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## Spis treści

<b>Michał Nowicki:</b> Global governance w obszarze handlu międzynarodowego – rola WTO .....	9
<b>Marcin Nowik:</b> Strukturalne przemiany w obszarze indyjskiej pomocy gospodarczej na rzecz Nepalu .....	21
<b>Witold Nowiński:</b> Analiza przejęć ponadgranicznych realizowanych przez polskie przedsiębiorstwa.....	33
<b>Alina Nychyk:</b> The necessity of global governance in the contemporary rapidly changing world .....	43
<b>Anna Odrobina:</b> Strukturalne problemy działalności badawczo-rozwojowej w Polsce .....	52
<b>Sławomir Pastuszka:</b> Bezpośrednie inwestycje zagraniczne w Polsce Wschodniej w latach 2005–2012 .....	63
<b>Bożena Pera:</b> Międzynarodowy handel towarami zaawansowanymi technologicznie krajów „wschodniego rozszerzenia” Unii Europejskiej w latach 2007–2012 .....	73
<b>Agnieszka Piasecka-Głuszak:</b> Lean management w polskich przedsiębiorstwach przy wykorzystaniu wybranych narzędzi rozwiązywania problemów – wyniki badań.....	88
<b>Tadeusz Pindór:</b> Przekształcenia międzynarodowych rynków miedzi w latach 1980–2012.....	104
<b>Eugeniusz M. Pluciński:</b> Integracyjny megaprojekt UE – USA (...NAFTA?) z perspektywy polskiego eksportu i importu oraz modelu międzynarodowego podziału pracy .....	114
<b>Łukasz Puślecki, Michał Staszaków:</b> Alianse otwartych innowacji jako nowa forma współpracy firm biofarmaceutycznych .....	130
<b>Zdzisław W. Puślecki:</b> Innowacje produktowe i procesowe we wzroście konkurencyjności globalnej Unii Europejskiej.....	140
<b>Jan Rymarczyk:</b> Globalizacja KGHM Polska Miedź SA.....	150
<b>Jerzy Rymarczyk:</b> Antykryzysowe działania w strefie euro – kierunki reform systemu instytucjonalnego.....	165
<b>Anna Skoczyła:</b> Polskie i brytyjskie innowacyjne klastry na drodze kreowania konkurencyjności regionu.....	176
<b>Joanna Skrzydłowska:</b> Wkład przemysłu kreatywnego i kultury w przemiany strukturalne w gospodarce Unii Europejskiej.....	184
<b>Joanna Skrzypczyńska:</b> „Pakiet z Bali” a perspektywa zakończenia Rundy z Doha WTO .....	195

<b>Justyna Szymańska:</b> Regulacje prawne w Europie i w Stanach Zjednoczonych po globalnym kryzysie finansowym 2007–2009 .....	203
<b>Barbara Szymoniuk:</b> Polityka klastrowa – dobrodziejstwo czy przekleństwo dla polskich klastrów? .....	212
<b>Jowita Świerczyńska:</b> Bezpieczeństwo i ochrona rynku jako priorytetowy obszar działania europejskiej służby celnej .....	222
<b>Maciej Walkowski:</b> Czy optymalizacja podatkowa może być szkodliwa? Rozważania na temat skutków funkcjonowania centrów usług finansowych typu offshore (OFC), czyli tzw. rajów podatkowych .....	233
<b>Marta Wincewicz-Bosy:</b> Międzynarodowy obrót kołmi w latach 1961–2011 .....	249
<b>Katarzyna Witczyńska:</b> Znaczenie centrów logistycznych w rozwoju regionalnym .....	262
<b>Marek Wróblewski:</b> Regionalne centra obsługi eksporterów – nowy wymiar wsparcia polskiego eksportu? .....	276
<b>Waldemar Zadworny:</b> Ocena efektywności technicznej przedsiębiorstw województwa podkarpackiego metodą granicznej analizy danych .....	287
<b>Wojciech Zysk:</b> Działalność eksportowa spółek z udziałem zagranicznym w Polsce w latach 2004–2012 .....	295
<b>Katarzyna Żukrowska:</b> Zmiany we współczesnej gospodarce: przejawy, kierunek i przyczyny .....	305
<b>Anna Żyła:</b> Współpraca regionalna w ramach ASEAN przed i po 2015 r. – cele, strategie i wyzwania .....	321

