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Megatrends of the world politics

Abstract. In the study, we identify and analyse how conceptual and applied aspects of megatrends of world politics are treated in the expert-academic community by outlining the specifics of megatrends of global development in the international political sphere.

The paper summarises the megatrends of world politics that will shape the world by 2030. There is a threefold transformation of the modern political organisation of the world: the transformation of the Westphalian world political model, which is determined by globalisation, the transformation of the modern international system, largely due to integration as a megatrend, and the transformation of political systems. Global governance will be carried out in new formats, which will be reflected in the intensification of the institutions of collective world leadership. A change in the hierarchy of leading international actors, a rethinking of the power of leading global actors (US and EU), and the emergence of new potential political and economic global leaders are projected. The centre of world development is moving, the economic centre is shifting to the east and south.

One of the central megatrends of world politics is the decline in human security, which became even clearer during the SARS pandemic, COVID-19, which will lead to the transformation of the modern international order.

To these megatrends of world politics, we also adjoin the virtualisation of socio-political relations, a new model of change of political power and governance in individual countries, reideologization of world politics, inversion of fundamental values, universalization of migration flows.

Keywords: World Politics; International Relations; Megatrends; Global Development; World Order

JEL Classification: O29; P17

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1. Introduction

The problem of megatrends of world politics forms an integral part of contemporary international-political science, the component elements of which are reflected in the research investigation of conceptual and applied aspects of megatrends of world politics in retrospective and prospective dimensions, along with analysis and identification of how these problems are interpreted in the expert-academic consortium.

The social sciences have gradually realised that solving global problems requires increasing the level of governance of world development. Simultaneously, the research investigation of the above-mentioned problem is described by insufficient conceptual and categorical certainty, which is explicitly based on the interdisciplinary nature of research. The paper will determine two central approaches in their conceptualization. The first is presented by the research of philosophers, sociologists, and psychologists, who make emphasis on the qualitative transformations in the

world political system overall. The latter will mainly focus on the factual, applied analysis of megatrends in world politics.

In the concept of retrospective analysis of megatrends of world politics, it should be noted that the systematic approach to the investigation of international relations envisages the conception of them as a system, namely investigation of the evolution of international relations as of the system of interactions, which are taking place in a certain environment. The world political process appertains to the group of the external factors of international systems. These are the international processes, which are taking place in the historical environments and advert to certain countries or the world community in general. In the history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, they included the formation of the colonial empires, in the history of the twentieth century - the rise of national liberalisation movements, the clash of colonial systems, the scientific and technical revolution, and the nuclear factor in the world politics, globalisation, the increasing interdependence of states and peoples, genesis and radicalisation of world issues.

The contemporary world politics is characterised by a qualitatively new stance of the international environment, in which both traditional entities of international relations - namely states, together with new entities. That is why the characterization of the state of the environment becomes no less important than the characterization of the behaviour of international actors. These changes are most often associated with globalisation, whereas global development is seen as an environment for international engagement.

2. Megatrends of global development

Frequently, the notion of global development is applied for the identification of the maximal possible set of changes in the space continuum and time, which cover humanity as a whole and its use empowers to identify new central directions of social advancement. Therefore, under the notion of «global development» is understood the determinate quantitative changes in the space and time of the global system - new political, socio-cultural, informational-technological, economical-cultural with its specific structures and processes, which functions in terms of the conclusive humanity. Hence, this is the development of the entire human society as a social-historical phenomenon in the unity of its internal features and the overall complexity of relations and liaisons, including in world politics. In this context, the notion of global development is used for the identification of central regularities, tendencies, and directions coevolution of social and political communities and humanity in general as of system of interaction in space and time in their correlation.

According to the abovementioned positions the problem of megatrends as of the most cardinal directions of human development, the fundamental and longest tradition of society movement - is an attempt to understand global development and determine the characteristics of the temporal rhythm of the global system within universal laws, emphasizing on certain features and directions of the development. This essentially involves the identification of large-scale international/global patterns that determine each stage of human evolution and shape the essence of each stage of evolution, determining the global trends in world politics.

