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**The socio-economic
 approach to the study
 of modern economic
 systems. Post-capitalism.
 Part 2.**

1. Introduction

Essential transformational processes, including the globalization of economic and social systems, occur in the modern world. This study describes problems regarding humankind's future and defines the primary trends in the development of certain countries and humankind as a whole. Modern scientists seek to analyze economic and social situations; they make projections, develop models of social development and form concepts related to modern society.

During the past century, two socio-economic systems existed, capitalism and socialism; modern society includes traits from both of these systems. It is important to determine what type of society is preferable and the prospects for its development. Research regarding capitalism, socialism and modern society is necessary and should be conducted using the formational approach as its basis. This analysis will enable us to determine what type of society will evolve in the 21st century. The logic of the substantial development from the 19th century up to the present day, as seen from the point of view of

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a formational approach (it has been analyzed in Akulich and Kaźmierczyk 2018), has proceeded as follows:

Capitalism -> capitalism (USA, Great Britain, etc.) -> post-capitalism

Capitalism -> socialism (USSR, Hungary, etc.) -> post-capitalism

The main aim of this paper is to show that from the point of view of the socio-economic approach, the modern information society is post-capitalist, and all countries, regardless of their historical past - capitalist or socialist development, are fully or at least partially involved in this system. Systemic and structural-functional analysis was used. In the article, contemporary society is considered as a system that previously consisted of capitalist and socialist countries, and is now a post-capitalist system with a complex structure and features of functioning and development. To accomplish the research aim undertaken in this paper, the authors used specialist literature both in Polish, English, and Russian (The ACM Digital Library, BazEkon, EBSCO, Emerald, ProQuest). This article consists of introduction, the description of the globalization processes and the problem of humankind's future and the analysis of post-capitalism and conclusions.

2. The problem of humankind's future

Many famous scientists have devoted their scientific study to the problem of humankind's future. Daniel Bell studied the new postindustrial society (Bell 1973). Scott Lash and John Urry addressed the end of organized capitalism (Lash and Urry 1987). Francis Fukuyama discussed the end of humankind's ideological development (Fukuyama 1992) and provided evidence that after communism was defeated and societies refused socialism construction, humankind would enter its last stage, a stage of liberal democracy and global capitalism. In Fukuyama's opinion, global capitalism refers to the American type of capitalism that has been implemented worldwide. The future of humankind is the implementation of American capitalism and Western liberal democracy (Fukuyama 1992).

Immanuel Wallerstein considered the end of humankind in his development of the theory of systems (Wallerstein 1999, p. 368) and describes the end of humankind as an apocalypse that is the result of an unknown type of system that will dominate in the future because capitalism "will exhaust its potential" (Wallerstein 1999).

Paul Mason predicts that capitalism will crash and evolve into a new informational society referred to as post-capitalism. He defines post-capitalism as a society that is formed when capitalism no longer exists (Mason 2009, 2015). In our opinion, the informational society will not stop all capitalistic

development but rather will continue towards a new stage of development, post-capitalism. Mathew Burrows discusses the future of humankind until 2030 and predicts a multipolar world in which robots will become more intelligent than human beings (Burrows 2014, p. 21). Paul Mason's predictions align with our understanding of post-capitalism as a new stage in capitalism.

Eric Wright developed the new theory of society organization and noted that "development of the theory of alternative to capitalism is a pressing task at the beginning of the 21st century" (Wright 2013, p. 6). Wright proposes the concept that capitalism transforms through studying and referring to "real utopias". The basic principles of a new social construct based on "real utopias" are as follows (Wright 2013, pp. 9-12):

- moral principles lead to equality for all persons, equal access, and equal opportunities; social justice is related to material and social conditions,
- democracy implies equal access to power and participation in collective decision making,
- stability implies ecological stability and intertemporal justice,
- diagnostics and criticism are based on the principles of equality, democracy and sustainable development that provide criteria for moral audits of specific organizations, the social structure and even all of society.

Therefore, Eric Wright's prediction of a future society includes features of both capitalism and socialism. Considering the principles of the new social construct, he proposed the economic determinants of future development and the essence of their formation (Wright 2013, pp. 9-12).

