

There are reasons why this depressing trend happens specifically in developed countries. But they are consequences of a significant reason that is described by a theory of the urbanization approach.

According to this, each country has its urban population percentage. If it is more than 50 percent, that means that the country moved from an agrarian to an industrial-urban society. The first type of society means lower development level than the second one. In an industrial society men and women can be equally educated and there are more opportunities to work for either of them. Urbanization means «cities», so not only more places to work, but there are better medicine, real estate, technologies, comfort life. In such «hothouse» conditions people don't want to have many children and want to live «for themselves». On the contrary, in countries with a more traditional society there are old values (big family are considered normal, men have to work, women have to bring up children), there is not such scientific development (there is no modern technologies that why children are a useful labor force) and rural areas predominate over cities. For example in Africa (all continent) the urbanization rate is 41 percent. It's less than 50 and that means that African countries didn't pass an urbanization transition.

All that theories and statistics explain why in such countries as South Korea there is a population decrease. It can be concluded that this problem can lead to: economy problems (lack of labor force e.g.), social problems (aging population e.g.) and as a result – a decline of the political and military influence.

**V. Pilipchik, K. Utovka**

**В. А. Пилипчик, К. В. Утовка**

ГрГУ им. Я. Купалы (Гродно)

*Научный руководитель С. И. Рапецкая*

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL) IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **Деятельность международной организации уголовной полиции (Интерпол) по борьбе с торговлей людьми**

Human trafficking is a serious modern problem with roots deep in history. Slavery continues to exist, manifesting itself in new, contemporary forms. In the 21st century, human trafficking is spreading to unprecedented levels. The types of trafficking, organizational techniques, and methods of this crime are constantly evolving and changing. Victims of the modern slave trade include not only the poorest populations of countries, but also those from economically developed nations [2]. Human trafficking disrupts the synergy of human resources. The role of human resources has grown significantly over the past hundred years. They drive and organize the interaction of all

other resources. In a production system, all resources are interconnected, and only through their interaction is economic efficiency achieved. Human resources are key to the creation of economic wealth [1, с. 15].

Human trafficking is not only a humanitarian problem but also a serious economic one, requiring a comprehensive approach. Effectively combating this phenomenon can contribute to improving the economic situation and strengthening legal and social institutions in the country. International economic crime has posed a serious threat to global law and order for many years. In the area of effective combating transnational international crime (human trafficking, illegal migration), international cooperation and interdepartmental interaction between executive authorities and law enforcement agencies play a fundamental role [3].

Interpol is a leader in developing unique methods to combat transnational crime. The organization has achieved success not only in identifying individuals associated with organized crime. Today, Interpol is the only organization with powerful extraterritorial jurisdiction, which allows us to track and stop the activities of criminals at any stage of their activities [4, с. 333]. Interpol's work is aimed at building the skills and international network needed to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The training seminars provide training in interviewing techniques and the use of Interpol tools and databases, effectively combining the actions of law enforcement officers with the participation of investigators from specialized units, immigration and customs officials, prosecutors, international and non-governmental organizations, and local victim protection and assistance services. Interpol has a dedicated task force to combat human trafficking. Estimates place the annual human trafficking volume at over a million people, generating billions of dollars in revenue. The majority of this type of crime is trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation – approximately 90 percent. Countries from which victims are trafficked include Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Albania [5].

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**Е. Pomaleiko**

**Е. Ю. Помалейко**

БНТУ (Минск)

*Научный руководитель Д. И. Бондарчук*

## **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN BELARUS AND RUSSIA: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**

### **Политические и экономические отношения между Республикой Беларусь и Российской Федерацией: историческое развитие и перспективы на будущее**

Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus are a system-forming element of political and economic life in the post-Soviet space. The integration project of the Union State, unique in its depth and scale, has been defining the vector of development of Eastern Europe for more than two decades. In the context of global turbulence, Western sanctions pressure and the reformatting of international relations after 2022, the analysis of the state and prospects of Russian-Belarusian relations is of particular scientific and practical importance. Studying the synergies and contradictions within the framework of this union makes it possible to predict the further evolution of Eurasian integration and the balance of power in the region.

#### **Historical background and formation of bilateral relations (1991–1999).**

The USSR's collapse in 1991 resulted in the formation of two independent states. Initially, relations between Russia and Belarus were strained (1991–1994). In 1995, a Friendship and Cooperation Agreement and a Customs Union were signed. On April 2, 1996, the Community of Russia and Belarus was established to coordinate foreign policy