DRIVING FORCES OF GLOBALIZATION

Abstract:

The study briefly summarizes the understandings of globalization, its beginning, and periodization in social sciences. It introduces the understanding of globalization as a process whose dynamics is determined by its driving forces, outlines the concept of the driving forces of globalization, and offers the periodization of globalization according to the changes globalization undergone under the impact of its driving forces. The paper focuses on the classification of the driving forces of globalisation according to various criteria and formulates basic general principles of driving forces of globalization that may be applicable in predicting further globalization development.

Key words: globalization, driving forces of globalization

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2 The paper is a partial outcome of the grant project KEGA No. 024PU-4/2012 Geoconflictolgy – teaching conception of a new subject and elaboration of academic textbook implementation.
Globalization has become a subject of research in many social sciences. Each of them employs different scientific methods and yields unique results of their analysis of this process. The main purpose of this paper is to present the findings of my research on the relation between globalization and its driving forces\(^3\). The paper briefly summarizes the results of my analysis of different understandings of globalization, various perceptions of its beginnings, and its periodizations, that have been used in social sciences. Following the results of the analysis, it specifies basic characteristics of globalization and its driving forces in my understanding, and proposes my periodization of globalization. It further gives a typological arrangement of the driving forces identified in the process of globalization development, outlines the principles of driving forces of globalization arising from the analysis of essential attributes and historical aspects of these driving forces, and introduces a concept of predicting the development of globalization.

At present there is lacking an unambiguous understanding of globalization in social sciences. Since 1920s, when the word was

coined⁴, there have developed at least six different understandings of globalization: 1. Globalization as *specific principles of children’s mental processes working or the teaching method employing these principles* (in pedagogy and pedagogical psychology Decroly 1925, 1929); 2. Globalization as *a spreading of phenomena across the whole world* (in sociology Meadows 1950, 1951); 3. Globalization as *a social process or trend, or as a set of processes or trends* (in political sciences and international relations theories Modelski 1972, Harf and Trout 1986, Cox 1992, Held 1999, etc.; in sociology Aron 1968, Beck 1986, Robertson 1987, Albrow 1990, Giddens 1990, etc.; in international law theory Falk 1972, etc.; in economy Barnet and Müller 1974, Levitt 1983, etc.); 4. Globalization as *a way of global power configuration* (in sociology Tomlinson 1991); 5. Globalization as *a strategy* (in economy Krugman 1995, etc.); 6. Globalization as *an ideology* (in sociology Wallerstein 2000, etc.).

Apart from the dispute over the understanding of globalization among social scientists, there exists a debate, especially among those who understand globalization as a social process or a set of processes, on the issue of when globalization has its beginnings. Their perspectives on this issue considerably differ. The emergence of

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⁴ Jean-Ovide Decroly was one of the first scientists who systematically used the word globalization. He had been using the word from 1924, in 1929 he published the monograph named *La fonction de globalisation et l'enseignement*. For the detailed bibliography of Jean-Ovide Decroly see VAN GORP, A.: *Tussen mythe en wetenschap: Ovide Decroly (1871 – 1932)*. Leuven: ACCO, 2005, pp. 249 – 268.
globalization has been dated back to the *prehistoric period* (Held 1999, Hopkins 2002, Steger 2003), to the *3rd century* (Therborn 2000), to the *beginning of the 10th century* (Modelski 1972), to the *15th century* (Harf and Trout 1986), to the *19th century* (Cox 1992), or to *1980s and 1990s* (Kaldor 1999).

The development of globalization as a historical process can be divided into several periods. The periodization of globalization has been the subject of research in the social sciences since the end of the 20th century (Held 1999, Therborn 2000, Hopkins 2002, Steger 2003). However, at present there does not exist a generally accepted periodization of globalization. The variety of the existing globalization periodizations can be illustrated by the Table 1. For these reasons it is important to start any research on globalization by providing the understanding of the phenomenon which is to be analyzed. In my research *globalization* is understood as a social process whose defining characteristics can be summarized as follows:

- It is a *process of intensification of social relations* on the local, regional, continental, intercontinental, or global scale, followed by the increase in interconnectedness and interdependence of the human society. Globalization manifests itself in many spheres of social life – in the sphere of social being (economics, technology, etc.) and in the sphere of social consciousness (ideology, politics, law, ethics, culture, etc.);
• It is a historical process that is not completed and whose quality and quantity change in the process of its development; the roots of this process can be traced back to the rise of the first human civilizations;

• It is a controllable process; the potential for its control increases as human understanding of this process develops (in past globalization was a spontaneous, uncontrolled process, at present it is controlled, or there exists a tendency to control it, in some social spheres whereas in other social spheres it is a spontaneous, uncontrolled process);

• It is contradictory in character what manifests itself in attaining a different level of intensity and acceleration on various territories and in various social spheres, or in having different impacts while working in the same way.

