

**SECTION «INFORMATION AND WORLD COMMUNICATION  
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS»**

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**FOREMOST GLOBAL CHALLENGES: CAUSES AND  
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.**

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In today's world, when the number of dangers for humanity is growing, and the question of their unresolvedness arises more and more, it is advisable to consider the concepts of global challenges, problems, threats and risks and their relationship, to better understand the nature of each. At this stage, humanity is faced with a number of issues that need to be addressed immediately and that arose in the last century.

Global problems - (from the Latin. Globus (terrae) - the globe) - a set of vital, affecting humanity as a whole, and unsolvable within individual states and even geographical regions, problems. Global problems came to the fore in the twentieth century as a result of a significant increase in population and a sharp intensification of the production process in industrial society [3].

Global issues include: preventing thermonuclear warfare; reduction of rapid population growth («population explosion» in developing countries); prevention of catastrophic pollution of the environment, especially the atmosphere and the oceans; ensuring further economic development with the necessary natural resources, especially non-renewable ones; bridging the gap in living standards between developed and developing countries; elimination of hunger, poverty and illiteracy, etc. [3].

The range of global problems is not clearly defined, their peculiarity is that they can not be solved in isolation from each other and their solution largely depends on the existence of mankind [3].

Global problems are caused by the enormously growing influence of man on the world around him, his economic activity, which has become, on its scale, with geological and other planetary natural processes. According to pessimistic forecasts, global problems cannot be solved at all and in the near future will lead humanity to an ecological catastrophe (R. Heilbroner) [3].

An optimistic forecast assumes that the solution of global problems will be a natural consequence of scientific and technological progress (G. Kahn) or the result of the elimination of social antagonisms and the construction of a perfect society (Marxism-Leninism). The intermediate position is to demand a slowdown or even zero growth of the economy and population of the globe (D. Meadows, etc.) [3].

Global challenges - exacerbation of existing or new problems caused by the controversial process of globalization. «Challenges» are the result of new factors in world development that disrupt the stability of the normal functioning of the mechanisms of reproduction of social life, intercivilizational relations, international political and economic relations within the existing world order [2].

They are the result of new factors in world development that disrupt the stable functioning of socio-political, economic and intercivilizational relations within the existing world order.

The concept of «global challenges», which appeared in the middle of the twentieth century thanks to the work of British scientist, researcher of civilizations Arnold Joseph Toynbee, became extremely relevant at the turn of XX and XXI centuries in anticipation of change and future humanity in the new millennium [1].

The emergence of the very concept of «challenge» is associated with its concept of «challenge-and-response» of civilizations. According to Arnold Toynbee, dynamic civilizations (emergence, growth, breakdown, decline, and decomposition) are defined by the law of «challenge and response» and the role of the «creative minority» capable of leading others. Challenges in his understanding are not something negative, on the contrary, they are incentives for growth and development. He considers incorrect the traditional view that favorable climatic and geographical conditions, of course, contribute to social development [1].

The genesis and growth of civilizations is due to the action of the combination and the relationship of a number of factors and by its nature is cumulative and progressive, and comes from the challenge through the response to the next challenge. In response to the challenge, society solves the problem before it, rather than translating itself into a higher and more perfect, in terms of complicating the structure, the situation [1].

Human communities are constantly responding to a variety of challenges, so the movement of history is determined by the completeness and intensity of the «response» to the challenge. The challenge is a historical situation, a problem, a conflict, overcoming which civilization acquires its identity, expands the ecological niche, creates conditions for further

development. The specific manifestations and forms of challenge and response that led to the growth of local civilizations can be varied [1].

Based on empirical analysis, depending on the nature of the source of challenges, Arnold Toynbee identifies: environmental challenges (related mainly to the development or expansion of the ecological niche of the historical community); challenges of the human environment (demographic pressure, socio-economic crises, expansion, cultural influences) [1].

Detailing the type of influence, Arnold Toynbee identifies five types of challenges: the challenge of harsh countries, the challenge of new lands, the challenge of blows from the external human environment, the challenge of pressure and the challenge of oppression [1].

Arnold Toynbee's methodology allows to challenge both broad groups of natural and ecological phenomena and phenomena that reflect social, economic, political, humanitarian processes. His approach is an important methodological basis for organizing and classifying modern global challenges. The main empirical material analyzed by Arnold Toynbee refers to local civilizations, ie the period when globalization as a phenomenon was not yet so comprehensive [1].

The idea of call theory is that any change requires a response, and the consequences can be different depending on what the answer was. This ambiguity of consequences gives rise to a dual perception of the concept of challenges. Today, in covering this problem, there are two directions of understanding the challenges: the challenges themselves as phenomena that determine the fundamental changes in the system of socio-economic systems, and challenges that combine processes that have a pronounced negative nature, pose a threat to society [ 1].