Leonid Wener provides an analysis of his predictions for the 21st century and concludes that socialism will become the predominant structure in approximately 88 years. This will occur when the share of public (state) property in the economy exceeds 50% (Weger 2007). This forecast is doubtful because the modern world has developed and developing countries that are considerably different in terms of how they are economically structured. Developing countries may still enter periods of industrialization in the future, which would lead to capitalism before entering the post-capitalism stage, in which everyone enjoys equal rights. The methodology used by this period study appears to be doubtful.

The problem of the present and future of humankind is actual and requires a solution that is based on theory. The problem must be considered from the perspective of the formational approach, which take into consideration many spheres of life, including economic, social, political, cultural and others (picture 1).

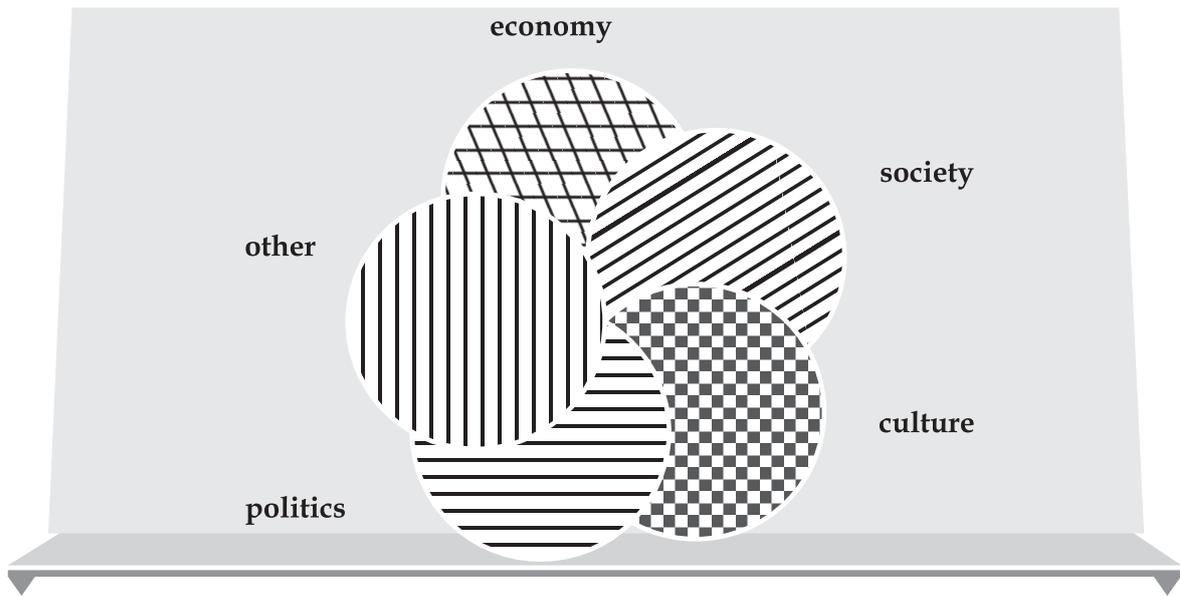


Figure 1. Formational approach

Source: own study

Formational approach is based on the concept that for the modern world and the predicted future, the economy will remain the foundation of society (Robertson 1992). The type of ownership of the means of production will have the greatest impact on society's processes. The logic of the formational development of society that was developed by K. Marx was presented as a set of socioeconomic structures that replace each other. According to Marxist theory, capitalism is followed by socialism (Marx 1970, 1993). However, considering the historical development of humankind during the 20th century, one may state that the fourth formation, capitalism, is followed by a certain amount of bifurcation. At the point of bifurcation, some countries transition into communism, with socialism as an intermediate stage, whereas others continue developing capitalism, although contemporary capitalism with its FDI and knowledge-based economy is quite different from the 19th century one with smoky chimneys.

Some societies began transforming to socialist economies at the end of the 18th century and continued until the beginning of the 19th and 20th centuries. Socialist countries that appeared at the end of the 20th century experienced a new point of bifurcation, and most of these countries chose capitalism as their development vector. Their entry into modern society demanded cardinal reorganization of social structures, first social and then economic. In general,

the development of modern societies and the primary trends of social and economic development are important for any scenario. The continuation of a country's economic development towards capitalism or the return of former socialist countries to capitalism justifies claims that the 21st century will be an era of capitalism development. Global processes at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries demonstrate that capitalism will not be the same as described by Marx and was realized during the 20th century because it entered a new stage that we refer to as post-capitalism.

