Review article

GLOBALIZATION AND URBAN CENTERS: IMPACT, CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL CITIES

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ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on globalization and its impact on the world's urban centers, i.e., on the interaction of globalization and (large) cities. The globalization of cities refers to the process by which the cities become increasingly involved in global economic, political, social and cultural networks. This process means that cities, especially large and important urban centers, become key actors on the international scene, transcending national borders and establishing a direct connection with global markets, cultures, communications and political structures. Special attention is devoted to the development of the so-called global cities, which represent key centers of economic, political and cultural power. The environmental challenges that globalized cities bring are also examined. Finally, the paper considers specific aspects of globalization within the context of Montenegro, analyzing how global processes affect development in that country.

Keywords: *globalization, global cities, urbanization, global economy, ecological challenges*

INTRODUCTION

Although the concept of globalization is relatively recent, certain authors, such as Vukotić, believe that the roots of globalization should be sought in history and prehistory. The roots of globalization are from the moment when homo sapiens started moving out of Africa and inhabiting this planet, and this motto tells us about that: "We are all from Africa!" We are all brothers!" - it is a platform of globalization (Vukotić, 2017, p. 76). It is considered that the first attempts at globalization began after the Second World War, but it gained its greatest importance after the Cold War. The increasingly stronger interdependence of the modern world (the world is a global village) is at work, and the dynamic process of connecting states and cities into one entity is unstoppable. In this sense, the international urban system consists of interconnected cities within national systems, while the global urban system includes global cities that are interconnected. The term "world city" has become more and more familiar with the growth of globalization, including areas such as digitalization, increasing the range of travel, communication, and finance. A world city is a city that has direct or indirect effects on global events through socio-economic aspects.

Global changes have brought a number of advantages, such as undisturbed communication, economic growth and increased competitiveness, development of tourism, science and education, global companies, more intensive struggle for human rights, cultural exchange and access to information, technoprogress. Also,

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rapid global changes have brought a number of disadvantages: the growth of social and economic inequality (expressed so-called culture of misery), foreign interventionism, various cases of abuse, labor exploitation, environmental problems, globalization of culture, disappearance and marginalization of local cultures. No matter how many advantages and benefits they bring, the flows of globalization create new challenges and deepen inequalities. Globalization indicates the need to place the understanding of global cities within the framework of the new reality.

The aim of this work is to enhance our understanding of the complex relationships between globalization and urban development, giving insight into the challenges and opportunities that globalization presents to cities. The work is organized into two parts. The first part discusses globalization in general, covering its causes and consequences. The second part shifts the focus to the globalization of cities, where cities are viewed as world systems that play a key role in global development. Finally, a synthesis presents the conclusions and facts reached from analyzing the phenomenon of the globalization of cities.

▍ DEFINING THE TERM OF GLOBALIZATION

Today, the concept of globalization is known not only in scientific but also in wider social frameworks, so globalization has economic, political, cultural, financial, technological, geographical, sociological, ecological (Grčić, Sluka, 2006), military and geopolitical dimensions. In this sense, cities are places of production and exchange of goods and services, therefore it is required that they are integrated into global networks and flows.

The word globalization is derived from the English word "*globe*", which means Earth, or a spherical celestial body. Globalization encompasses all social processes and relationships that have a planetary character, manifesting in all aspects of world events. Methodologically, the concept of globalization should be viewed through two dimensions – a broader and a narrower meaning. In a broader sense, globalization begins with the earliest forms of human association. If we take into account the basic and well-known fact that humans are social beings, it is easy to trace various forms of association throughout history: from hordes and clans to tribes and peoples and states, to the creation of nations, and later international and supranational forms of association. Global social groups are characterized by the fact that individuals participate in them with their entire personality. It is important to note that long before the formation of nations as historical creations, people were discovering the entire planet and creating connections on a global level (Šuvaković, Kragović, 2015). We live in a world where almost every aspect of our lives is changing, and regardless of whether the changes are positive or negative, we become part of a global order that is not fully understood but whose consequences we all experience1 (quoted in Kovačević, 2013). The narrower meaning of the term globalization refers to specific aspects of globalization, for example, the impact on local culture, international trade, migration, and other areas.

There are many definitions of the term globalization stemming from various scientific fields. Definitions therefore vary depending on what they focus on. It is a historically complex phenomenon, the very meaning of this term is the subject of discussion. An overview of some definitions is given in the appendix.