The research study of global development and the evolution of the relationship between its components is an attempt to build by human consciousness the abstract models of human development in space and time. But it is worth noting that there are some issues along the way. Firstly, any analytical model as a specially synthesized object for the convenience of the researcher, adequate to the objectives of the study, and as a system that serves as a means of obtaining information about another system, will inevitably simplify our understanding of reality. Secondly, in order to build this model, you need both a higher-level theory that exceeds the capabilities of the theoretical apparatus of modern social sciences and the choice of a particular research paradigm. Third, we note the «compression» of historical and political time, increasing the intensity of historical events per unit time and reducing the duration of historical and political cycles. Socio-political history is accelerating and becoming more intense and unpredictable, similar in scale and content events and processes occur in a shorter period and, accordingly, shortens the period of preservation of the status quo. Humanity as a whole and the individual do not keep up with the changes of time, which leads to a violation of emotional security, respond to new challenges with concepts and ideas that developed in the previous era and can sometimes be counterproductive to modern conditions.

The nature and main trends of global development are characterised by global trends (social, political, economic, scientific, cultural) as the main directions of global society, which determine the main directions of evolution of the modern world and the future of mankind. These trends are

global in nature, i.e., they cover the whole world, influencing the life of the world community. At the same time, they differ in scale, i.e., operate in different parts of the world with varying degrees and intensity. They also differ in duration, i.e., their timeliness are limited, and sooner or later they become replaced by alternative trends. Interacting closely with each other and complementing each other, they have a cumulative effect on the state of the world. These are large-scale long-term processes of global development, which determine the qualitative content of the current stage of evolution of the world system.

Attempts to identify patterns of each stage of human development have been made repeatedly. The main paradigms of such research, i.e., metatheoretical formations that contained a set of original ideas and methodological settings on which scientific knowledge was based, a set of principles that at a particular historical stage of science set a certain way of theoretical activity, determining the choice of means of this activity were presented in state-centric and world-system paradigms.

One of the approaches presented by such representatives of civilization theory as I. Danilevsky and O. Spengler postulates that history does not develop linearly, in the contrast to individual cultural and historical communities (civilisations), which turns the determination of its global trends impossible (Danilevsky, 2013).

The second approach was based on the recognition of the wave nature of political processes and was based on the concept of centrifugal and centripetal tendencies in the development of social communities (Huntington, 1991). Thus, in particular, S. Huntington has put forward the idea of the wave nature of world development.

Within the third approach, megatrends are dyads of antagonistic processes that change each other in a certain cyclical rhythm: globalization - deglobalization (isolationism); integration - disintegration (nationalism); democratization - dedemocratization (strengthening of authoritarian regimes) (Lebedeva, 2019).

To conclude, it is necessary to distinguish the global trends in society as a socio-historical phenomenon in the unity of its internal qualities and the whole set of relations and connections in international life, i.e., the so-called socio-historical development; civilisation processes; megatrends of world politics.

3. Specifics of the emergence of megatrends within the international political sphere

Nowadays, it is imperative to single out issues of a philosophical nature, methodological aspects of studying megatrends of world politics as sustainable and long-term trends in its development, by finding out which trends are global as well determining their specifics in international politics. Moreover, it is necessary to consider such characteristics of megatrends of world politics as their global character, spread from the centre to the periphery, the fact that regional and national changes are only their elements. It should be also noted that in different areas these processes, which synthesize cyclic and linear time, can take different forms.

The impact of the compression of historical and political time on the megatrends of world politics incorporates in the fact that they acquire a more limited duration, which will weaken in the context of the further accelerated transformation of the world political system and will inevitably lead to new trends. Megatrends of global development such as the cyber revolution, the transition to the information society based on the production and consumption of information, the growing role of network structures, in particular on world politics, increasing consumption, hyperconsumption as a complex systemic phenomenon have a significant impact on world politics. Every year the anthropogenic impact advances: the industry develops, the number of emissions into the atmosphere rises, the greenhouse effect increases. As a result of population expansion, the deficit of renewable resources will increase sharply. In addition to the shortage of land, water, and energy resources, major environmental problems begin to occur. Putting this in other words, the increasing environmental deficit, which is the cause of such phenomenon as migration, economic downturn, and the weakening of the state, results in conflicts that can be described as eco-political conflicts. Combined, this can contribute to the spread of subnational violence, which leads to the collapse of the state and to the fact that peripheral regions may come under the control of those who are not satisfied with the current government. Thus, the environmental deficit may be one of the reasons for the political collapse of the country.