3. Post-capitalism

Modern society cannot be referred to as classical capitalism because many of its characteristics are not apparent in modern society. The economic determinism in its pure form is supplemented with informational determinism in modern society, although the economy remains the primary determinant of social development. Exploitation in its classical form is not yet applicable to current societies; modern workers are no longer a proletariat according to their income, levels of education or quality of life (Akulich 2005). Expropriation in its classical form has been replaced by a form in which an individual is always alienated from the results of his/her activity and is able to receive a high salary and become a shareholder. Companies sell shares to employees and they become owners, which increases their motivation to work. Profit in a classical form is transformed and as a result, the system of profit spending by private enterprises becomes more social. Modern capitalism is still capitalism based on economic determinants, including economic determinism as the primary determinant of social development, private property used for production and profit earning (Ritzer 2012; Barczyk 2016, pp. 34-35).

The process of transforming a capitalist society to a post-capitalist society can now occur (Drucker 1995). The term, post-capitalism is relevant to explain modern society and may be understood as after-the-classical-capitalism. Post-capitalism is not a new concept but rather is a new stage in the development of a capitalist socioeconomic formation. The formation of post-capitalism does not imply that existing capitalism must be destroyed as a social system. On the contrary, the evolution of modern socio-economic systems and an evolutionary transition from capitalism to post-capitalism is the priority.

Post-capitalism is modern capitalism in a new stage of the development of a capitalist socioeconomic structure. Post-capitalism is characterized by economic determinism that is combined with informational (Mączyńska 2015,

p. 924) and social determinism; pluralism of property is a means for production and information and includes three different types of ownership, i.e., private, state, and public (collective, joint-stock). Post-capitalism is characterized by ongoing global job specialization; exploitation of wage labor; spending profits for private, state and social needs; developed and globalized commodity-money and market relationships; market monopolization by global corporations; social and economic polarization of societies; development of a constitutional state; and social protections for the population.

An important distinction between capitalism and post-capitalism is that capitalism is characteristic of a society that is engaged in industrial and commercial development. A society has reached the post-capitalism stage when it has passed the industrial stage and entered the information era.

A post-capitalist society is an economically highly developed informational society. In the course of its development, informational technologies are quickly upgraded and the role of information consistently increases. Communication, advertising, recruiting, business and numerous other forms of human activities are conducted on the Internet and performed using Internet technologies. The essence of an informational society is its post-capitalist characteristics. To support this concept, we note that according to Forbes magazine, the five most expensive brands in the world in 2016 were Apple [54.1 billion dollars], Google [82.5 billion dollars], Microsoft [75.2 billion dollars], Coca-Cola [58.5 billion dollars], and Facebook [52.6 billion dollars] (Forbes 2018). The core activity of Google and Facebook is the provision of services on the Internet. Data indicate that Coca-Cola (a production company with a long-lasting history) and Facebook (an informational, young company) are comparable in terms of brand capitalization.

Modern humankind includes the set of countries and peoples that are at various levels of economic and cultural development and belong to various civilizations. Post-capitalism is only inherent in countries in which there is a high level of economic development. These countries support and increase rates of economic growth and actively develop and use the Internet. All other countries are at different stages of capitalism or other formations, and their inclusiveness in the global information space does not imply their automatic inclusion in the post-capitalist community (Castells 1996). A post-capitalist society is formed by developed capitalist countries that did not accept socialism and developed countries that rejected their original socialist systems and moved towards capitalism.

Various forms of post-capitalism exist in the modern world: hybrid, global and state. If, in a modern post-capitalist society, the controlling stake of property for

production is owned by the state, we can refer to it as a post-capitalism state. In this case, it is also possible to consider that state to be socialist, depending on the system of expenses.