The world, from many aspects, can be perceived as a unique and interconnected society - this is called globalization (Čejko, 2019). Globalization refers to the increasingly intense connection of economies and societies around the world. Economic dimensions include increasing trade flows of goods and services, capital and ideas, as well as the mobility of individuals (Schwidrowski, Treigiene, 2011). Globalization, in the most basic sense, is described as the process of transforming local phenomena into global phenomena, where people around the world become part of a single society and function together. This process involves a combination of economic, technological, sociocultural and political factors, although the economic aspect is often empha-

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1 Giddens, E., Hutton, W. (2003). Hitting back. In *On the Edge: Living with Global Capitalism* (p. 288). Belgrade: Plateau.

sized in the context of globalization (Stearns, 2010). The globalization of economic activity has increased the volume and complexity of transactions, thereby increasing the demand for top-level multinational headquarters functions and advanced corporate services (Sassen, 2001). Globalization is primarily defined through the mobility and transnational nature of capital, but this political-economic perspective is contrasted with other factors such as migration patterns and demographic development, issues of race and racism, as well as the changing roles of the public sector (Marcuse, Kempen, 2000). Globalization in the broadest sense of the word refers to the expansion of global connections and includes several large processes. It can refer to real processes, ideas that justify them and ways of thinking about them. The term is not neutral, as definitions reflect different assessments of global changes (Internet 1). Globalization has an impact on almost every aspect of life, which attracts the attention of many scientific disciplines.2 It represents one of the key concepts in social sciences from the 1980s until today (Pajvančić-Cizelj, 2015). This leads to an excessive growth of interest in this topic and great confusion in the understanding of what globalization actually represents. In addition, it is difficult to reach clear conclusions because globalization significantly affects science itself and its findings (Bauman, 1998).

Conceptual frameworks of globalization

While for some globalization means the integration of the world and the creation of a global economy and culture, for others it means the division and clash of civilizations (Petrović, 2004). Globalization has become a matter of "the greatest urgency" in the first decade of the 21st century. According to one opinion, it is a new term that can be traced back to the 1980s. On the other hand, there is an opinion that globalization has a long history that reaches back to the 19th century and even earlier (Hopkins, 2002). The idea of globalization in the modern age originates from Immanuel Kant, while globalization as a real process began in the second half of the 20th century. It develops in the most developed countries and from there spreads to the rest of the world, both in a straight line and in a concentric pattern (Čupić, 2015). In the second half of the 20th century, a new economic wave, the so-called globalization appeared. Globalization represents connections that go beyond the boundaries of the nation-state, and their goal is to increase economic growth and wealth (Waters, 2001). More radical shifts in the literature that question economic conceptions of globalization are derived from the "adding" of sociocultural or sociopolitical dimensions and instead advocate the need to present globalization as a discursive formation (Yeoh, 1999). Sociologist Nederveen (2006) suggested that Eurocentric globalization is geographically centered on the West and preoccupied with recent post-war history, but he also elaborates on the concept of Eastern or Oriental globalization, which he mainly associates with India and China.

In a methodological and theoretical sense, globalization represents a concept or paradigm with the help of which various sciences seek to understand the functioning of humanity in the 21st century (Waters, 2001). Globalization is practically everywhere around us, in our country and cities. It is one of the most powerful and trenchant images of the world today. Globalization has captured the imagination of a series of individuals, from policymakers to politicians, to individual investors who are tapping into the global network at all levels (Short et al., 2000).

Globalization overcomes all differences and historically created borders, because "globalization knows nothing local, and only one who knows something and has the courage to market that knowledge on the international market is global" (Vukotić, 2020). Globalization undoubtedly leads to the erosion of state sovereignty. All this can perhaps be best understood if we look at our Blue Planet from the Cosmos. Seen from that point of view, national differences, state and other borders are not recognized.

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2 Globalization has become one of the organizing principles in the social sciences (Short et al., 2000).