In modern research, along with the concept of challenge, the concepts of danger, risk and threat are used. Each of these concepts serves to denote certain phenomena, processes, actions, relationships in nature and society. What unites all these concepts is that each of them requires an answer. It is possible to find an idea of the derivative nature of threats and risks in relation to the challenges arising from the idea of the objectivesubjective nature of these phenomena, which allows you to build a hierarchy of these phenomena. Challenges are changes and tendencies, limitations, opportunities, contradictions, disproportions in nature and society, a set of circumstances that arise and increase and are not necessarily threatening, but require their perception and response. It can be argued that the challenge is the embryonic stage in the formation of the threat [1].

The threat is then seen as a stage of extreme aggravation of the contradictions caused by the challenge. The concept of threat is associated

with the indication of a direct specific source, such as large-scale forced migration, deep social instability, high structural unemployment, precarization (instability) of employment, etc. [1].

Risk in general is an opportunity with a certain level of probability of adverse events (eg, natural and man-made disasters), as well as various consequences of the entity. The choice of response or decision is always related to the acceptance of risk and various options for its consequences. On the one hand, there is a significant difference between these concepts and phenomena, on the other - the boundaries between them are very mobile. It is very difficult to assess when the challenges may turn into threats and at what point and what risks society must take [1].

A clear example of how challenges can turn into threats and risks in a short period of time is the migration crisis in Europe. Increasing mobility and migration is one of the challenges of globalization. Local and regional conflicts can pose threats to mass forced and uncontrolled migration. Countries that accept flows of migrants take on the risks associated with the relocation and outbreak of possible terrorist attacks. The situation requires answers to many questions: economic, political, social and others. The conditions in which each country has to respond and resources are different. Coincidence of different circumstances will play a role here [1].

For different regions and countries, the set of global challenges, threats and risks may vary according to the degree of impact and priority. For example, water scarcity, as a planetary problem, has varying degrees of severity and, consequently, different levels of threat to different regions and countries. This problem can have various manifestations: environmental (desertification, biodiversity loss, etc.), economic (restriction of economic activity), social (reduction of quality of life), political (local conflicts over water use, especially transboundary watercourses) [1].

Thus, global threats are specific military-political, economic and other threats that necessitate immediate action to eliminate them. Global threats include terrorism, religious extremism, ethnic hostility, uncontrolled migration, and the illegal arms trade.

Global risks and threats to humans - potential natural hazards on a planetary scale: changes in environmental parameters, genetic degradation, the impact of space objects.

A characteristic feature of the state of affairs with global problems is the growth of their number, the increase or manifestation of new, recently unknown threats. Among the relatively new problems can be named: global climate change, the AIDS epidemic and others.

Recently, in connection with the growing danger of major industrial accidents at potentially dangerous facilities (nuclear power plants, chemical plants, dams, etc.), the already mentioned problem of man-made safety is beginning to be recognized as global. It can be assigned, given its diversity, to different groups of global problems (for example, economic or environmental), or even can be allocated to a separate problem. These global problems demonstrate the widest range of threats facing humanity at the turn of the century and paint a disturbing picture.

The unresolved nature of these problems poses a danger posed by serious threats to civilization, which may manifest themselves in various areas of human life, corresponding to the nature of the predecessor problems. Knowledge of the nature of these threats allows to take preventive measures to reduce the potential danger of global problems, to prevent possible emergencies caused by them. Examples of successful solutions to global problems include the acute problem of the «information explosion» of 1960-1970, mitigated by new information technologies, and the problem of past epidemics that have ravaged countries and continents.

The bulk of global problems currently do not find solutions. This is primarily due to the nature and severe scarcity of land resources. In addition, a radical solution to global problems cannot be found due to their enormous complexity, enormous scale and lack of the necessary resources and political will in individual countries and in the world community as a whole; due to contradictions between countries and inequalities between them; due to the recurrence of the psychology of «social optimism». As a result, even dangerous trends fully understood by the world community are launched, reach a critical state and are discharged by various disasters that form emergencies of varying magnitude.

The mechanisms of occurrence of such emergencies correspond to the nature of the problems and are purely specific to each of them. In general, it can be stated that unresolved issues are often the source of emergencies.

Mankind is looking for ways out of the global crisis. The main existing approach approved by the world community is sustainable development. Its main idea - optimal self-restraint, fair and equal distribution of resources, stopping the unlimited growth of consumption, ensuring environmental safety. However, like any other idea, it is difficult to implement in a competitive world.

Let's repeat that for different regions and countries of the world real risks and threats can present various challenges. Therefore, each country needs to classify global challenges according to the nature and scope of their emergence and impact. However, we believe that no matter how global

challenges are classified and outside, depending on the nature and scope of influence, almost all of them are manifested in one way or another within the economy.

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