## Summaries

<b>Michał Nowicki:</b> Global governance in the area of international trade – role of the WTO .....	20
<b>Marcin Nowik:</b> Structural changes in the field of India's economic aid for Nepal .....	32
<b>Witold Nowiński:</b> Cross-border acquisitions carried out by Polish companies .....	42
<b>Alina Nychyk:</b> Konieczność globalnego zarządzania we współczesnym szybko zmieniającym się świecie .....	51
<b>Anna Odrobina:</b> The structural problems of the research and development activity in Poland .....	62
<b>Sławomir Pastuszka:</b> Foreign direct investment in Eastern Poland in the period of 2005–2012 .....	72
<b>Bożena Pera:</b> International trade of high-tech products of European Union Eastern Enlargement countries in 2007–2012 .....	87
<b>Agnieszka Piasecka-Głuszak:</b> Lean management in Polish companies using selected tools of problem solving – research results .....	103

<b>Tadeusz Pindór:</b> Changes of international copper markets over the period 1980–2012 .....	113
<b>Eugeniusz M. Pluciński:</b> Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between EU and US from a view of Polish exports and imports as well as pattern of international division of labour .....	129
<b>Łukasz Puślecki, Michał Staszków:</b> Open innovation alliances as a new form of cooperation of biopharmaceutical companies .....	139
<b>Zdzisław W. Puślecki:</b> Product and process innovation in the global competitiveness increase of the European Union .....	149
<b>Jan Rymarczyk:</b> Globalization of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. ....	164
<b>Jerzy Rymarczyk:</b> Anti-crisis actions in the euro zone – directions of institutional system reforms .....	175
<b>Anna Skoczyła:</b> The role of Polish and British innovation clusters in creating competitiveness of the region .....	183
<b>Joanna Skrzydłowska:</b> The contribution of the cultural and creative industries in structural changes in the economy of the European Union .....	194
<b>Joanna Skrzypczyńska:</b> The WTO “Bali Package” vs. a perspective of the conclusion of the Doha Round .....	202
<b>Justyna Szymańska:</b> Legal regulations in Europe and in the United States after the global financial crisis of 2007–2009 .....	211
<b>Barbara Szymoniuk:</b> Cluster policy – benefit or a curse for Polish clusters? .....	221
<b>Jowita Świerczyńska:</b> The security and protection of the market as a priority action area of the European customs service .....	231
<b>Maciej Walkowski:</b> Can tax optimization be harmful? Deliberations on the effects of Offshore Financial Centers (OFC), or so-called tax heavens .....	248
<b>Marta Wincewicz-Bosy:</b> International trade in horses in the years 1961–2011 .....	260
<b>Katarzyna Witczyńska:</b> Importance of logistics centers in regional development .....	275
<b>Marek Wróblewski:</b> Regional Export Promotion Agencies – a new dimension of Polish export support? .....	286
<b>Waldemar Zadworny:</b> Assessment of technical effectiveness of companies in Podkarpackie Voivodeship with borderline data analysis method .....	294
<b>Wojciech Zysk:</b> The export activity of entities with foreign capital in Poland in the years 2004–2012 .....	304
<b>Katarzyna Żukrowska:</b> Changes in contemporary world economy: occurrences, directions and causes .....	319
<b>Anna Żyła:</b> Regional cooperation in the ASEAN before and after 2015 – goals, strategies and challenges .....	332

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## THE NECESSITY OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

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**Summary:** During the last years our world has changed a lot; it challenges all nations with new complicated and urgent problems, which cannot be withstood by any country alone. The purpose of the article is concerned with such global threats which appeared as a consequence of internalization and globalization and should be of great attention for every state. Global problems can bring humanity into collapse if they are not dealt with in the proper time. That is why now we have no time to hesitate but to unite efforts of all nations in a struggle for better future. The article also shows the last more or less successful attempts of cooperated action in this field. It proves that the European Union is one of the most effective organizations, which coordinates member states action in fighting of global problems. This example can be used and implemented overall in forming and developing of global governance, which is the only way to overcome the swelling crisis. Thus the main goal of the article is to prove that we really have huge global problems, which should be dealt with urgently and that can be done only within global cooperation of all countries, which means forming global governance. An analysis of different sorts of literature and statistics from international organizations was utilized as the research method for writing the article.