Causes and consequences of globalization

When it comes to the causes of globalization, one should bear in mind that it is a complex process and that at every moment it is not possible to enumerate all the causes that can be attributed to that term. The development of technology, the Internet and informatics in general3, plays a significant role in the process of globalization, and the Internet itself is sometimes synonymous with globalization. Modern technology has contributed to reducing the need for physical movement of people and speeding up the movement of information. Modern information technology has led to the reduction of transport costs, fast payment systems and the development of digital culture worldwide. Now, in a few seconds, we can send an entire database to all corners of the world, educate ourselves online and do business online - an *online* entrepreneur (Blum, 2013). Globalization was made possible by innovations in transportation technology (highways, vehicles, railways and air traffic), as well as in the sphere of information and communication technologies (the Internet, digital, social and mobile media). There are more and more commercial and social transactions involving multiple countries. The Internet is not the only network that enables communication, there are also instant SMSs enabled by mobile and satellite networks, not the Internet, but they are digitized and serve to connect people. Even books can be produced and distributed more easily and cheaply than before. *The online,* digital world is actually not independent from *the offline,* physical world but is an integral part of it. The digital world is very real (Čejko, 2019).

The bottom line is that technology and information sharing are changing the world - people, cities and countries are becoming super-connected. No obstacles, bureaucratic or others, stand in the way of anyone who wants to communicate, be included in the global network of goods, information and people, improve their economic situation, and costs have been reduced to a minimum. A computer is part of the furniture in every family, and the state of the world's stock markets can be monitored 24 hours a day. Everyday education and teaching also create a network of contacts (the best examples of this are student exchanges that are current in Montenegro and the whole world, as well as *the Work and Travel* program). Therefore, students, as a young population, are significantly involved in globalization processes. There are more than 8 billion people4 and about 350 million students in the world, therefore, "That competition brought by globalization is a new torment, a new challenge, a new threat, a new necessity for all of us" (Vukotić, 2024, p. 6).

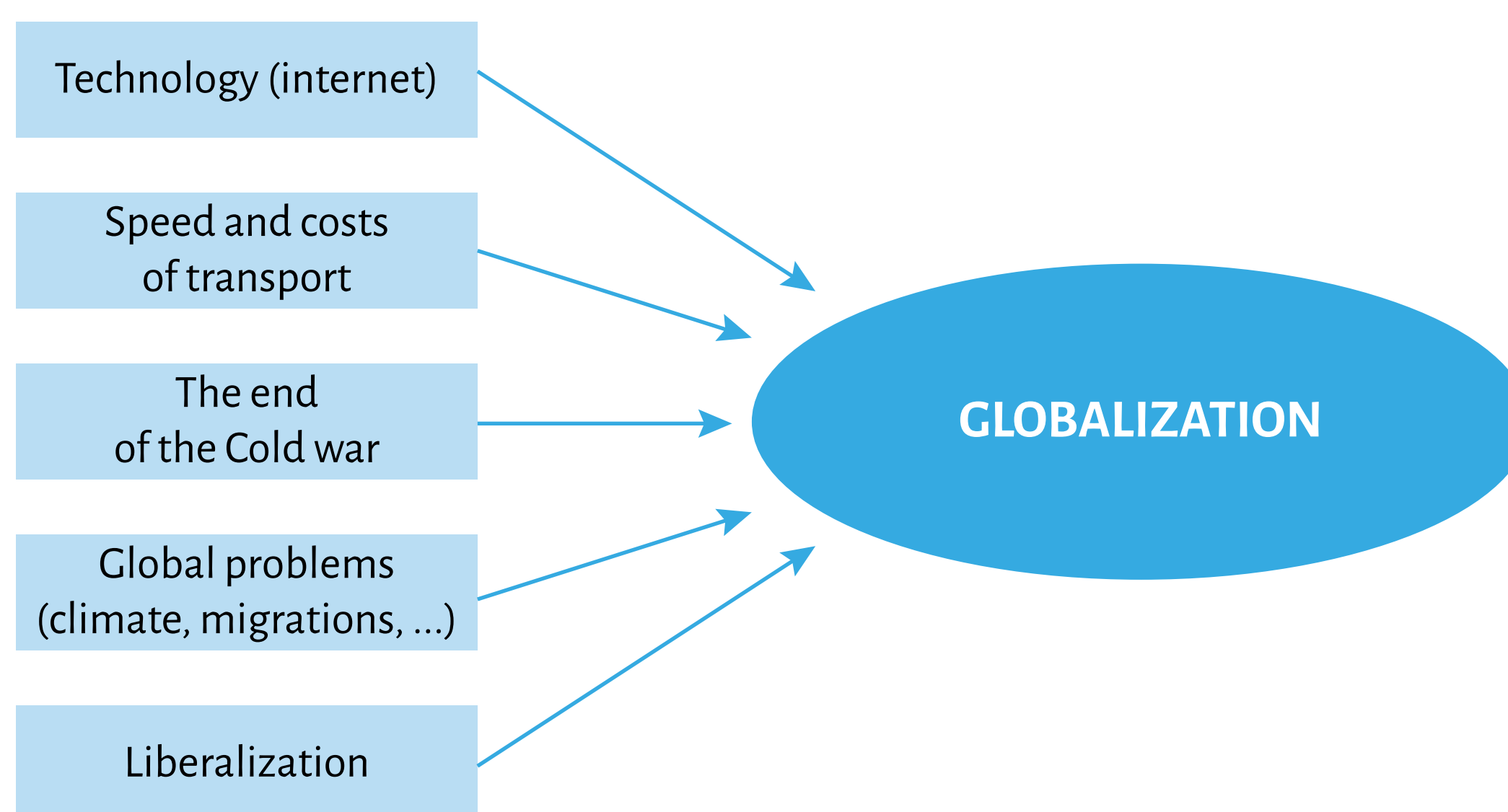The following picture shows only some of the causes of globalization:

