FROM GLOBALIZATION TO POST-GLOBALIZATION: SHIFTING PARADIGMS IN MODELLING THE FUTURE OF NATION STATE AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

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This paper is intended to discuss the prospects and the ways of constructing a new model of nation and global development in a situation of factual and theoretical uncertainty indicated in social and political science by the concept of post-globalization. It aims at analyzing the critical and theoretical potential of the concept of post-globalization for understanding the direction of shifting the paradigms of conceptualization of the future of nation state and its potential effect on political agendas and social policies of international and national administrations.

My research is based on contextualization, theoretical analysis, and conceptualization of the post-globalization critique of the results and further prospects of globalization.

The general trend of modern historical process, depicted by Immanuel Wallerstein as the development of the world-system of nation states, in the end of the last century was perceived as the globalization and received a strong ideological impetus in terms of neoliberal and neoconservative interpretations and the exploitation of the results of the Cold War.

I demonstrate that in this ideological context globalization means not only a mere widening of the boundaries of the interconnected world but started looking as specific ideology - a social and political project for the future of the world of nation states, an efficient method of “ending” history by bringing it to the state of everlasting global equilibrium by the means of global expansion of the system of self-proving liberal capitalism. During that period, globalization became a catch phrase of political and media discourse as well as of sociological studies of the societies of the modern nation states.

Despite the suggestions that the new millennium was to be positioned beyond the boundaries and the logic of normal historical process (“the end of history”), the actual development of global events from the very first year of a new millennium – 2001- refuted hopeful expectations, bringing to the scene serious setbacks of previous enthusiastic advancements on the national and international levels.

In social sciences, this period opened the door for the extensive questioning of the validity of the concept, the nature, and the consequences of globalization, starting with the first, post-traumatic and excessive trope of “the era of globalization is over” and leading to the more detailed inquiries into the actual forms and reality of globalization, changing the subject of the trope to “globalization as we knew it” which meant globalization in its neoliberal version.

I focus on the political and heuristic erosion of the concept of globalization and demonstrate it through the analyses of the emerging competing conceptions – such as the “new imperialism/empire” and “global capitalism”.

I proceed to the study of the emergence and the content of the post-globalization concept, showing that as a result of socio-political, international, and theoretical developments of the last three decades.

At the end of the first decade of the new millennium, the total of questioning, criticizing, and being frustrated with the results of the ongoing globalization amounted to the level of which we can speak as a start of the paradigm shift in both globalization studies and administrating. In this situation, the concept of post-globalization emerged and was developed in parallel to and in the course of the critique and the revision of the globalization theory in use. Its basic idea and the message were aimed at signaling that the world, and the process of globalization itself, has entered the period where the basic structures, dynamics, intentionality, and ethos of social life– nationally and transnationally – became principally different from the previous form from which they originated and thus could not anymore be described and signified with previous conceptual means.

The complexity of the background of the post-globalization concept determined the variety of its inherent connotations ranging from the new cheerful prophecy of the arrival of a new brave multipolar world, to the mere objectivist registration of the fact that, to the better or worse, globalization did/does really happen to some observable degree, and to the ill-considered assumption that it was already “over”.

Both the idea of multipolarity and the notion of post-globalization were accepted by the mainstream literature on globalization. Welcoming attitude was expressed in multiple publications announcing that “the post-globalization era has arrived”.

More cautious attitude we find in the reaction of the international institutions, practically involved in managing globalization. Here, post-globalization is interpreted as the move away from the discredited neoliberal paradigm towards the market regulation through democratization of global governance.[1]

The concept of post-globalization radicalizes the critique of globalization by the act of heuristic disruption. Delimiting globalization temporally and spatially by drawing the line separating the actual from the “post-” and thus demarcating the contours of globalization as it happened, the concept of post-globalization actualizes understanding of the “fault lines” of neoliberal model, makes them more “visible”. The second step/action in the logic of the “post-” approach consists in invalidating those characteristics of the previous stage – such as unipolarity, market fundamentalism, etc. in the case of neoliberal globalization – which, from the point of view of the new ethos, look like the nexuses of dysfunctionality. At this point the new post-globalization approach can be considered as a step toward a new paradigm of modeling the future national and global development, free from the old ideological grip and based upon realistic evaluation of the current state of global affairs.

My research results in determining the heuristic and constructive value/potential of the post-globalization concept for configuring the foundations of the modeling present-day concept of nation state, global policies of international institutions, national administrations, and the principles of their coordination. From this the recommendations can be drawn for more accurate interpretation of the existing projects [2] as well as for developing the new ones currently in need.

[1] See, for example: Bullon-Cassis L., Towards ‘Post-Globalization’? Neoliberalism and Global Governance after the Global Financial Crisis, UNU – ICRIS Working Papers, W-20011/1, Brugge: UNU – ICRIS, 2010, p. 37.

[2] For example:Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available at:<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

Keywords: nation state, globalization, post-globalization, ideology, neoliberalism, global policies.