

and abroad. They also accelerated the pace of declining world oil prices (a tax cut for consumers) and helped galvanize participants at the world trade talks.

The other aspect is in the sphere of international politics. The United States, often accused for incursion in other countries' business, now have the privilege position of a victim. The mighty nation can decide what country should exist in its present shape. It is well known, that the power of the US on the international arena has now become their weakness. There are more dollars in the world, than the American economy can possibly handle if turned down. And now they have an excellent chance to demonstrate their power. The world is now viewed by many as American-controlled. That causes a wave of hatred against the nation. Tomorrow we probably will witness more attacks and the consequences are impossible to envisage.

By the way, the September 11 attacks provoked a war against international terrorism although the nature of the event can be doubted. I'm absolutely sure that the terrorists were taught in the US. More than that, the way the attacks developed shows, that, to my mind, there should have been someone from the American side involved. It's hard to imagine a plane hitting Pentagon unnoticed. If it hit a few feet higher, a number of senior officers would have perished. That means, that no country defends its rulers worse than the US.

One more thought in conclusion. Enormous benefits could have been received from the market fluctuations after the attacks. So the people who knew of the future destruction of the Twin Towers are now counting bills.

Макаревич А.С.
научный руководитель Дроздова С.С.

Доклад посвящен истории и развитию мировой торговли. Охватывает такие периоды ее развития как Древний мир, Средние века, современное и сегодняшнее состояние. Приводится пример крупнейшего магазина Европы Harrods.

THREE THOUSAND YEARS OF WORLD TRADE

In the beginning: for thousands and thousands of years, people produced most of what they needed for themselves. Little is known about the beginnings of trade.

The Ancient World – BC: the earliest trade is the caravan trade across the deserts of Asia around 2500 BC. These had to carry fodder for the animals and food for the drivers and merchants. Not much space was left for the cargo. As a result, the goods carried were light but valuable, things such as gold and precious stones – that is, luxuries and not necessities.

After this, trade by sea started to become more common. The Phoenicians were manufacturers. They exported metalware, glassware, and textiles. These were traded for raw materials, especially tin, copper, and silver. This trade also was mainly in luxuries for the ships were small.

The Phoenicians lived at the same time as the Greeks and the Romans. Athens was the first big commercial city in Europe, and it was the first community to import and export necessities (not just luxuries) in large quantities.

The Ancient World – AD: the Roman Empire (27 BC – 476 AD) was the next big trading community. The city of Rome itself produced little, but it imported a lot. It was the political capital and financial centre of the Empire. The Romans were the tax paid to Rome by the various peoples that it had conquered. Imports included tin, slaves, cloth, and jewels. The Romans also traded with China, and brought back silkworms to start a silk industry in Europe.

In the fifth century AD Byzantium (later called Constantinople, and now Istanbul) became the political capital of the Roman Empire, and remained the world's commercial capital until the 12th century. Its importance was founded on manufacturing – textiles, leatherwork, armour, pottery, and artistic metal work. The Byzantine coin, known as the bezant, became the first single currency of European business.

The Middle Ages: In the 12th and 13th centuries, Venice and Genoa became the world's leading trade centres. In 1271, the Venetian, Marco Polo, went by land and sea to China and helped establish trading links. Venice was well placed to be the main

European commercial centre. During the late Middle Ages, Bruges became the leading trade centre in northern Europe. Other goods went overland, across the Alps to French and German cities.

The Modern World: the modern world began as the «Age of Discoveries». The great voyages of Spanish and Portuguese explorers, such as Christopher Columbus (1492), Vasco da Gama (1498), and Ferdinand Magellan (1519), opened up new trade routes to the Americas, Africa, and India. This was the beginning of ocean travel.

Britain and other countries of northern Europe formed big companies, and each was given a certain part of the world to explore and exploit. By the 17th century, the Dutch dominated the world's trade, with the French and the English as their close rivals. All three nations opened up the tropical lands of the East and West Indies, and imported sugar, tobacco, tea, and coffee into Europe.

During the 19th century, the industrial revolution led to greater production, and the pattern of world trade started to become to what it is today.

Today: today, mass advertising persuades people of many different nationalities to use the same products. Millions of people around the world drink the same soft drinks, drive the same cars, wear the same clothes, and eat the same hamburgers.

In previous centuries, trade was more local, and people's tastes varied from one country to another. Imports used to bring diversity. It is ironic that today's vast international markets have resulted in a world with more homogeneous tastes.

Макаревич О. С.

Научный руководитель Климук Е. В.

Олигополия- это ситуация на рынке, когда число фирм в отрасли настолько мало, что каждая из них при формировании своей ценовой политики должна принимать во внимание реакцию со стороны конкурентов. Такое положение характерно для обрабатывающей, добывающей нефтеперерабатывающей, электротехнической промышленности, а также для оптовой торговли. Важной чертой, характеризующей олигополию, является всеобщая взаимосвязь ее субъектов.