• The intensity level and difference in impacts of globalization are determined by the driving forces of globalization, socio-historical development, socio-economic relations, and the natural environment.

By the driving forces of globalization I understand a complex of essential, long-running factors or agents that stimulate the process and determine its development, nature, quantity and quality, its intensity, and direction. It is either a human being (individual, group, or society with such qualities, needs, feelings, interests, demands, desires, ideas that motivate people to intensify their social relations and to cooperate with other individuals, groups, societies) or nature.

KOZÁROVÁ, I., Driving forces of globalization, EJG, 1, 2013, pp. 5-36.
Driving forces of globalization

(such environmental conditions, natural disasters, epidemics, etc. that force people to intensify their social relations and to cooperate with one another or that facilitate their cooperation) that is a bearer of the driving force of globalization. The dynamism of the driving forces of globalization is determined by the contradiction between human needs, feelings, interests, demands, desires, ideas and their fulfilment, or between human qualities and feelings and their engagement in human conduct, or the contradiction between environmental conditions, natural disasters, epidemics, etc. and people's struggle to survive, or maintain or improve the quality of their lives.

This complex of driving forces is not only a source of development, it itself constantly changes and develops; its structure, intensity, direction, and relations between its components undergo a change. Driving forces of globalization can work independently or in the complex with other driving forces (in the interaction with other driving forces of globalization their impact may be strengthened or weakened). They can influence the whole process of globalization or particular stages of the process. An analogous driving force (or a complex of driving forces) can give rise to various manifestations of globalization (various in the sense of different quantity, quality, intensity, direction, etc.) in different space and time (i. e. in different economic, political, or social conditions).
Table 1: The Periodization of Globalization

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In my perspective the roots of globalization can be traced back to the rise of the first human civilizations. Analysing the changes in the development of globalization (i.e. the changes in its character, quality, quantity, intensity, or direction) determined by the driving forces of globalization I identified the following eleven periods of globalization: first period (10000 BC – 3500 BC), second period (3500 BC – 5th century AD), third period (5th century – 10th century), fourth period (10th century – 15th century), fifth period (15th century – 1800), sixth period (1800 – 1850), seventh period (1850 – 1918), eighth period (1918 – 1945), ninth period (1945 – 1970), tenth period (1970 – 1990), eleventh period (1990 – present).

In the first period of globalization there emerged the earliest manifestations of globalization at a local level, e.g. cooperation in satisfying primary needs (cooperative hunting and gathering), coexistence (clans and tribes), spreading and adopting new pieces of knowledge, spreading of ornaments, creating the first cultures, establishing and spreading of cults and religions, spreading of agriculture and stock raising, spreading of a new way of life brought with agriculture and stock raising, spreading of specialisation and

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6 The beginnings and endings of particular periods represent only approximate points in time when the transition from one stage in globalization development to another took place. For globalization has been developing continuously and consistently, in each of the periods its old qualities were dissipating and new ones were emerging.
differentiation of labour, emergence and spreading of new organisational forms.

During the second period the process acquired new qualities and its manifestations appeared at a regional or an intercontinental level, e. g. integration into larger units (states, alliances), spreading of systems of writing, establishing trade contacts, wars, colonisation of new territories, use of law, establishing qualitatively new political units (empires).

In the third period there emerged new manifestations of globalization at a continental or an intercontinental level, e. g. invasions of barbarian tribes, merging into culturally related tribes and establishing states, spreading of the feudal system, spreading of religious ideology, spreading of dogmatics, emergence of clergy.

In the fourth period the changes in globalization character manifested at a continental and an intercontinental level, e. g. the territorial expansion of the church (the Investiture Contest, the Crusades).

In the fifth period new manifestations of globalization were observable at a continental or an intercontinental level, e. g. spreading of Renaissance and Humanism, spreading of Reformation, spreading of education (due to the invention of a printing press), intensification of intercontinental relations (due to the overseas discoveries), colonisation.
In the *sixth period* the changes in globalization development manifested itself at a continental and an intercontinental level, e. g. industrial revolution, spreading of new knowledge and technologies.

In the *seventh period* there occurred new manifestations of globalization at a regional, a continental, an intercontinental and the global level, e. g. spreading of new organizational forms in trade, spreading of a new trade and tariffs policy, spreading of the idea of free trade, economic crises, organization at international level (the Internationals), establishing international governmental and intergovernmental institutions and organizations.