Rapid development is now accepted by the Chinese model of social development. Chinese capitalism is referred to as a hybrid or a later form of capitalism (McNally 2012). Christopher McNally performed an extensive analysis of scientists' perspectives regarding the development of modern China, such as Andrew Shonfield, Alexander Gerschenkron, John Mearsheimer, John Ikenberry, Zackary Karabell, Ian Bremmer, Albert Michel, Amable Bruno, and Andersen Janathan. Christopher McNally concluded that Chinese capitalism is "[an] alliance of political and economical elite" (McNally 2012, p. 10). This type of state-controlled capitalism that encourages business expansion and private property contrasts with Anglo-American liberal market capitalism. McNally believes that China is a threat to American and Western capitalism. Eduard Steinfeld expressed a contradictory opinion that Chinese capitalism is not a threat but rather a primary component of modern capitalism. Li Peilin notes that the concept of The Great China revival stemmed from the dream to achieve the success of developed countries, such as Great Britain and the US (Gorshkov, Kozyreva, Peilin et al. 2016). Because of the results of his study, Li Peilin created an analytical model of the Chinese Dream that includes economic and political relationships, cultural development, social progress and ecology (Gorshkov et al. 2016). Christopher McNally concluded that "the revival of China creates a new form of capitalism which relies on the Western, Asian, socialist historical and modern Chinese traditions" (McNally 2012).

The high rates of Chinese economic development indicate that Chinese capitalism is a late form of capitalism or, to clarify, post-capitalism. Chinese economic development is not hybrid capitalism because its key parameters correspond to the post-capitalist stage in the development of humankind. Post-capitalism should not be referred to as European or Asian because societies that belong to post-capitalism are determined by the economy, not by the culture. Hybrids of post-capitalism can be understood as a mixture, or a hybrid of property use for production and information, forms of income distribution, and the economic and social motivations of labor. These are not only found in the Chinese economy but also in post-capitalism in general.

Global post-capitalism implies that the global network of economic phenomena, processes, relationships and interactions are being formed. Global post-capitalism occurs and develops both in real-world and virtual activity. This network includes both developed and developing societies. Public job specialization is deepening throughout the world.

Currently, social science is developing actively and widely. It includes economic science and economic sociology, and it is likely to replace the formational approach with the economic one by abandoning Marx's teachings on socio-economic formations. In this article, we have given grounds for an application of the formational approach to the study of modern society. Using the formational approach, we defined modern humanity's strategic direction as post-capitalism. It should be noted, however, that the discussion continues (Każmierczyk 2011).

4. Résumé

The main idea proved in the paper looks as follows: developed modern societies, regardless of whether they were capitalistic for all the twentieth century or socialist for a certain period of time, nowadays they are all at the stage of post-capitalism. This is due to the understanding of capitalism with its stage of post-capitalism as a socio-economic formation. It is the economic structure of society that determines all other features of its development at the present time. And economically, the market economy, private property and profit are the core bases for the development of societies in the period of traditional capitalism and post-capitalism.

Indicated analysis of this logic of the mankind development shows that if the capitalist countries originally moved gradually towards post-capitalism, then the former socialist countries made a principled transition to a capitalist socio-economic formation. Return to capitalism meant the establishment of market relations and the legitimisation of private property. This was accomplished by changing the economic system and the transition period. It is important to note that the level of development of the former socialist countries, the development of new information technologies in these countries, allowed them to enter into higher stage of post-capitalism than it looked like in a case of traditional capitalism. However, it should be noted that the fact that societies belong to post-capitalism does not imply their equal level of economic development. Moreover, individual countries can exceed each other in certain spheres and sectors of the economy, as well as in general in economic development.

Post-capitalism has also own stages of development and certain societies are located at its different stages. Post-capitalism in Russia, Poland differs from post-capitalism in the United States or Great Britain, because these countries differ in many significant economic indicators, but, nevertheless, these societies, in accordance with the definition of post-capitalism, belong to the post-capitalist stage of the mankind capitalist development.

At first sight, the stated topic may seem too broad. However, it is impossible to follow the general logic of the development of modern societies that have diverse economic systems and features of an economic, social and political structure and cultural differences. It is this widely announced approach that allows us to determine and prove the non-alternative nature of the progressive development of various countries and peoples. At any stage of capitalism or post-capitalism the given country currently is, it has one way ahead – the path of post-capitalism. The experience of the development of mankind shows that in the long term there is practically no alternative to post-capitalism, but it can be humanistic post-capitalism. Certain proofs of this are given in this paper.

The authors made their own interpretation of K. Marx's idea about socio-economic formations, taking into account the modern development of societies. He was the first to apply formational approach: it means an economic perspective in the study of human development. In this case, the economic approach is applied to the study of historical development of different societies, and not just to a separate economic sphere. The peculiarities of the development of modern societies make it possible to affirm the legitimacy and effectiveness of such a formational (economic) approach. This is due to the fact that economy remains the foundation and main determinant of the development of modern societies. The formational approach was also used by: Daniel Bell (Bell 1973), John Kenneth Galbraith (Galbraith 1967), Leonid Weger (Wegner 2007), Yoshihiro Francis Fukuyama (Fukuyama 1992), Erik Olin Wright (Wright 2013), and Immanuel Maurice Wallerstein (Wallerstein 1999).