**Keywords:** globalization, integration, global problems, global governance.

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### 1. Introduction

Modern world changes rapidly creating every time more difficult new challenges for governments and their societies. Thus the main issues, penetrating all economic, political and social processes in the world, are integration and globalization. After the centuries of destructive wars, specially two world wars, people have understood that the next big conflict can bring humanity to collapse and only cooperation between countries can bring good economic results to their peoples. Therefore, former enemies yield up parts of their national sovereignty to supranational structures to avoid future destroying confrontation and fight global problems, that threat global

stability and welfare. Nowadays integration blocks and organizations are widely spread all around the world. According to Mundialization theory such collaboration will lead to the wholly integrated world built on global democratic treasures, where national governments will lose their role and give all their authorities to global governance. We can see now confirmations for that theory. The European Union has reached the highest level of integration, it has its parliament, president, and some countries even share common currency. NAFTA is the one integration block, which comprises the whole continent. Integration processes in Asia speed up after the last crisis. Arabic countries cooperate mostly for religious issues, but also for economic and political ones. Integration in Africa is not so strong yet, but some moves forward are also seen there. The world is coming closer for reaching better economic results and for dealing with common problems that all nations face.

## 2. Global threats that modern society faces

The need for global governance in modern era is obvious. As critics may argue that the world existed without global rule for centuries and small integrating attempts were doomed to failure in a proper time, they have to consider that the world has changed and problems that we are facing today require common action of all countries.

According to the World Economic Forum, 10 global risks of highest concern in 2014 are: fiscal crises in key economies, structurally high unemployment/underemployment, water crises, severe income disparity, failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, greater incidence of extreme weather events, global governance failure, food crises, failure of the major financial mechanism/institution, profound political and social instability<sup>1</sup>. As to Skoll Global Threats Fund climate change, water security, pandemics, nuclear proliferation and Middle East conflict are the most important problems nowadays<sup>2</sup>. World Bank economist Jean-Francois Rischard thinks that global economic collapse, terrorism, proliferation of weapon of massive destruction, climate change and overpopulation are the top 5 global problems<sup>3</sup>. Thus, different researches have divergent opinions which global threat is the most dangerous and which is the most probable to bring the world to collapse. However, the whole global scientific community agrees that problems mentioned above need an urgent response of all nations and should be decided only within global cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> *Global Risks 2014*, World Economic Forum, <http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2014/>, 02.03.2014.

<sup>2</sup> *To safeguard humanity from global threats*, Skoll Global Threats Fund, <http://www.skollglobal-threats.org>, 02.03.2014.

<sup>3</sup> *Top 10 most urgent problems in the world, Before it's news*, <http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2013/03/top-10-most-urgent-problems-in-the-world-2603780.html>, 02.03.2014.

It is difficult to make a clear distinction between global problems, because all of them are interconnected and the aggravation of one of them leads to more risks in appearing of another one. For example, one of them lies in economy. The 2008 financial crisis exploded, once again, the myth that the all-powerful free-market forces will correct all serious financial malfunctioning on their own, as well as belief in the presumed independence of the economy. The economies of all countries are interdependent – the fall at Wall Street led to the bankruptcy of European banks, present-day political crisis in Ukraine influences Asian markets etc. That means that we cannot let one country bring the world economy to collapse because of poor judgments of its political elites. There should be one coordinated government, which will balance all countries' activities and prevent global tragedies.

The world crisis also showed that modern international control is not up to date. The lack of transparency and being far from democratic, international financial institutions have proven incapable of handling the market's critical breakdown. Free-market economy itself is unable to meet the population's needs. Without the regulation and consideration of social and environmental externalities, free-market capitalism turns into an uncontrollable machine that produces more and more wealth concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, leading the global community into disaster and chaos. Its capacity to produce is not in doubt: the problem is absence of redistribution, which is the result of absence of political and citizen will to change the rules of the game. According to the latest data, the richest 1% of the world's people earned as much income as the bottom 57% (2.7 billion people). The top 5% of the world's people earn more income than the bottom 80%. The top 10% of the world's people earn as much income as the bottom 90%.

Another global problem lies in the fact that more than 50% of world population lives in non democratic states:<sup>4</sup> 33% of the world's people live under authoritarian regimes, 35% live in countries in which basic political rights and civil liberties are denied (such as freedom of speech, religion, press, fair trials, democratic political processes, etc)<sup>5</sup>. This brings people to struggle for their rights. There are over 35 major conflicts going on in the world today. Genocide and other mass murders killed more people of their lives in the XX<sup>th</sup> century than all wars combined. Between 54 and 80 million people were killed as a result of genocide in the last century. Between 170 and 360 million people were killed, in total, by governments not during the wars in the XX<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>. At the same time, civil wars continue to break out across the world, particularly in areas where civil and human rights are not respected: in Central and Eastern Africa and the Middle East. These and other regions remain deeply entrenched in permanent crises, hampered by authoritarian regimes, many of

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<sup>4</sup> *Democracy Index 2012*, [https://www.eiu.com/public/topical\\_report.aspx?campaignid=DemocracyIndex12](https://www.eiu.com/public/topical_report.aspx?campaignid=DemocracyIndex12), 22.01.2014.