Figure 1. Causes of globalization
Source: Bogdanović, Vuković, 2015, p. 34

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3 The information age (digital age) or information era is a period in which digital technology has become dominant in all aspects of life. It began in the middle of the 20th century, with the development of computers and digital communications, and continues to this day. In this age, information is processed and transmitted quickly. The information age is characterized by technological progress and global networking.

4 At the end of 2022, the number of inhabitants on Earth exceeded 8 billion.

Political changes stemming from the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall led to the "unification" of East and West, which accelerated global connectivity. The United States assumed a leading role on the world stage, becoming the first and only global world power (Brzezinski, 1997), while Southeastern European countries such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia disintegrated, and numerous small states appeared in their place. The countries of East and Southeast Asia had a strong economic impulse and rise. Numerous international organizations focused on global issues, such as environmental protection (e.g. *Greenpeace, World Wide Fund for Nature*), human rights, and migrations, including the transition from rural to urban areas and from less developed to developed countries have emerged. There has been a liberalization of world trade, a change in consumer mentality, and shifts in lifestyle, leading to the disintegration and change of traditional value systems. The consequences of globalization are mainly determined by economic forces. Supporters of globalization believe that the aim of globalization is to bring countries in the world closer together and integrate, while opponents believe that globalization serves as a tool of the West to impose hegemony on less developed countries and maintain primacy in the world of neo-colonialism.5 The following picture presents some of the many consequences of globalization, more precisely the accelerated development of cities, the process of industrialization and the general creation of an environment for life to take place at an accelerated pace.
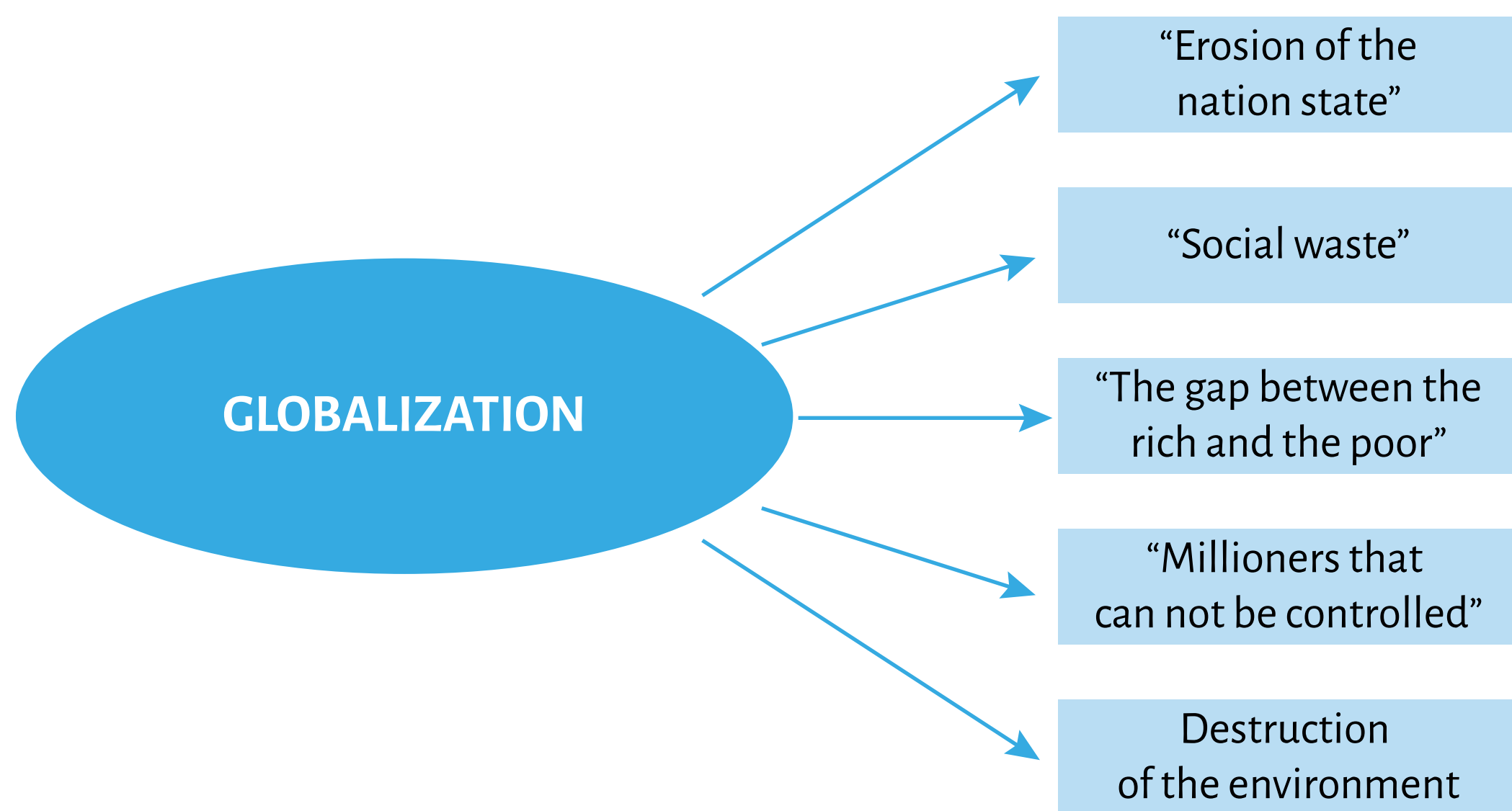