Furthermore, the following six ecological changes may become the primary causes for the international conflicts in the 21st century: climate change, ozone depletion, degradation of

agricultural land, forests, freshwater, depletion of fish stocks. It is already the case that the environmental deficit encourages military conflicts in various parts of the world. These conflicts reflect the first features of the forthcoming increase of violence in the world, which will be entailed and enforced by the deficit. To a considerable degree, the conflicts will impact low-income societies, as these are less likely to protect themselves from the environmental deficit and social crises, which are caused by them.

The populariser of the use of the term «megatrend» John Naisbitt publishes in 1982 a book called «Megatrends», in which he outlines the most drastic and revolutionary directions of development of the society (Naisbitt, 1982, Naisbitt & Aburdene, 1992). As for the megatrends of world politics, the genre of «conceptual review of major international problems», attempts to capture and present the strategic essence of complex historical and contemporary foreign policy processes, is gradually being formed in international political research. It is referred to a special ability «to visualise the central things, without frivolous trifles, but also without excessive detail» (Haas, 2019).

In general, it is allowed to agree with the point of view that at the present stage there is a three-component transformation of the modern political organization of the world. These are the transformation of the Westphalian world political model, which is conditioned by globalisation as a megatrend of global development, the transformation of the modern international system, largely due to integration as a megatrend, and the transformation of political systems of individual countries due to democratisation.

The transformation of the Westphalian world political model and the collapse of the Yalta-Potsdam system forced politicians and scientists to make predictions about the future political world order, which are necessary from the standpoint of forecasting and quality management of megatrends of world politics.

A significant contribution to the development of this area was made by the activities of the Club of Rome, in particular reports prepared at its request or by members of the club, which immediately became the subject of lively scientific discussions¹.

Back in 1999, the US National Intelligence Council, in collaboration with the State Department and the CIA, began the work on the «Global Trends 2015» project, by organising two open symposia under the general title «Global Future Options: 2000-2015.» This forecast assumed that states would remain major players in the international arena, although the role of non-state actors would tend to increase. The number of important actors will also increase which will jeopardize US leadership. These are countries such as China, Russia, India, Mexico, and Brazil; regional organisations such as the EU; many TNCs and non-profit organisations that are gaining weight in the international arena. The authors of the report proposed four plausible scenarios for human development by 2015: «comprehensive globalisation» while improving the effectiveness of global and regional collective governance; «destructive globalization» and increasing the inequality of development of individual countries and regions, which is accompanied by the weakening of both national and international governing bodies and political institutions; «regional competition» and strengthening resistance to the global superiority of the United States in the transfer of powers of global organisations to regional institutions; «post-polar world» with increasing political tensions in US relations with the EU, the crisis of national governance in Latin America and rivalry between Asian countries. In all four scenarios, the effectiveness of national, regional, and international governance stays vital, whilst projecting the weakening of US global influence².

American experts published a collection of articles that elaborated four possible models of the international system in the 21st century: empire, the balance of power, global democracy, and collective security. Proponents of the first model, which presupposed the US dominance and the reduction of the role of international organisations in global governance were neoconservatives. The second model involved the formation of a multipolar world in which a limited number of states will cooperate and compete with each other. The third scenario called for the creation of an effective security system, strengthening the role of the UN, in particular the Security Council. In the «path to global democracy» model, a special role was allocated to global political institutions and non-governmental organizations (Held & Koenig-Archibugi, 2004).

«Project 2020», «Contours of the World Future» on the prospects and global trends of world development for the first quarter of the XXI century outlined the central trends and scenarios of

¹ <https://www.clubofrome.org>

² https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Global%20Trends_2015%20Report.pdf

human development until 2020. The first scenario, tentatively titled «Davos world», meant the successful progress of globalisation, the inclusion of China and India into the list of leading actors, which will provide the globalisation process with a «non-Western face», although it was noted that this system will be unlikely to self-regulate. The second scenario, entitled «Pax Americana», offered a vision of the future with a central dominant of the present - the United States, which will determine the choice of models of global development. The third scenario, the «New Caliphate», envisaged the increasing challenges to the Western value system by engaging a growing number of people and increasing the spread of non-Christian religious identity, creating a transnational theocratic entity based on religious consciousness that should slow globalisation. According to the «Horror Circle», much of the world is becoming a space of violence and instability, geographically bound from the Middle East to Southeast Asia, and no organisation other than NATO, dominated by the United States, will be able to take responsibility for maintaining balance in the world. The rise of China, India, and some other countries (Brazil, Iran) as possible global actors will impose negative consequences compared to the rise of Germany in the late 19th century. As for Russia, although the possibility of increasing its role in the international arena was not ruled out, it cannot claim the role of a global actor³.