<sup>5</sup> *The state of the world, brief introduction to global issues*, The World Revolution, <http://world-revolution.org/projects/globalissuesoverview/overview2/BriefOverview.htm>, 22.01.2014.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*.



them being supported by the United States, reducing entire swathes of the population to wretched living conditions. They are all illustrations of a deep-rooted crisis of world governance.

Poverty is a huge problem, which is related to the mentioned before. A half i.e. 3 billion of the world's population live in poverty (for less than \$2 per day), 1.3 billion people live in absolute or extreme poverty (living for less than \$1 per day), 2.4 billion people lack the access to proper sanitation and 1.1 billion do not have safe drinking water. By 2025, at least 3.5 billion people or nearly 2/3rds of the world's population will face water scarcity. More than 2.2 million people, mostly children, die every year from water related diseases<sup>7</sup>.

Economic crises, wars, overpopulation lead to the most urgent and complex global problems – climate changes, environment pollution, extermination of some species, which cause destructive natural phenomena, deterioration of people's health and huge migration from the most problematic territories. Humanity should not forget that it lives within nature, it is dependent on it, and destroying it means our own suicide. Unfortunately, a lot of governments do not take this problem seriously enough. Developing economies, such as China, blame the developed ones for that and vice versa. However, the fact is that global temperatures are rising primarily due to human activities. The climate is changing in ways that jeopardize human security and well being. The global warming trend we are currently experiencing differs alarmingly from past changes in the Earth's climate. This warming is largely driven by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, and clearing of forests, which release heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide. Nature ignores political and social barriers, and the global dimension of the crisis cancels the effects of any action initiated unilaterally by state governments or pectoral institutions, irrespective of power they may have.

Humanity has greatly changed the nature. Climate changes, ocean and air pollution, nuclear risks and those related to genetic manipulation, the reduction and extinction of resources and biodiversity, and above all a development model that remains largely unquestioned globally are all among the various manifestations of this accelerated and probably irreversible impact. This impact is a factor in the framework of globalization that most challenges a system of states competing with each other to the exclusion of all others. Among different fields of global governance, environmental management is the most wanted in urgent answers to the crisis in the form of collective actions by whole human community.

From another point of view, it is well known that one thing all humans on this planet need to survive is resources. Resources like food and water are bare essentials for life. The countries that are experiencing the highest growth rates are all developing countries, with the exception of the United States. These countries lack the technology that developed countries have. The United Nations predicts

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<sup>7</sup> Ibidem.

that currently 1 billion people cannot satisfy their basic needs. With the lack of technology developing countries will continue to destroy resources at an alarming rate while many struggle to survive every day<sup>8</sup>.

There are some other global problems like terrorism, possible lack of energy sources, pandemics, threat of nuclear war etc. They all need global response from partnership of all states. At the same time some societies cannot stay apart, because it will nullify the whole attempt.

It is important to notice that we live in a strongly globalized and integrated world. Global commerce is becoming denser and sped up. No single firm can effectively compete as an autonomous agent working solely through a market-exchange mechanism<sup>9</sup>. At the same time nation-states can no longer go it alone in a dense, interdependent world. Like transnational companies, they are slowly coming together in cooperative networks to better accommodate the realities of a high-risk globalized society<sup>10</sup>. Thus, the economy is already integrated and people begin to think globally too. Now it is the time for policy to unite to decide about mentioned above problems and a lot of others that do exist and will appear in our global and rapidly changing world.

### 3. International cooperation in the fight against global problems

From one point of view, we have already a lot of international organizations which deal with global problems and try to coordinate actions of independent states. The United Nations is a primary formal organization coordinating activities between states on a global scale and the only inter-governmental organization with a truly universal membership (193 governments). To its initial goals of safeguarding peace, protecting human rights, establishing the framework for international justice and promoting economic and social progress, the United Nations has added on new challenges, such as climate changes, international terrorism and AIDS. While conflict resolution and peacekeeping continue to be among its most visible efforts, the UN, along with its specialized agencies, is also engaged in a wide array of activities to improve people's lives around the world – from disaster relief, through education and advancement of women, to peaceful uses of atomic energy<sup>11</sup>. In addition to the main organs and various humanitarian programs and commissions of the UN itself, there are about 20 functional organizations affiliated with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), such as the World Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, and the International Telecommunications Union The World Bank,

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<sup>8</sup> B. Johnson, *Overpopulation problems; Lack of resources*, <http://blogs.longwood.edu/johnson-ba/2012/02/24/overpopulation-problems-lack-of-resources/>, 24.02.2012.

