

RENT-SEEKING THEORY

Теория поиска ренты

The first attempts to understand the phenomenon of rent-seeking were made by the American economist G. Tullock in 1967. According to the author's position, this concept involves "the use of resources for the purpose of obtaining rent, where rent stems from something that has a negative social value" [1, p. 79]. It should be noted that the category of "rent-seeking" was introduced in 1974 in the work of E. Kruger, who in the 1970s of the 20th century conducted a theoretical analysis and assessment of rent that appeared due to government restrictions on economic activity in India and Turkey. The word "rent" in this context refers to a term coined by A. Smith, who divided income into profits, wages and land rent. Thus, it seems necessary to clarify the concept of rent in the context of this study. J. Buchanan, who also studied issues related to the concept of rent-seeking, interpreted rent itself as "part of the payment to the owner of the resource in excess of what he would receive under any alternative use" [2, p. 22]. V. Ryazanov, in turn, defined rent as "any excessive income (excess profit) not directly related to entrepreneurial activity or additional efforts" [3, p. 170]. More generally, the concept of rent can be defined as additional income received from the use of resources or an advantageous position in the market, which exceeds the costs of production or the possibility of alternative use of these resources.

Any behavior that involves the use of monopoly advantages or is aimed at receiving subsidies from the state can be called rent-seeking. This concept does not fit into the usual principles of a market economy, in which any profit is made in the process of competition between economic agents. Rent-seeking behavior can be described in several forms: seeking rent through artificially limited access to a particular activity; manipulation of prices and production volumes in order to deepen and expand monopoly power; the use of introduced tariffs and quotas, the organization of barriers to the development of competition [4, p. 443–445].

Manufacturers who benefit from government assistance have the potential to make additional profits due to reduced competition and artificially increased product constraints. Thus, producers, realizing the benefits brought by the functioning of the state, strive to create conditions for receiving this kind of support, while additionally expending their resources. As a result, the damage is borne by a third party, in this

case consumers, who will be forced to purchase goods at higher prices due to increased costs of their production and sale or limited supply.

References

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THE PROBLEM OF THE PRECARIAT IN A TECHNOGENIC SOCIETY

Проблема прекариата в техногенном обществе

The modern world is highly technogenic, which causes the significant changes of the types of unemployment. The rapid development of technology leads to replacement of human labor with machine labor within significant spheres of employment, which in turn leads to a change in the social stratification of society and the formation of new social groups. Those are the reasons why the concept of a new social class – the *precariat* – has emerged in sociology. This term was introduced by French sociologists in the 1980s, and became widespread after the publication of Guy Standing's book "The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class" (2011). By his definition precariat employees are employees who work part-time, "off-staff", are involved in individual projects, in temporary positions, who agreed to work for a "gray" or "black" salary. Freelancers could be added to the same list. In other words, precariat consists of people without a "normal" stably paid job. The main characteristics of the precariat are the incomplete or unstable nature of their employment, the lack of social guarantees (trade unions, sick leave, vacations, etc.) and, as a result, uncertainty about the future. According to sociologists, currently informal, unstable, non-standard