of economic thought. "The national factor," writes Yu. Ya. Olsevich , "is far from the only one determining theory; "However, if various theories differ in some ways and coincide in others, then what we should look for behind this is, first of all, the difference or coincidence of national economic interests" [6, p. 246]. The most striking example of the "national load " of economic theory is the English classic free traders, who expressed in their theory the interests of a nation seeking free trade to establish world domination, or the representatives of the German historical school - protectionists, who realized the disadvantage and harmfulness of this very notorious freedom for their nation. In the same way, modern neoliberal globalization is an "American project" expressing and protecting the interests of global financial capital concentrated in the USA. To believe that the interests of the "periphery" are somehow taken into account in this "project" means turning a blind eye to the real state of affairs. The global economy has never been an arena of equal economic relations, characterized by equivalent exchange, free competition and equal efficiency for all subjects participating in it. At present, the hierarchical nature of the world economy can be considered proven; In particular, from the perspective of the world-systems approach, a distinction is made between the "core" (center), semi-periphery , and periphery. The United States (the center of the global hierarchy), along with other developed countries, is most often characterized as post-industrial. As A.S. Skorobogatov has shown, post-industrial countries possess economic and political advantages that allow them to extract all or most of the benefits from exchange within the framework of international economic relations while maintaining the status quo [8, pp. 23–24]. We should add that they are assisted in this by the modern mainstream, which theoretically substantiates the "naturalness," profitability, and efficiency of the free market and free competition, and imposes its ideology on the entire world. A consequence of the uneven development and hierarchical structure of the global economy is also the inability of "peripheral" countries to change the current state of affairs for the better. Although the opinion has recently been expressed that the global hierarchy is undergoing changes, this refers to a change of leader, which is apparently natural for a capitalist world system . However, breaking out of the "ghetto" of backwardness based on the principle of "catch-up development," as historical experience shows, is impossible. For Russia, it is critically important to recognize that the deindustrialization of its economy, which resulted from the market reforms carried out in Russia in the 1990s and expressed in the destruction of the main elements of the industrial type of reproduction and the establishment of its stable raw materials orientation, combined with severe social problems and pervasive corruption, is determining a change in the vector of further development. This requires a theoretical understanding of the state and development trends of the Russian economy, which, due to the above circumstances, cannot be based on Western economic theory, which is ideologically and nationally "loaded." Secondly, globalization in its current model leads to abstraction (ontologically!) from everything specifically national; not only to the erasure of economic boundaries and the disregard of national interests, but also to the construction of a new, "global" system of values, norms of behavior, traditions, etc. This is the basis for the deepening inequality of countries, the emergence of national conflicts, and the rejection by non-Western civilizations of truly universal, common human values. At the same time, as V. Ryazanov quite rightly notes, "...national-civilizational factors are effectively excluded from those that should be taken into account when studying the characteristics of economic development and when developing economic policy" [7, p. 4]. Thus, the objective "poverty" of the subject of economic theory, the patterns of its extensive development, which have led not only to its mathematization and formalization but also to the increasing complexity of the structure of economic science, as well as the development trends of the modern global economy, necessitate the development of a theory of national economics or national economy. The main methodological problem arising in the conceptual consideration of national

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economics as a separate discipline is the definition of its subject. Despite the fairly common use of the terms "national economy" and "national economy," their meaning remains undefined. An analysis of textbooks on national economics reveals that in most of them, the subject is formulated by a simple listing of its constituent elements or the problems examined within it. Clearly, the object of national economics, if we understand this as the theory of national economics, is the real economy of a given country at a given stage of its development, taken in the aggregate of all the conditions and factors that determine its characteristics and differences from other nationally distinct economies. The definition of the subject depends on the methodology used to identify the initial element or lawful connection that generates and unites all the specific phenomena and processes of a given system into a single whole. If we assume that: a) in economics today, two approaches already exist for identifying the "universal" in the economy and, accordingly, two approaches to defining the subject of economic theory – political economy and economics ; b) national economy is a section (part) of economic theory (as most supporters of its separation into a separate discipline believe), then its subject can be defined either within the framework of political economy or within economics . Only in this way can national economy acquire a solid theoretical and methodological foundation and gain the ability to identify patterns of national economic development that, under certain conditions, acquire universal status. The proposition that economics is not a universal (general) science can be considered proven. This limitation of the mainstream can, to a certain extent, be overcome, as already mentioned, by the development of applied socio-economic research. Institutionalism, which is not without reason called the "new paradigm" of Russian economic theory, plays a major role in this regard for our domestic science. Institutionalism, by addressing the question of the emergence and development of institutions and studying them, is apparently capable of providing an answer to their national specificity. However, methodologically, it is limited by certain boundaries. These boundaries appear to be defined, on the one hand, by the fact that it is easy to shift from the assertion "institutions matter" to the formula "only institutions matter." Then, economic theory as an independent science is nothing more than a poorly defined interdisciplinary space with many possible development vectors. On the other hand, the institutional approach in economic theory is not an independent paradigm, but a supplement to dominant neoclassical theory, designed to fill its obvious "gaps." As such, modern institutionalism is based on methodological foundations common to neoclassical theory, with all the ensuing consequences. All of this calls into question the creation of national economics as a coherent theoretical discipline based on economics , even if supplemented by institutionalism. Within the framework of political economy, national specifics, just as in economics , are not taken into account. However, while economics , as demonstrated above, generally does not, in principle, offer the potential for studying specific, historically developing national economic systems, political economy, in our view, does possess such potential. It should be noted that the relevance of Marx's political economy has been repeatedly discussed in the history of social science, both domestic and contemporary.

Conclusion

National economics develops the theoretical foundations for the development of the Russian economy as a whole at this historical juncture, based on the protection of national interests. The task of creating a national (political) economy in this sense has always faced Russian economists. Moreover, it developed quite successfully in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and continues to develop today in the works of countless economists, demonstrating the harmfulness of " shock therapy " reforms, justifying the need to change the vector of Russian society's development, and demonstrating specific paths for leading Russia to new frontiers.

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