<sup>9</sup> J. Rifkin, *The European Dream, How Europe's vision of the future is quietly eclipsing the American Dream*, New York, 2005, p. 191.

<sup>10</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>11</sup> *Global Issues, United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/globalissues/>, 11.03.2014.

the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization are of particular political interest. Militarily, the UN deploys peacekeeping forces, usually to build and maintain post-conflict peace and stability. When a more aggressive international military action is undertaken, either ad hoc coalitions (for example, the multinational force in Iraq) or regional military alliances (for example, NATO) are used.

Also international environmental organisations do exist. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), created in 1972, coordinates the environmental activity of countries in the UN. But UNEP and similar international environmental organisations are seen as not up to the task. They are criticised as being institutionally weak, fragmented, lacking in standing and providing non-optimal environmental protection.

Among achievements of the international environment cooperation the Kyoto protocol should be mentioned. It was the first agreement between nations to mandate country-by-country reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions. Kyoto emerged from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was signed by nearly all nations at the 1992 mega-meeting popularly known as the Earth Summit. The framework pledges to stabilize greenhouse-gas concentrations «at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system». Nearly all nations ratified the treaty, with the notable exception of the United States. Developing countries, including China and India, were not mandated to reduce emissions, given that they had contributed a relatively small share of the current century-plus build-up of CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the protocol did not work in a proper way because of different reasons. The two biggest emitters of all – the United States and China – churned out more than enough extra greenhouse gas to erase all the reductions made by other countries during the Kyoto period<sup>12</sup>. At the same time most of the cuts came from Eastern European countries when their economies collapsed after the fall of the Berlin Wall – the reductions that would have happened anyway. But although the Kyoto protocol was not as efficient as it was expected to be, it showed that countries can agree in deciding the biggest problems that face the world today and cooperate in taking some real actions against them.

Another attempt of fighting global problems is “Eight Goals for 2015” made by United Nations Development Programme. Since 1966 UNDP partners with people at all levels of society have helped build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. In more than 170 countries and territories world leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP’s network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these goals<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> *What is the Kyoto protocol and has it made any difference?*, <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/mar/11/kyoto-protocol>, 02.03.2014.

<sup>13</sup> *A world of developing experience*, [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about\\_us.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/about_us.html), 02.03.2014.

Considering all cooperation between countries that do exist now, it is obvious that it is not enough that global problems are not decided yet and need much more attention and participation of all countries. That can be done only by integrating and implementing of global governance.

Talking about the last economic crisis, Joseph Stiglitz says that issues such as climate change, energy markets and fossil fuels have been “completely ignored as policymakers focus on short-term problems while the long-term problems continue to get worse.” However, some solutions exist. Stiglitz noted that the “most likely prospect is that of a Japanese style malaise. This echoes the conclusion of the 2009 Commission Report on the global financial and economic crisis, which predicted that what happened in one part of the world would spread to other parts.”<sup>14</sup>

As it was proved above, we do need global governance to coordinate activity of all economies on the Earth to solve existing global problems and prevent future ones, and to give an opportunity for every nation for self development and prosperity. However, apart from good words there should be real actions. The problem is how to start the process of uniting the world and who should take the guide in that. It would be wisely if developed societies help developing ones to understand the need of cooperation and show the best way for that. Facts prove that it started from developed countries.

Nowadays we already see that European continent, which was torn by wars for centuries, became integrated on peaceful issues. The goal which could not be achieved by military power was reached by the will of European peoples to cooperate for better future. What is important, the EU was built on democratic issues; it respects human rights and is environmentally friendly. The principles were written in its laws and are compulsory for all its members. For years the European Union has been looked at as a potential model for cosmopolitan governance, and enjoyed considerable influence on the global stage. The EU has a uniquely strong and legally binding mission statement to pursue international relations on a multilateral basis, founded on the progressive development of international law. The political vision for the EU was to export its values of the rule of law and sophisticated governance mechanisms to the international sphere. It is believed that if that was possible in Europe, it can be implemented globally.