Figure 2. Consequences of globalization

Source: Bogdanović, Vuković, 2015, p. 35

As can be seen from Figure 2, globalization has also caused problems such as cultural homogenization, environmental challenges - increased pollution, digital inequality, the creation of a huge gap between the rich and the poor, political friction, and divided the layers of society. "Besides dilemmas and debates about the global and the local, another contradiction in the globalization process is the increase in the wealth of the rich and new types of poverty" (Seferagić, 2007, p. 363). Some consequences can be influenced, while others, unfortunately, cannot.

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5 Hegemony is as old as humanity, but today's global supremacy of the USA differs in the speed of its emergence, in its globality and in the manner in which it is implemented (Brzezinski, 1997).

GLOBALIZATION OF CITIES

The city is an extremely complex social phenomenon and as such represents the most obvious expression of human material activity in geospace. It is usually defined as a connected, densely populated area in which a large number of inhabitants live, with functions developed based on the demarcation of secondary and tertiary activities (Bakić et al., 2009). Large cities and densely populated metropolitan regions have long tended to develop in accordance with the trends of globalization, so they take on special names such as megalopolises and urban galaxies.

Cities are the scenes of globalization, even when they are not aware of their role, or when they are "against" that role. In the process of economic, cultural and social globalization, the world has become integrated and coherent. Once isolated, local markets have become connected. Global institutions and organizations now direct and encourage production and consumption. Social patterns and relationships, once limited to the local level, have become global. Cities can be considered the "pearls" of civilization. All great civilizations developed according to a model that was focused on cities. The contemporary global civilization, which is currently taking shape, also adopts an urban-oriented structure (Grčić, Sluka, 2006).

While globalization primarily takes place in cities, the past decades have been marked by the growth of cities in size and structure and their expansion into new territories. The transformation of global society took place, which became predominantly urban, developing new ways of life. The phenomenon of the global city first appears in megalopolises, multi-million cities. In many countries, there are cities with millions of residents where a large part of the urban population is concentrated. In most cases, the most significant cities are capitals or primate cities, though they do not necessarily have the function of the capital (Grčić, Sluka, 2013). Megacities (megalopolises) are, by the UN definition, cities with over 10 million inhabitants. In 1975, out of a total of five megacities, two were located in South America, two in Asia and one in North America (Grčić, Sluka, 2006). In 1985, six megacities were located in five countries: Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and the United States. This distribution was equalized between developing and developed countries. Between 1980 and 2020, the number of countries with megacities increased from five to twenty- one. It can be seen that megacities are mostly concentrated in the less developed part of the world, with 17 of the 21 megacities located there, compared to only four megacities in the "developed world" (Ding et al, 2022). It is clear that this is a continuous increase in the number of megalopolises, in which an increasing percentage of the urban population will reside.