According to the authors of the report «Future in 2030», prepared by the public organisation «Free World Academy» in 2005, the world in 2030 will be divided into three regions: a globalised region (51.5% of the population) with a growing middle class; the backward region (34.5% of the population) under the rule of Islamism - the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and the declining region - (14% of the world's population)⁴.

In November 2008, the US National Intelligence Council released a report on «Global Trends 2025: a changed world» as another attempt to identify key factors and trends that will determine the development of world politics. In addition to several leading experts, a few research centres, consulting firms, and research institutions, including the Henry Stimson Centre, the Stanford Research Institute, the Woodrow Wilson Centre, the RAND Corporation, and others participated in the preparation of the new report of the National Intelligence Council. This time the report stated that with the rise of China, India, and other countries, a global multipolar system is emerging, and the role of non-state actors is growing. The United States will remain the sole world leader, but its power and dominance will gradually wane. By 2025, India and China will surpass all countries except the United States in terms of GDP. The eight countries with the most developed economies will include the United States, China, India, Japan, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Russia. The authors of the report proposed four plausible scenarios for global development by 2025. The first is «A World Without the West», which brings new powerful states to the world stage, which challenges the stability of the existing system of international relations and can lead to global conflicts. The second scenario - «The October Surprise» - is an unexpected natural disaster, accelerating climate change. According to the third scenario - the «BRICS Scandal», there is a conflict between the new powerful states, especially between India and China due to the conflict for resources. The fourth scenario, «Politics is not always local (shaping the global world)», foresaw the loss of states' leading role in shaping world politics, which should accelerate the development of subregional and transnational entities, whereas the global climate risks would shift control over these issues from the state level to the supranational⁵.

Of the latest forecasts, the report «The Breaks and Distractions - Rethinking Security in 2040», prepared as a result of a seminar organised by RAND Corporation in 2018, deserves special attention. It was organized within the framework of the International Centre for Security and Defence Policy (ISDP) of the National Security Research Division RAND (NSRD), which conducts research and analysis for the Office of the Secretary of Defence, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Defence for Navy and Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Intelligence Community, Allied Governments, and Funds. The report is based on the results of a seminar organized by RAND Corporation in New York on September 8, 2017, which discussed the identification and prediction of global trends and gaps that will affect the world by 2040 and the possible ways to prevent their negative consequences. The main purpose of this report was to predict the crucial security

³ <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/publication/documents/2020-02/ipsos-global-trends-2020-understanding-complexity.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/who-we-are/organizations/mission-integration/nic/nic-related-menus/nic-related-content/global-trends-2030>

⁵ https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Reports%20and%20Pubs/2025_Global_Trends_Final_Report.pdf

challenges in the world by 2040, considering the consequences of political, technological, social, and demographic trends that will shape the security challenges in the coming decades.

Continuities and gaps from the previous era to the consequential changes in the next 25 years were analysed. The trends that were formulated and predicted, even if they were accelerating, were recognized as continuous. To get a veracious image of how the world may inherit or ignore forecasts between now and 2040, RAND researchers analysed three previous 25-year periods of history (1910-1935, 1950-1975, and 1990-2015) and identified a wide range of possible scenarios for 2015-2040. For each period, the researchers tracked a wide range of events that were a continuation of previous trends; they were not significantly surprising, even if they were accelerating. Events that were considered predictable (known in the literature reviews as «white swans») fell into the category of continuity. Researchers also identified «black swans» - events that were considered impossible and unpredictable.