The article provides and substantiates the horizontal logic of the social development of individual groups of countries: capitalism – capitalism – post-capitalism and capitalism – socialism – post-capitalism. It is proved that highly developed countries and ones that have undergone the first wave of industrialization are at the stage of development of post-capitalism. Post-capitalism is seen both as a phenomenon and a process. Simultaneously, it is noted that some societies are at the beginning of the construction of post-capitalism, whereas others are at higher stages of its development. It is determined that the societies which have not passed the period of industrialization yet, having built developed capitalism, will inevitably move to post-capitalism. Post-capitalism develops and will continue to develop in various forms, such as: traditional, state, hybrid, global and others. There is no alternative to capitalism and post-capitalism in the strategic development of the modern world since it is impossible to renounce private property, profit and market relations.

Summary

The socio-economic approach to the study of modern economic systems. Post-capitalism. Part 2.

This article examines modern economy and society taking the formational approach, which is based on the concept that for the modern world and the predicted future, the economy will remain the foundation of society. An understanding of modern society as a post-capitalist society is proposed and justified. The definition of post-capitalism is determined as a stage of capitalism. Humankind would enter its last stage, a stage of liberal democracy and global capitalism. The major features of post-capitalistic society are examined and analyzed: economic, political, spiritual, cultural and domestic.

The economic determinism in its pure form is supplemented with informational determinism in modern society, although the economy remains the primary determinant of social development. Post-capitalism is not a new concept but rather is a new stage in the development of a capitalist socioeconomic formation. An important distinction between capitalism and post-capitalism is that capitalism is characteristic of a society that is engaged in industrial and commercial development. A society has reached the post-capitalism stage when it has passed the industrial stage and entered the information era.

Keywords: *socialism, capitalism, post-capitalism, globalization.*

Streszczenie

Spółeczno-ekonomiczne podejście do badań współczesnych systemów gospodarczych. Postkapitalizm. Część 2.

W artykule przeanalizowano współczesną gospodarkę i społeczeństwo, przyjmując podejście formacyjne. Podejście formacyjne opiera się na koncepcji, że dla współczesnego świata i przewidywanej przyszłości gospodarka pozostanie podstawą społeczeństwa. Zaproponowano i uzasadniono rozumienie nowoczesnego społeczeństwa jako społeczeństwa postkapitalistycznego. Definicja określa postkapitalizm jako stadium kapitalizmu. Ludzkość wkroczyła w swój ostatni etap, etap liberalnej demokracji i globalnego kapitalizmu. Analizowano główne cechy społeczeństwa postkapitalistycznego.

We współczesnym społeczeństwie determinizm ekonomiczny w czystej postaci jest uzupełniany determinizmem informacyjnym, choć gospodarka pozostaje głównym wyznacznikiem rozwoju społecznego. Postkapitalizm nie jest nową koncepcją, jest raczej nowym etapem rozwoju kapitalistycznej formacji społeczno-ekonomicznej. Ważnym rozróżnieniem między kapitalizmem i postkapitalizmem jest to, że kapitalizm jest charakterystyczny dla społeczeństwa, które zajmuje się rozwojem przemysłowym i komercyjnym. Społeczeństwo osiągnęło stadium postkapitalizacyjne, kiedy przeszło przez przemysł i wkroczyło w erę informacyjną.

Słowa

kluczowe: *socjalizm, kapitalizm, postkapitalizm, globalizacja.*

JEL

Classification: A1, B00, E00, A1, H00, P00

We are very grateful to Katarzyna Szarzec for an in-depth proofreading and many constructive opinions.

This article constitutes a coherent whole and a continuation of the studies present in the text: M. Akulich, J. Kaźmierczyk, *The socio-economic approach to the study of modern economic systems. Socialism and capitalism. Part 1.*

The study was sponsored by RGNF (Russian Humanitarian Science Foundation). Project: "Capabilities and restrictions of new industrialization and contradictions of sociocultural space: on Tyumen region example", No. 16-03-00500. Tyumen State University.

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