Cities in the function of world systems

The signs of the creation of a "global society" are three principal elements: economic integration, the creation of a global cultural community and political identity (Grčić, 2000). By the middle of the 21st century, geographer Grčić predicts that there will be a global government and global geopolitical structures on the world stage.

The issue of spatial identity is of key importance for the experience (feeling) of a place in the emerging global world. With the development of the globalization process, spatial identity has become an important factor in the planning process. Globalization, on the one hand, causes changes in the economy of cities and regions that can be so drastic that they lead to the loss of their identity. On the other hand, it forces cities and regions to adapt to new markets and political integrations. This is how cities and regions face a double challenge: the loss of the old and the acquisition of a new identity (Šaban, 2006).

The Industrial Revolution caused extensive urbanization and the development of modern cities. Cities such as Manchester, London, Paris and New York became key industrial centers that drew labor from rural areas. Today, global capital and new labor from immigration are two key examples of transnational actors that operate across borders and have unifying features. However, they often come into conflict within global cities (Sassen, 2005).

Until the 1980s, the ecological-evolutionary approach to the study of the cities in modern industrial society in the world frameworks assumed the modernization thesis of a close correlation between industrial and urban development. Based on this, the regularity was derived that all cities of the world at the same level of industrialization, regardless of the type of socio-economic and political organization or cultural development, exhibit more or less the same spatial model, which is based on the universalization of the experience of cities in the West. The concept of network connection, made possible by new information technology, received its spatial expression in the concept of a network of world cities, which suggests an increasing degree of interdependence of cities in various parts of the world, according to the principle of horizontal (spatial) networking. It is clear that the tendency is to move away from geographically compact networks toward the agglomeration of urban zones6, dispersion and networking. Hočevar (2005, p. 713) believes that "contemporary cities should be viewed first of all as fragmented local ties of global networks of individual and collective actors that are connected with different flexible spatio-temporal practices and different life and business styles, instrumentally or reflexively, with one city". Cities serve as nexus (connections), they are connected and shaped by political-governmental (state), market-economic (market), civil-social (social) and geographic-natural (geo-spatial) activities that occur at all spatial levels (Jacobs, 2016).

The growing importance of cities as the center of global economic flows imposes the question of whether it is possible for the cities of less developed countries to find themselves at a significantly higher position in the world hierarchy of cities (vertical feature) in relation to the countries on whose territory they are located. The theorists of dependent urbanization believe that this is not possible because economic polarization and dependent development occur in time-space compression, which conditions that the large cities of the periphery share the fate of an agrarian society that encourages their demographic growth and that they also essentially belong to a slow economic time zone (Knox, Taylor, 1995). In the context of globalization, it is often pointed out that the national state has become too small to solve global problems, and at the same time too large to deal with the everyday needs of the local population. This raises the question of whether cities have become key actors in the regulation of social processes or whether they are global forces. The neoliberal approach supports the latter option, suggesting that important decisions regarding local labor and capital markets are made outside national centers of power, according to the interests of transnational companies, rather than according to the needs of local populations.

Development of global cities

Friedman and Wolf (1982) listed some of the characteristics of established global cities, which include their dominance in the hierarchy, rapid expansion, typically having 5-15 million inhabitants and being highly urbanized. Debates about the global city have taken on a recognizable, and maybe formal, character, set within a conceptual and epistemological framework (Smith, 1998). For a certain city to be classified as a "global city", it is necessary that its functional elements and role, i.e. its position in the global network of cities must be changed in relation to cities that are not considered global. According to Hall (1998), some of the main functions that characterize global cities, include fulfilling the hierarchical structure of cities by dominating and serving as centers of world trade, hosting the headquarters of transnational companies, being centers of political power, serving as hubs for financial companies and services, facilitating technological development, and providing legal, medical and educational activities and services. Finance and information technology (IT) have become key forces in economic globalization. Global cities now combine the functions of IT and financial centers as core features.7 These cities can be categorized into four tiers, with New York, Beijing, London and San Jose ranking at the highest level. In China, cities like Beijing and Shenzhen rank high on the list

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6 The universal contemporary tendency of urbanization (from the second half of the 20th century onwards) through the integration of the national territory, with the action of centripetal forces.