For the period 1910-1935 (defined as the period of the «nucleus from which power can grow»), these are unforeseen circumstances associated with the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the Great Depression. The second period, 1950-1975, was called the period when «no corner of the earth can be isolated.» The unforeseen events included the Soviet Union's test of the atomic bomb in 1947, the launch of the satellite in 1957, rapid decolonisation, the wars in Korea and Vietnam, and the 1973 oil embargo. Between 1990 and 2015, when «there was not enough time for a surprise», the Soviet Union disintegrated, NATO enlargement took place as well as the terrorist attacks of September 11 in 2001, increased US involvement in Afghanistan and the Middle East, the invention of the Internet, and China's rise. In 2015-2040 (the period of «inventing the future»), the projected changes include climate change, which benefits some countries but negatively impacts others by changing the balance of power. This period was distinguished from the previous by the rapid emergence of more powerful tools for observation, analysis, and training.

The achievements of this report include the proposed scheme for further analysis of emerging issues of world politics. One of the conference participants quoted an old aphorism, «the best way to predict the future is to invent it,» to remind other participants that some predicted or unpredictable events are anthropogenic. Until we see the development of artificial intelligence beyond human capabilities (Vernor Winge called this moment the «singularity», the point at which the world goes beyond our ability to understand this), far-reaching scenarios will be subject to human effort, at least to some extent (Hoehn et al., 2018).

Further forecasting of global policy megatrends includes the European Parliamentary Research Service (ERPS) report «Global trends to 2035. Geopolitics and international power», published in 2017. The study identified eight major economic, social, and political global trends until 2035. The aforementioned megatrends, in particular, population aging, fragile globalisation, technological revolution, climate change, shifting power relations, new areas of state competition, politics of information age, and environmental threats. Their influence on the development of the modern international system is subjected to scientific analysis. The forecasting of international trends was carried out using probable scenarios of further development, which are based on two factors: stability or instability in Europe and stability or instability in the world. The first scenario is an unstable Europe in a stable world: «Sick men of Europe: unstable Europe in a stable world». The second scenario - «Cold Wars» - a stable Europe in a stable world. The third scenario, «Hollow foundations», is an unstable Europe in an unstable world. The fourth scenario, entitled «The EU as the global power», predicts a stable Europe in an unstable world. The development of the provided scenarios allowed to develop recommendations for adaptation to possible transformations for the European Union in the conditions of their practical implementation. The overall conclusion of this report was that the world is becoming less secure but more politicised⁶.

Forecasting global trends until 2030 that will continue to affect the EU in the coming decades from climate change, technological acceleration, and digitalisation, to major economic geopolitical and demographic shifts is presented in the report «The 2021 Strategic Foresight Report» (published in September 2021)⁷. In this report, the focus focuses on key global megatrends. In particular, it is noted that as of 2020, 34% of the population is living in countries where democratic governance was declining and only 4% in countries that were becoming more democratic. Large-scale misinformation, powered by new instruments and online platforms, will pose

⁶ <https://www.oxan.com/media/1969/global-trends-to-2035-geopolitics-and-power.pdf>

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/strategic-planning/strategic-foresight/2021-strategic-foresight-report_el

increasing challenges to democratic systems and drive a new type of information warfare. According to experts, the world is becoming increasingly multipolar. China is set to become the biggest economy before the end of this decade, with India possibly surpassing the EU in the next 20 years.

The work of Ronald Berger «Trend compendium 2050: megatrends shaping the coming decades» deserves special attention⁸. The paper considers the changes in the megatrends of global development that have affected the megatrends of world politics in the context of the future of democracy and global risks.

The strategic trend of researchers is to reduce the level of protection of mankind due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kissinger writes about the impact of the pandemic on the megatrends of world politics in the article «The coronavirus pandemic will change the world order forever.» He suggested that the changes that are taking place will affect the fate of several generations and have already led to an imbalance of governance both domestically and internationally (Kissinger H. The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order⁹).

In December 2020, Mark Croweller's report «Building resilience - lessons from mother nature» was published¹⁰. The author wisely points out that megatrends are interrelated and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis of the institution of global leadership is reflected in the US-China Strategic rivalry. According to the researcher, the international system created after the Second World War was built by philosophers and ideologues who professed Eurocentrism, and countries such as China, India, and Brazil have not yet been considered real political players. These countries are now challenging this international system. The report focuses on such megatrends as the relocation of the centre of political and economic development, the crisis of the institution of global leadership. Attention is drawn to the reideologization of international relations, further polarization of the world, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic¹¹.