In the *eighth period* the new quality, quantity, and intensity of globalization manifested at the global level, e. g. the Great Depression, the World Wars, founding of the League of Nations, founding of the UN.

In the *ninth period* other new manifestations of globalization emerged at the global level, e. g. establishing new international organizations (the IMF, the World Bank Group, the GATT, etc.), the Cold War (the threat of global nuclear war), international cooperation in solving global problems (disarmament, pollution of the environment, etc.)

In the *tenth period* the change in globalization direction was followed by its new manifestations, e. g. spreading of ideas of free trade and their implementation in practice (adopting neoliberal policy), cooperation within informal groupings (G-5, etc.).
In the eleventh period the globalization character, quality, quantity, and intensity changed what has manifested itself by e.g. spreading of the ideas of neoliberalism and adopting neoliberal principles and measures at the global level, spreading of anglo-american way of life, culture, and ethics, spreading of new strategies of development by multinational and transnational corporations, new international division of labour, creating virtual economy, establishing free-trade zones, emergence of global protest actions against neoliberalism (anti-globalization/alter-globalization movement), establishment of organizations based on alternative (non-neoliberal) principles (the ALBA), international scientific cooperation (the ISS, etc.).

In each period the dynamism of globalization was determined by specific driving forces. These driving forces of globalization can be classified and typologically arranged according to various criteria, e.g. a bearer of a particular driving force of globalization, objectiveness/subjectiveness, duration, territorial dependence/independence, geographical scope, progressiveness/regressiveness. See Table 2 for the detailed analysis and typology of driving forces of globalization that were operating in particular periods of globalization.

One of the possibilities how to develop the given classification is to take into consideration a bearer of a particular driving force of globalization. In general it is either a human being or nature who is a bearer of the driving force therefore driving forces of globalization...
may be classified as social or natural. Most of the driving forces I have analysed are social ones.

Social driving forces may be further classified according to two other criteria. The first one refers to whether a human being in the process of globalization has a position of an individual, or it is a part of a group, society or state. As an example of a driving force arising out of an individual it is possible to mention primary needs. Driving forces arising out of a group stem from living of a human being in society, such as for example, desire for self-determination, desire for social and political rights, etc. Driving forces arising from society or state, and thus originating in aggregating of people in a more or less ordered communities, refer to, for example need for regulation of international relations in various areas of social life, need to solve different problems at international level and so on.
### Table 2: Typology of the driving forces of globalization

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<th>Driving force</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<th>Dependent on Territory</th>
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### Driving Forces of Globalization

#### Driving forces arising from interests and desires

- Desire for self-determination
- Desire to gain a share in political power
- Desire for maximization of profit
- Desire for gaining social and political rights
- Desire to gain or maintain economic or political supremacy
- Need to solve different problems at international level
- Desire for peace and security among nations
- Competing for hegemony
- Actions of politicians
- Activities of transnational corporations
- Attempt to stabilize development
- Attempt to overcome a state of being isolated
- Attempt to cooperate

#### Driving forces arising from ideas

- Idea about integration and an attempt to implement it
- Attempt to spread an ideology

#### Driving forces arising from feelings and attitudes

- Feeling of being powerless and ability to overcome it by means of imagination
- Social attitudes
- Resistance to something
- Public opinion

#### Driving forces arising from unintentional activities or errors

- Impact of unintentional activities or chance of human beings or consequences of technical imperfection of human pieces of work

#### Driving forces arising from nature

- Unfavorable natural conditions
- Natural catastrophes
- Pollution of environment

### Legend:

| I | Individual |
| G | Group |
| B | Society/state |
| N | Nature |

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### Change in character due to interaction with other driving forces of globalization
The criterion of objectiveness/subjectiveness indicates to what extent a particular driving force is dependent on consciousness of individuals or groups of people. For example, the forces of nature (climatic change, drought, bad crop, natural catastrophes, etc.), primary needs of human beings (need for food, security, shelter, etc.), changes arising from activities of human beings (demographic changes), etc. are typical objective driving forces of globalization. On the other hand advancement of one’s own interests (economic, financial, political, etc.), decision of individuals or institution that have extensive reach (decisions of politicians, representatives of transnational corporations, international organizations, etc.), desire for freedom, aesthetic need, feeling of being powerless and the ability to overcome it through imagination can be mentioned as typical subjective driving forces of globalization. In my analysis of driving forces of globalization it has proved that both objective and subjective driving forces have been forming the process of globalization (from its beginning till the present stage) approximately to the same extent.