Talking about global governance, G-20 should be also discussed. It acted effectively during the last crisis and its recommendations were implemented not only by its member countries but all over the world. Although the G-20 has stated that the group’s «economic weight and broad membership gives it a high degree of legitimacy and influence over the management of the global economy and financial system,» its legitimacy has been challenged. It should be understood that 20 major

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<sup>14</sup> B. Muchhala, *Joseph Stiglitz on need for Global Economic Coordination Council highlights problems with excessive focus on austerity in the global economy*, TWN Info Service on Finance and Development (Mar12/04), <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/finance/2012/finance120304.htm>.

economies cannot rule all states of the world, global governance should be democratic and take into account the will of every nation.

All efforts mentioned above give us hope that one day all states without exception will sit at the negotiating table, decide to give some of their independence, fighting the selfishness of some nations, and decide to cooperate for overcoming the global problems that exist now and can appear in the nearest future. That should be done for the sake of all people on the Earth and also for future generations.

Present global governance which was founded on relations among sovereign states, is not equipped to take up the challenges of today's world and in addition, suffers from the lack of legitimacy. A new architecture is necessary. It should be founded on principles applicable to every level of governance and on thinking and innovations that have appeared over the years in the greatest variety of domains<sup>15</sup>.

Strobe Talbott, President Clinton's deputy secretary of state and now the president of the Brookings Institution, believes that global governance is coming – that «individual states will increasingly see it in their interest to form an international system that is far more cohesive, far more empowered by its members, and therefore far more effective than the one we have today.»<sup>16</sup>

#### 4. Conclusion

Drawing a conclusion it should be said that the modern world is complicated and chameleonic, global problems are complex and all-pervading, and they concern our everyday life more and more. Nowadays people cannot dwell without a notion of global warming, extreme poverty and military conflicts in some regions of the world, proliferation of nuclear weapon, pandemics, huge imbalances in global economy and other threats that can bring the world into decline if not taken now into account. As those problems are widely spread, they should be decided globally with the cooperated action of all countries. That can be made by forming effective and democratic global governance, that will care about the welfare of all nations and the environment that surrounds us. The EU formed an effective system of dealing with global problems, although it is not perfect, but still it is the most developed in the world and can be used as an example in creating well functioning global governance. It should be made fully democratic and legitimate. At the same time the right of every nation for happiness should be taken into account.

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<sup>15</sup> *Redefining Global Governance to meet the challenges of the twenty first century*, Proposal papers, <http://www.alliance21.org/2003/article455.html>, 2001.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*.

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## KONIECZNOŚĆ GLOBALNEGO ZARZĄDZANIA WE WSPÓŁCZESNYM SZYBKO ZMIENIAJĄCYM SIĘ ŚWIECIE

**Streszczenie:** W ostatnich latach nasz świat bardzo się zmienił. Pojawiają się nowe wyzwania w postaci globalnych problemów, które nie mogą zostać rozstrzygnięte przez pojedyncze kraje. Celem artykułu jest ukazanie globalnych zagrożeń, które pojawiły się w wyniku internalizacji i globalizacji. Powinny być one poważnie potraktowane przez każde państwo. Globalne problemy mogą doprowadzić ludzkość do upadku, jeśli w odpowiednim czasie nie będą podjęte zdecydowane działania. W obecnej chwili nie ma czasu na wahanie, należy zjednoczyć wysiłki wszystkich narodów w walce o lepszą przyszłość. Artykuł przedstawia również ostatnie, mniej lub bardziej udane próby współpracy w tej dziedzinie. Udowadnia się, że Unia Europejska jest jedną z najbardziej skutecznych organizacji, która koordynuje działania państw członkowskich w walce z globalnymi problemami. Ten przykład można wykorzystać i wdrożyć w ogólnym tworzeniu i rozwoju globalnego zarządzania, które jest jedynym sposobem przezwyciężenia nadchodzącego kryzysu. Tak więc głównym celem tego artykułu jest udowodnienie, że mają miejsce ogromne problemy globalne, które powinny być podejmowane w trybie pilnym. Jest to możliwe jedynie w ramach globalnej współpracy wszystkich krajów, a więc globalnego zarządzania. Jako metody badawcze do pisania artykułu wykorzystana została analiza różnych rodzajów literatury oraz statystyk organizacji międzynarodowych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** globalizacja, integracja, problemy globalne, globalne zarządzanie.