In his speech at the 2021 World Government Summit Minister of Cabinet Affairs UAE and Chairmen of the World Government Summit Organisation H. E Mohammad Al Gergavi has identified the major megatrends of the next decade as a turning point in world history, a time of testing and challenging decision-making for states and governments. The pandemic focused on the interconnectedness of the world and the need for global cooperation. The main problem is to maintain mental health, which involves the fight against depression, sadness, demotivation, lack of energy.

To make predictions in modern conditions has become more difficult in comparison with the more understandable bipolar world, have wisely noted Florian Klein, Megha Bansal, Julian Wohlers - the authors of the study «Beyond the noise». The megatrends of tomorrow's world» by the Centre for the long view¹², the authors attempted to identify megatrends that will affect all aspects of human society, including world politics. 35 drivers of change of the future are determined and the conclusion on their cumulative influence on megatrends of global development and megatrends of world policy is made. Particular attention is paid to such megatrends as the relocation of the centre of world development and the universalization of migration flows. Emphasis is placed on the fact that political instability in some countries has a negative impact on the development of the world economy, leading to an increase in the number of terrorist organizations. The authors note that 82% of the people killed in the terrorist attacks lived in five countries^{13, 14}.

Noteworthy is the generalisation of Jim Meszaros' five Megatrends to watch in 2021 megatrends. First megatrend: Vaccine nationalism may create tensions among countries and across demographic groups over access, effectiveness, and safety. The second megatrend - the gap between rich and poor will widen, with uncertain social consequences. The third megatrend - geopolitical tensions will continue as countries pursue their national interests. The fourth megatrend - momentum for climate action has been building for decades, but progress has been disappointing. The fifth megatrend - the pandemic has left destruction across economies and societies, shaking up global business, travel, retail, health, education, culture, and politics.

⁸ <https://www.rolandberger.com/en/Insights/Global-Topics/Trend-Compendium>

⁹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-coronavirus-pandemic-will-forever-alter-the-world-order-11585953005>

¹⁰ <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/au/pdf/2021/geopolitical-megatrends-business-resilience.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.worldgovernmentsummit.org/events/2021/session-detail/a0f3z02021-megatrends-that-will-shape-the-next-decade>

¹² <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/nl/Documents/public-sector/deloitte-nl-ps-megatrends-2ndedition.pdf>

¹³ <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/nl/Documents/public-sector/deloitte-nl-ps-megatrends-2ndedition.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://medium.com/issues-decoded/five-megatrends-to-watch-in-2021-349ae2083ea>

Agreeing with the view that the weakening of human security has become a key global trend in world politics in recent years, it should be noted that this problem has become the focus of the world community not only due to the collapse of the bipolar system, but also due to attempts by individual countries to reconsider their place in the modern international system.

Thus, in all forecasts, despite the differences in approaches and assessments, the world of the future had certain common characteristics, the most important of which was its globalization; the alternative to globalization is not considered or considered a catastrophe. At the same time, many of them state that the West is losing its monopoly on globalization. Researchers also do not question the fact that the world needs to be governed, because of the chaotic nature of international relations and the uncontrollability of international processes are a challenge to the entire international system and its main elements - states.

Changes in the configuration of the international system have led to a significant degree of uncertainty in predicting the processes that take place in it, and on the other hand, have given impetus to theoretical discussions and the development of several new concepts. The main problems of the scientific community are the nature of the modern international system, which involved studying the parameters of polarity, leadership, the new system of international stratification of its actors, the structure and environment of international cooperation, processes of change (dynamics) of these states, regulation, and self-regulation processes, the formation of new world order, the transformation of the political organisation of the world, i.e., the modification of the Westphalian world political model, changing the role of the state and its main attribute - sovereignty.

After the end of the bloc confrontation F. Fukuyama supposed the idea of conflict-free development of international relations and the transition of liberal democracy to a dominant position in the world (Fukuyama, 1989). On the other hand, S. Huntington pointed out that after the end of the Cold War, instead of bloc confrontation, differences of a civilizational nature came to the fore, which gives serious grounds for the conflict of interests of states (Huntington, 2003).