7 The term "information city" (Castells, 1989) refers to cities that are central to the global economy and where information and communications are key to economic growth and social dynamism.

of emerging global cities. For example, Beijing is listed among the leading global first-tier cities, while Shenzhen and Hangzhou belong to the significant second-tier global cities (NI, 2021). These and other major world cities are key participants in the globalization process because they provide the infrastructure and expertise that enable corporations to control their distant activities (Hill, Fujita, 2003).

Global cities are not only unique in their role in the global network but also in their specific ways of life. Most of the population is employed in the service sector, while the manufacturing industry is in decline. Although the term "global city" is new, the idea of placing cities in a broader, i.e. the global context, is not. With the development of globalization, economic activities and mass consumption have increased, contributing to the creation of global cities. The global functions as a part of a network and in this sense there is a sharp contrast with the former capitals of empires. Networks of major international business centers create new geographies of centrality (Seferagić, 2007). Urban and general sociological theories have often developed through the generalization of the specifics of Western experience, which then become the standard. Global cities in developing countries are converging around a model of development similar to that of the prototypical global cities in the United States, Europe, and Japan. In this sense, the function of certain (Western) cities as command points in the world economy is important. Representatives of the public and private sectors strive to build the tallest buildings, the most modern railway systems or the most impressive airports, in order to highlight their global connections. In many countries outside the West, wealthy elites seek apartments that are clearly modeled after what is perceived as European and American style (Shatkin, 2007).

However, there is a wealth of sources and information, which allows easier access to data about urban societies outside the West, which are no longer static, the East is "waking up" and developing in every aspect, including urbanization and globalization. An example of a global city in a highly developed country is certainly New York or Tokyo, both of which are financial centers with global influence and economy and at the same time have a high standard of living. On the other hand, cities in developing countries and countries of the "Global South" often face challenges such as rapid urbanization and a lack of basic infrastructure. São Paulo, the largest city in the southern hemisphere, is characterized by significant socio-economic inequalities and poor neighborhoods. Similar phenomena are present in Lagos, Nigeria and Mumbai, India.

The term "Global South" includes the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. This term, along with the terms "Third World" and "Periphery", refers to areas outside of Europe and North America that are mostly low-income and often politically and culturally marginalized (Dados, Connell, 2012). It is clear that a large number of mega-cities are located in poorer countries with larger populations, but for many smaller cities in general, even the mega-city category is irrelevant (Robinson, 2008). On a global level, the question arises whether the ultimate outcome of hyper-connectivity will be the merging of all urban areas and megalopolises into a single ecumenopolis (city-planet).

Globalized cities as an ecological threat

A major problem and threat to the world's ecology originates from both developed and industrially underdeveloped countries, which generally lack developed ecological awareness, and mostly rely on outdated, "non-ecological" technology, thus causing damage to current and future generations. Many cities are taking measures to reduce their environmental footprint, including improving public transportation, recycling, using renewable energy sources, and developing and expanding green spaces. For example, Copenhagen aims to become a carbon-neutral city by 2025 through the implementation of a comprehensive set of sustainable and "green" practices. Vienna, Stockholm and Amsterdam have similar initiatives.

Cities are one of the main causes of environmental disturbances and significant pollution around the world. Planet Earth is becoming increasingly urbanized; back in the 1980s, three-quarters of the countries in Europe and North America had over 75% of their population living in urban areas (Grčić, Sluka, 2006), and the number of such cities is constantly increasing. Urban areas and populations are constantly growing. While developed countries are already highly urbanized, countries in transition and underdeveloped coun-

tries are experiencing rapid migration to larger cities. Natural resources are continuously depleted and diverted to urban areas in order to meet the growing needs of consumers. Various goods and energy are exchanged between cities and their surroundings. Cities consume energy for transport, cooling, and heating, while waste from cities is disposed of in their surroundings (Furundžić, 2009). Cities have become epicenters of ecological disturbances, which spread from them all over the world. Cities are suitable for studying environmental changes, and everything is connected in the biosphere. Ecosystems spread continuously, over uninhabited and urban areas, i.e. cities are ecosystems. Urban ecosystems are particularly changeable, exposed to environmental influences and natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, etc. (Marzluff, 2008). Economic growth and environmental protection are difficult to harmonize on a global level so that both the economy and the ecology progress at the same time.