Time aspect is another possible criterion according to which driving forces of globalization can be typologically arranged. Considering that all driving forces of globalization develop and change, it is interesting to analyse their duration in time. Some driving forces have been active since the beginning of the development of human society, though they have been changing in quantity, quality, intensity, etc. (e.g. impact of environmental conditions, lack of mineral
resources, primary and some secondary needs of human being, advancement of one’s own interests, etc.). The other ones have emerged recently and did not affect the previous development (need to solve global problems, need to inform and be informed through mass media, etc.). The results of my analysis show that most driving forces of globalization have its origin in the early history of humankind.

Territorial aspect can be adopted as another criterion of the typology of the driving forces and the attention can be pointed out to the question of dependence/independence of a driving force on territory. Not each driving force is active, or equally intensive, on all territories (e.g. need to protect against cold weather is less intensive near the equator than in the temperate zone). My analysis, however, proved that most of driving forces of globalization work independently on territory.

It is also possible to classify the driving forces of globalization according to their geographical scope. Taking into consideration that the extent of impact of the driving forces may change in the process of their development, it is inevitable when developing the classification to take into account the aspect of time. There are only several driving forces which have been global since the beginning of their involvement in the globalization process. A need for food, shelter, and living in a secure environment can be mentioned as examples. At first many driving forces of globalization had only local impact and they
were gradually reaching regional, continental, intercontinental, and global scope. As an example of such driving force business interests can be mentioned.

*Progressiveness/regressiveness*, another criterion which can be used to classify the driving forces of globalization, uncovers a dialectical character of the driving forces of globalization. In this paper progressiveness means gradual improvement of human and environmental conditions whereas regressiveness refers to their decline. Most of the analysed driving forces can work progressively or regressively depending on various circumstances (space, time, social and political organization, direction of individual or group interests etc.), or they can even work progressively and regressively with the same intensity at the same time (e.g. considering a lack of mineral resources as a driving force of globalization, under certain circumstances they can result in the establishment of business contacts between two or more distant areas, however under other circumstances it can escalate a conflict). Only few factors or agents can be laid exactly on the one end of this scale. For example, aesthetic need, need for communication between societies, need to solve global problems are more progressive driving forces, on the other hand aggressive advancement of economic or political interest is more regressive driving force. However, it is necessary to emphasize that this categorization is very relative.
The study of driving forces of globalization is inevitable because only in this way we can improve our understanding of principles behind globalization and forecast its further development. During my research I have discovered three principles of driving forces of globalization.

Driving forces of globalization change and develop over time. One of the concomitant phenomena of this process is a transformation of the nature of some driving forces (principle of transformation of driving forces). For example, need for food, clothing, and shelter (driving forces which are objective in their nature), were transformed into desire for gourmet food, fashion clothing, decent housing (driving forces which are subjective in their nature). This transformation was possible due to long-lasting fulfilment of the primary needs (e. g. by producing surplus value which enabled individual to free himself from everyday providing of food and clothing, or searching for shelter) and by means of its interconnecting with other driving force (e. g. with aesthetic need, a subjective driving force of globalization, which stimulated aesthetic feeling to be considered while preparing food, designing cloths, or arrangement of housing). Not all driving forces of globalization were transformed in this way, and even those, which have been transformed, do not work on each place of our planet with the same intensity. This transformation is gradual.
The transformation of a driving force can come about in an opposite direction. If a primary need stops to be satisfied for a longer time (e.g. in a case of the outbreak of war, natural catastrophe, etc.), a desire of an individual, as a subjective driving force of globalization, will transform again into the primary need, as an objective driving force of globalization.

This “subjectivization” and “objectivization” of driving forces will consequently have an impact on the nature of the globalization process. Globalization driven by objective driving forces has a tendency towards commonality, i.e. it will come about for welfare of the whole (which does not have to be global). Globalization driven by subjective driving forces has a tendency towards individualism, i.e. it will be carried out in the interest of maximization of fulfilment of individual needs and desires.

The process of globalization is not influenced only by the principle of transformation of one driving force into another, it is also a result of antagonistic interaction of several driving forces of globalization. Some driving forces interact in mutual antagonism (the principle of antagonism of driving forces of globalization), e.g. objective need for healthy environment coincide with a regressive subjective desire for profit (e.g. it manifested itself in the question of the adoption and the enforcement of the Kyoto protocol), or there is a contradiction between progressive subjective need for healthy diet
and regressive subjective desire for profit (e.g. it can be observed in the BSE scandal or melamine scandal).