Fundamentally new features of the modern world system are the lack of balance of power and the complexity or even impossibility of its reproduction, the sovereignty of the individual and the natural increase of its role in world affairs, the sharp qualitative and quantitative growth of transnational actors. The main elements of instability in this situation are the lack of a theoretical idea that would act as a regulator of international order, incompatibility of old and new principles of its regulation, in particular the contradiction between non-interference and modern requirements for human rights violations violated by the state. The parallel existence of old and new institutions, which increases the feeling of anarchy and disorder of the international system, the intertwining of different interpretations of sovereignty without their clear hierarchy. A significant number of researchers (Wallerstein, Kapchan, Kennedy, Chomsky, etc.) state the tendency that the power of the United States is declining (Kapchan, 2009). At the same time, neoconservatives (Wolfowitz, Fukuyama), on the other hand, had no doubt that the United States would retain power, especially the military. Neoliberals (Keohane, 2000, 2012) believed that the United States has the potential to maintain its position in the future, provided a well-thought-out balanced and far-sighted foreign policy strategy (Keohane, 2012).

4. Global trends of world politics

One of the main megatrends of world politics is the decline in human security, which became even clearer during the SARS pandemic, COVID-19, other megatrends, including changes in the political structure of the world, the crisis of global leadership, inversion of fundamental values is derived by functional affiliation to it.

Determinant for the existence and development of the international system and its components is the international order, which builds a hierarchy of relations between the leading states. The study of this problem is relevant primarily in the view of global changes taking place in the modern world. Views on world politics have undergone considerable changes, and the definition of states' own approaches to the formation of a new international order is inextricably linked with the corresponding conceptual vision of world evolution, which is determined by the peculiarities of their strategic culture. Their mentality combines both universal and unique characteristics, which have historically been formed based on material and spiritual values of traditional culture and the integrative culture of the world community.

The crisis of the institution of global leadership is complicated by the fact that the order is not formed by all elements of the international system, but by several of the most powerful states in terms of aggregate potential, or a state that has reached the level of a hegemon.

In the modern world, the United States, after the collapse of the bipolar system, remained the only global power, the most powerful militarily and politically, and played the most active role in shaping the new international order. But their leadership is being eroded, particularly by states that embody other civilizations. In international life, new centres of political decision-making are being established, including China, India, and some Islamic countries, which can not only influence existing rules of the «global game» but also supplement old ones or even define new ones.

The idea of the internal heterogeneity of the modern international system and the typological heterogeneity of its subsystems was reflected, in particular, in Kissinger. If after the collapse of the Yalta-Potsdam system he expresses the view that order in the modern system will be ensured on the model of the Vienna «Concert of Nations», but the balance of power will be carried out globally, then in future works, including «Does America Need Foreign Policy?» (Kissinger, 2002) and «World Order» (Kissinger, 2014), he already emphasizes the heterogeneity of the global international system. This leads to the conclusion that it is necessary to formulate a concept of order within certain regions, acceptable to others, noting that military dominance in the region of one totalitarian state threatens the international order of other regions. It defines several levels of order: as a theoretical model, in particular at the level of a particular region or civilization; as a practical implementation of these concepts in much of the world, so significant that it may affect the global balance of power.

Among the countries opposed to a unipolar world order, are new and growing powerful players, primarily China and India. Not only because they themselves claim the role of individual poles of power in the new balance of power, but also because the traditional world-view doctrines of the great civilizations of the East have their own approaches to a possible international order. In addition, they want to be free to pursue their own foreign policy. Therefore, their traditional vision is that the international system will naturally remain multipolar, rejecting attempts to protect the unipolar world. With the tendency of increasing conflictual opposition to the leadership paradigm of building a global world order, it is no longer perceived as an integration imperative, which leads to the need for either another paradigmatic modification of the leadership model or the leader of structural and international constructions in the international arena. Comparing China and the United States, Kissinger said that what they had in common was the recognition of their own «special mission,» and the difference was that China had never supported the American idea of universalism to spread its values around the world. (Kissinger, 2014). China, as a nation with a continuous history of the material civilization of five millennia and written history of 3.5 millennia, has a wealth of experience in implementing its own foreign policy strategy. He represents a great civilization, and, in many respects, it is due to heredity and continuity of civilization development occupies a significant position in world affairs.

China's traditional values, perceptions of the world, China's place, and role in world politics and economy serve as the foundation that determines its vision of a new international order. In part, they are based on the tradition of China-centrism, justifying China's leading role in the region and the world at large.

