

knowledge economy is associated with the regime of catch-up development and modernization of industry in relation to the world's leading economies. In turn, this will make it possible to make a technological breakthrough and ensure accelerated modernization of the domestic economy, which is necessary for the Belarusian economy, which is undergoing the post-industrial and information stages at an accelerated pace, which makes it difficult to adapt the institutions of the knowledge economy.

Based on the above, we can draw the following conclusion: the knowledge economy is largely developing around large amounts of data, the Internet and artificial intelligence, which entails huge changes in the balance of forces within the classical economic sectors that use the principles of outdated technical and technological structures, and as a result leads to a loss of competitiveness of the industry.

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WHO WILL WIN: ECONOMY OR ECOLOGY?

Everything good comes at a price. The growth of the quality of life turns into new threats and risks for humanity.

In the era of industrialization, humanity did not think about the problems of the environment. The main thing was to create a huge number of metallurgical, machine-building, chemical and other industries that allowed us to enter the era of a sharp increase in consumption. This led to pollution of rivers and other reservoirs, deforestation, and barbaric treatment of other types of non-renewable resources.

No one was in a hurry to analyze the negative consequences of this attitude to nature. Now environmental problems are becoming one of the most important, especially for the developed countries of the West, where a clean environment is considered the most important life good.

The post-industrial era does not mean that heavy industry is a thing of the past. Its share is falling, but it cannot disappear by itself, because the consumption of, for example, metals or petrochemicals is only increasing. As a result, some governments sacrifice the environment in the interest of rapid economic growth. A typical example of

this policy is China. The country is rapidly developing its industrial potential, having achieved impressive economic growth, but the price for this is a sharp deterioration of the environmental situation.

Thus, in the pursuit for economic growth, we sacrifice the environment. The most serious threat is global climate warming, which causes active ice melting. The balance in ecosystems is being disrupted, with frequent floods, droughts and hurricanes all over the world. There is only one way to prevent this: to drastically reduce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. This means that we should drive cars less, reduce industry and waste. But is it possible to combine this with continuous high economic activity?

This was until the beginning of 2020, when China, and then the world, faced a new virus. The unexpected appearance of a new disease dictates its own conditions for the development of the world economy. We see a problem that has already had a strong impact on the commodity and stock markets.

Even before the onset of the pandemic, the World Bank and a number of other reputable organizations stated that the world economy would grow at a low rate in 2020. So, according to the international business newspaper Financial Times, the world economy at the end of last year finally “entered a period of stagnation” and improvements will not be noticed yet. These conclusions are based on an assessment of the TIGER index, which tracks the main indicators necessary for the global economic recovery.

Back in the fall of 2019, the Financial Times noted that the main economic indicators around the world fell to the lowest values since the spring of 2016, meaning the world economy entered a period of “synchronized decline”.

In the meantime, financiers and economists remind us that today the world economy is not in the best shape, the most insignificant incident in one part of the world can have a huge impact on the situation in another part of the world or start a chain of events that are not so easy to stop. First of all, the coronavirus epidemic broke out at a time when markets were clearly ready for a downturn. The coronavirus outbreak only made the long-overdue trend visible and gave it an additional boost.

If in the beginning the problem seemed so far away, and the city of Wuhan is isolated from the outside world, now because of globalization, we see a terrible picture everywhere. Quarantines have been imposed across Europe, and businesses, schools, and universities have been closed. People are forbidden to leave the house, for which you can get a fine. Flights are canceled, borders are closed, and tourism is suffering. Oil prices are falling, and our currency is devaluing. Stock market crashes. We suffer not only economic losses, but also huge human losses.

A high degree of contagion requires strict quarantine measures, which in turn lead to the shutdown of production and any other economic activity.

The consequences can be listed for a long time, but whatever they are, there are advantages to ecology. By sacrificing money and people, the planet comes to life. Although the “black Swan” will have more severe consequences for the global economy than the banking crisis of 2008, this situation gives a respite to the environment.

The spread of coronavirus around the world changes life on the planet. Traffic stops – nature begins to recover: swans and ducks have arrived in Venice. In Chicago, penguins walk around the aquarium. In China, the air has become incredibly clean. Air pollution over Wuhan province and China in General has almost disappeared since the start of the quarantine. The air and water of Italy became cleaner. Nature can heal itself if we give it a chance.

Whatever the purpose of the coronavirus is economic or environmental – someone benefits from it. But who? Could this be due to a trade war? Or is there a third party involved? Everyone knows that China is a global factory. Perhaps someone wanted to move the country because of the difficult geopolitical situation in the world.

Perhaps someone wanted to help our planet. A decline in global production also means a temporary reduction in global consumption of most industrial raw materials and energy resources.

It is also possible that nature itself is tired of us and decided to stop us before it is too late, because the planet is not rubber and not in its original form.

While thousands of people are dying, production stops and nature moves, we can only guess, whether the coronavirus is a biological weapon or an economic one.

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THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE SYSTEM COORDINATES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Today, public-private partnerships are widespread in the world, enabling the state, while remaining the owner of the assets, by means of private business, to upgrade and build infrastructure by implementing cutting-edge technologies and increasing their profitability.

Public-private partnerships in Ukraine have not gained much popularity, although changes in all spheres of activity encourage new perceptions and attitudes towards public-private partnerships through: