

THE IMPACT OF INTEGRATION BLOCKS ON CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Влияние интеграционных блоков на изменения в мировой экономике

Because of increasing globalization at the start of this century economic integration is quite tough in developing and developed countries. The world economy is changing its quantity and quality. At the same time its new face is being formed, which needs to be interpreted and forecasted. More than half a century has passed since the first regional integration organizations appeared. We can notice huge changes many regions which are developing: many of them rejected unjustified import substitution strategy and during last twenty years began to enter actively the world market as exporters of processing industry products rather than agrarian raw materials. This turn is naturally accompanied by the liberalization of domestic and foreign economic regimes. Less developed countries have become more open.

It is important that increasing integration maturity of these countries has showed different side of economic regionalization and trade. For example, European Union is now involving less developed countries of Southern Mediterranean into its grades, and in 2004 it has already involved ten countries of Central and Eastern Europe, continuing the process through the Balkans and Turkey.

Moreover creating new economic and trade blocks allows concentrating of real integration processes around countries, which are medium-developed and post-industrial, while earlier they were concentrated only in developed countries.

In such formations, a powerful center not only has the natural attraction of concentrating a large market space, but the center also provides significant financial and technical support to promising candidate countries at the stage of preparation for joining integration. Group and accelerate after their entry. Adaptation to intense competition within such a bloc. The European Union, for example, has been providing such assistance in large numbers to Eastern European candidate countries for more than a decade. It facilitates solving many of the complex problems that less developed countries face when they enter into economic alliances with industrialized and post-industrial countries.

It is also possible that further development of integration processes in parallel will go another way — in the form of network structures covering countries which are ripe for this regardless of whether they are neighbors or located on different continents and many thousands of kilometers away from each other.