Antagonistic interaction of driving forces can be observed in the direction of the process of globalization. The course of globalization is given by those driving forces, which prevail in political and economic decision-making structures of society in a particular moment.

Another principle, typical for driving forces of globalization, is their tendency towards gradualness and intensification (the principle of gradualness and intensification of driving forces), which results in more effective organising and larger territorial sphere of activity of the process of globalization.

Globalization driven by the complex of its driving forces can develop in two ways. On one hand it can end in the self-destruction of humankind, if regressive subjective driving forces prevail over the progressive objective and subjective ones. On the other hand it can result in the change of the global order, if globalization is driven by its progressive objective and subjective driving forces, which aim is to preserve the life on earth and organise it in such a way so that a new world order was based on social justice and would at least satisfy primary needs for each individual. This would require a reform of global and regional international institutions as well as legislative and executive bodies of nation-states. The reform should lead to the elimination of regressive subjective driving forces in decision-making process on the global level. For example there is a need to eliminate
regressive subjective driving forces *desire for profit concerning armament industry* and *desire for power*, heading to military conflicts, and to transform them into the progressive driving force *desire for peace*. This elimination of regressive subjective driving forces should be carried out by measures with global reach and obligatory character (e. g. disarmament should be accepted and applied in all countries, it should not be only partial).

The operating of the driving forces of globalization may be illustrated by the following example. In last decade an imbalance between a driving force of a desire for maximization of profit (neoliberal and neoconservative political and bank elite governing since the period of the Reagan’s and Thatcher’s administrations has been its bearer) and a driving force of need to regulate financial policies of banks and other financial institutions (which has been enforced by policies of state-controlled economies). The roots of this imbalance may be found in adopting a series of deregulation measures at national and international level or in overlooking hazardous and risky financial policy of banks and other financial institutions (e. g. in cases of Enron, Lehman Brothers and other). This trend in political decision-making, which originated in Great Britain and in the USA, was gradually spreading to other countries and was followed by some decision-making bodies of international institutions (the IMF, the

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World Bank, and others) until it prevailed over political tendencies preferring the government interventions in economy. Present global financial and economic crisis was a result of this trend in decision-making. Intolerable state of existence in crisis makes a room for driving force of need to regulate international financial policies of banks and financial institutions, which has become a subject of negotiations of heads of states and governments at continental, intercontinental, or global level (e.g. the EU, the BRICS, the G20, etc.). It is possible that in taking preventive measures against crisis some new control and regulatory mechanisms emerge, through which it will be possible to anticipate the threat of outbreak of another crisis and to prevent its return in a global scope by taking appropriate regulatory measures. Such mechanisms may appear at the global level, or at a local, regional, continental, or intercontinental level, and if they prove to be effective, they may be adopted elsewhere.

The presented example is only one of the possibilities how to apply the concept of driving forces of globalization in analysing the development and dynamics of globalization processes. There exist many other alternatives of applying the concept of the driving forces of globalization and these may be the subject of further research.

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My findings lead to the conclusion that globalization and its driving forces constantly change and develop over time. A particular manifestation of globalization depends on the character of a driving force, or driving forces, stimulating it at that moment. Driving forces of globalization may assume different qualities: its bearer may have an attribute of either a human being or nature; their influence may be dependent or independent on consciousness of individuals or groups of people, time, or territory; their geographical extent may be local, regional, continental, intercontinental, or global; their impact may be progressive or regressive, etc. Being determined by various driving forces, the nature of globalization may alter.

The complex of the driving forces of globalization is not only a source of development, it itself undergoes a change; its structure, intensity, direction, and relations between its components become different over time. The understanding of the principles behind the development of driving forces of globalization may thus improve our ability to predict the further development of globalization. During my research I had discovered three principles of the development of driving forces of globalization: the principle of transformation of driving forces of globalization, the principle of antagonism of driving forces of globalization, and the principle of gradualness and intensification of driving forces of globalization. It has proved that globalization is a knowable and predictable process.
Globalization driven by its driving forces may develop in two directions: either to a self-destruction of humankind or to a change of the global social order. A future direction of globalization will depend on a character of driving forces that will stimulate the process, e. g. on whether in its development subjective regressive driving forces prevail over objective and subjective progressive ones or vice versa. Subjective driving forces depend on human consciousness, therefore a man may intentionally influence them, and thus decide about the further development of humankind. The impact of objective driving forces of globalization is independent on human consciousness; however, on the basis of their understanding a man may predict and appropriately stimulate human activities.

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