Sustainable urban development includes ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects of urban development as well as complex goals. In the planning of sustainable development, a wide range of leading concepts has been recorded, starting from the initiative of "urban reforestation" (Bakić et al., 2009), to the "garden city" and the strategy of "urban greening". The adaptation of various industries to strict environmental regulations, on the other hand, provides environmental protection, but also slows down economic growth and reduces competitiveness in the market. The balance between economic development driven by globalization and a healthy environment can only be achieved through sustainable development.

Globalization and Montenegro

In Montenegro, the network and system of settlements consist of a center of national importance (Podgorica), a national center of special importance (the capital Cetinje), centers of regional importance (Bar, Budva, Bijelo Polje, Berane), a center of municipal importance (Plužine, Šavnik, Žabljak, Danilovgrad, Kolašin, Rožaje), more important local centers (Gradac in Pljevlja, Petrovac in Budva), local centers (Ostros in the municipality of Bar; Dragalj and Crkvice in the municipality of Kotor; Radovići in the municipality of Tivat…) (Doderović, Ivanović, 2019). Like all the cities of the world, Montenegrin cities have «succumbed» to globalization.

Countries that have undergone transition, or are still in the process, especially small ones like Montenegro, should maximize the positive ranges of globalization, which opens up opportunities for them, primarily modernization in the broadest sense and broadens horizons - beyond the local perspective. Obviously, there is no dilemma for such an approach for small countries, but the issue lies in how to take advantage of these opportunities and avoid risks or minimize them. It is the small countries that should accept the modernization and achievements of modern science in every sense, especially the achievements of the technical process in some scientific areas of sustainable technologies and information and communication technologies.

Montenegro is a country with a specific, attractive, and strategically significant geographical position, regional diversity, and characteristics of demographic aging, migration and emigration. Although small by these parameters, Montenegro possesses significant resources and development potential. Despite numerous economic and other challenges, the country has diversified structures in economy, education, science, culture, and resources across its northern, central and southern regions (Kostić, 2017). As a potential member of the European Union, Montenegro faces numerous challenges, including those that adapt Montenegrin society to modern and prospective societies. The globalization shift is visible, globalization certainly offers opportunities. Thus, the question arises: how much is Montenegro capable of opening up to the world and what can it offer to the world? This is the question of our future. Our duty is to be cosmopolitan and responsible citizens of the world in that future, as a future global city (city-planet).

CONCLUSION

The concept of the global city has evolved over the centuries, moving from early trade centers to modern urban hubs that shape the global system. Among other things, globalization dictated the model of urban development. Today, global cities play a key role in the modern world, influencing economic, political, cultural and ecological flows.

Globalization is a process that largely depends on the progress of science and education, while simultaneously influencing them. A key role in this process is played by new information technologies, which have become essential for modern learning and business. Therefore, the paper points to the most important changes in the sphere of economy and politics, as well as the power of individual multinational companies and countries at the global level. Globalization and networking are needed by individuals and humanity itself because they enable better connection, and exchange of ideas and resources, as well as mutual understanding and co-operation around the world.

From all of the above, it can be concluded that globalization is a complex and contradictory developmental process. Under current conditions, it can be concluded that the positive dimensions of globalization come to the fore less and the negative dimensions more. Globalization has become a term of criticism because it is the source of unwanted changes. This is especially manifested in terms of deepening the gap between developed and underdeveloped countries, the rich and the less rich. Also, it is concluded that the effects of globalization are historically and geographically uneven, but it can also be confirmed by the fact that globalization is a social and geographical phenomenon because it involves the integration of distant places, people, and goods.

Globalization certainly represents an unfinished historical process that takes place in waves, in which cities have always played a key role. The current phase of globalization should be understood as the latest wave, not as its beginning. Globalization began in the 1970s, marked by an economic crisis, an increase in direct foreign investments, the expansion of financial markets, greater labor mobility, and the spread of neoliberal ideology in all spheres of social life. It is an era in which globalization and technology are changing our perception of the world. From New York, London, Shanghai and Moscow to the global stage, in the future, we will be able to experience the world like never before, and this is what the globalization of cities provides.

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