

Grzegorz W. Kolodko
www.tiger.edu.pl

Globalization and the Great Post-Communist Change

(abstract)

Globalization is the most important feature of contemporary world. It changes the manner in which particular regions, countries, businesses and consumers are participating in the world economic game. Information and technology, capital and money, goods and services, and still growing masses of people flow between the countries more freely and vigorously than ever. The world is becoming strongly integrated into a single global market. However, this process is causing several problems too. The issues of the growing inequality, social exclusion, and the pace of growth of underdeveloped countries are of great importance. This is also a main factor contributing to growing anti-globalization sentiments and movements.

The post-communist transition is a historical event leading from a centrally planned system to an open market economy. It is also an indispensable part of ongoing globalization. Simultaneously the process of democratization takes place. Economic transition is a gradual process, consisting of liberalization and stabilization, institution building and microeconomic restructuring. It takes time and is costly, both in financial and social terms. The post-communist countries are not yet on the path of durable growth, nor sustainable development, yet in the future, if transition is managed in a reasonable way, one may expect these countries to become the fastest growing part of the world economy.