For most of its history, China has viewed the international system in which it finds itself as awaiting its leadership. China's centralist vertical ties in international relations have been projected onto China's system of relations with the outside world. This nature of the system differed from the Westphalian model tested in Europe. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the China-centric system was the basis of international relations in East Asia but was later destroyed by Western colonial powers. International relations in Asia have been characterized by considerable attention to maintaining a formal hierarchy between regional actors. The current state of affairs allowed for informal equality between the parties. There was another tradition in Westphalian Europe: nation-states were formally equal, but practice proved the existence of an informal hierarchy.

At the present stage, the country's leadership supports the concept of «multipolarity» and building a multipolar world, the transition from a «vertical world order» dominated by Western values to a «horizontal» one, where China will be on par with Western countries both economically and politically, as well as in the spiritual sense. This approach is part of the gradual positioning of China as a «responsible global state», the starting point of which can be considered the end of the Cold War. At the same time, China has made no claim to global superpower status, continuing to position itself as a developing country, which to some extent has limited its area of responsibility.

According to Chinese political scientists, at the present stage, the United States has an advantage over other countries, but the trend towards multipolarity is reflected in the formation of new poles of the multipolar world - the United States, Russia, EU, China and Japan.

Special attention and more detailed research are needed and the so-called «Islamic project» or «Islamic alternative». Islam acts as an organizing factor in the history of the East, the core and motivating force of Islamic civilisation. Islam has an increased ability to mobilize large masses of people, at the present stage is the most dynamic of all world religions. In favour of the global role of Islam its deterritorialization.

The formation of the modern international order takes place as a dialectical process of interaction of tendencies of preservation of aggression with the previous historical form of existence of the international order and its radical renewal in the most essential features. It is formed as an order of the global community, as a global order, based on a combination of both universal and unique characteristics that have historically been based on material and spiritual values of traditional cultures and integrative culture of the world community and require further research.

5. Conclusions

The conducted analysis allows us to draw conclusions about the feasibility of using the category of megatrends in international political analysis and summarizes the megatrends of world politics that will shape the world by 2030. The delivery forecasts are essential from the standpoint of quality management of world policy megatrends.

Based on the analysis of numerous attempts to identify the central trends in world politics, we conclude that there is a consensus on the definition of the three most important of them: globalization, integration, and democratization. There is a threefold transformation of the modern political organization of the world: the transformation of the Westphalian world political model, driven by globalization as a megatrend, the transformation of the modern international system, largely due to integration as a megatrend, and the transformation of political systems due to democratization. We emphasize on the fact that megatrends have a cyclical-wave character, develop unevenly and nonlinearly (megatrends as dyads of antagonistic processes that change each other in a certain cyclical rhythm: globalization - deglobalization / isolationism; integration / democracy - disintegration; democratization / strengthening of authoritarian regimes), and their intertwining creates a new quality.

The formation of megatrends of world politics is influenced by megatrends of global development. The «compression» of historical and political time as a megatrend of global development is reflected in the increase in the intensity of historical events and the decrease in the duration of historical and political cycles.

On the one hand, by recognizing certain voluntarism and lack of consensus of researchers in identifying megatrends of world politics, focusing only on certain aspects of the phenomenon under study, we will try to add to the central trends of world politics that will shape the world by 2030, others which are related to the previous ones.

One of the central megatrends of world politics is the decline in human security, which became even clearer during the SARS pandemic, COVID-19, which will have led to the transformation of the modern international order, formation of normative, institutional bases, and status-role hierarchy of the new international order.

The transformation of the modern political organization of the world as a megatrend will lead to a further increase in the role of non-state actors in world politics, although the state will remain its central actor. Global governance will be carried out in new formats, which will be reflected in the intensification of the institutions of collective world leadership. A change in the hierarchy of leading international actors, a crisis in the institution of global leadership, a rethinking of the power of leading global actors (US and EU), and the emergence of new potential political and economic global leaders are projected. The center of world development is constantly developing, whereas the economic center is shifting to the east and south.

To these megatrends of world politics, we also adjoin the virtualization of socio-political relations, a new model of change of political power and governance in individual countries, reideologization of world politics, inversion of fundamental values, universalization of migration flows.

Their analysis considers the interconnectedness of global, regional, and national processes, in particular the global trends such as the new model of change in political power and governance in individual countries and the transformation of political systems in individual countries.

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