GLOBAL PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS: EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING

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Abstract. The article presents the main content and analyzes the problematic areas outlined in the publication of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) “GLOBALIZATION 2.0. New Approaches to Research and Teaching” [2]. In the focus is conceptual diversity of interpretation of various aspects of globalization, which are considered in the original curricula and courses of Russian and Italian universities. The RIAC’s work aims to promote Russian universities in the international scientific and educational space as an instrument of “soft power”.

L.S. Pankratova carried out a professional translation of the book’s materials in the framework of socio-political discourse in Russian, as well as the text of the review of the original language of the book. S.I. Morozov conducted a meaningful analysis of the publication, the scientific concept of the review was justified.

Key words: globalization, global problems, academic programs and courses, international cooperation, education, the Russian International Affairs Council.


ГЛОБАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ И ИНСТИТУТЫ: ОПЫТ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ И ПРЕПОДАВАНИЯ

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Аннотация. С.И. Морозов и Л.С. Панкратова представили совместную рецензию на книгу «GLOBALIZATION 2.0. New Approaches to Research and Teaching» («Глобализация 2.0. Новые подходы к исследованию и преподаванию»), изданную на английском языке Российским советом по международным делам (РСМД) [2]. В рецензии раскрывается основное содержание и анализируются проблемные вопросы.
One of the most significant characteristics of modernity is globalization. Globalization is generally understood as a process of transformation of the world space into a single international socio-economic, political, legal, cultural, and information field, where capital, goods and services flow without impediment; ideas freely disseminate; supranational institutions of governance form and occupy leading positions. As Anthony Giddens aptly noted, globalization is a ramified process, full of conventions and ambiguities, with unpredictable consequences. Globalization is “a process of uneven development that fragments as it coordinates” [1, p. 175].

Currently, globalization is an interdisciplinary field of research, within which scientific prerequisites are formed to consider the variety of forms of institutionalization of the above-territorial dimension of social relations. In this regard the publication “GLOBALIZATION 2.0. New Approaches to Research and Teaching” prepared by the Russian International Affairs Council arouses research interest. The book is a collection of the bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees programs of the leading Russian and Italian universities in the field of globalization.

Igor Ivanov, the President of the Russian International Affairs Council, in his introductory article for the book noticed that, “In our opinion, a comparative analysis of how globalization issues are taught in Russian and Italian universities, what difficulties instructors and students in those two countries come up against, and how the teaching methods and methodologies change is both interesting and rewarding. It is no coincidence that a number of leading Russian and Italian universities have already joined the project” [2, p. 13-14].

The president of Venice International University Umberto Vattani also pointed out that, “Decision-and policy-makers will benefit immensely from advice that can come from a well-trained international academic community of students, researchers and university professors. This is at the basis of the effort that Venice International University has been carrying out for over 20 years, by bringing together Academic Institutions belonging to different parts of the world. Our constant aim has been to underline the importance of ensuring that the syllabi in the Universities keep in step with the fast – changing world of globalization” [2, p. 17].

The book consists of 10 parts, each of which includes programs of courses that reveal various aspects of the modern global process, including the following: International relations, world politics and global studies; Global economy; Non-state actors in global world; Global security; Global governance; International law and globalization; Cities in a global world; Environment and globalization; Aspects of globalization; National and regional perspectives on globalization. The concluding 11th part of the publication is devoted to description of specificity of the higher education institutions the scientists and teachers of which presented their original course materials: Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Moscow State Institute of International relations of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov, Russian State University for the Humanities, Siberian Federal University, Saint Petersburg State University, Lobachevsky State University of Nizhniy Novgorod, Ural Federal University named after the First President of
Russia B.N. Yeltsin, Venice International University, University of Turin, University of Padua, Tor Vergata University, Roma Tre University, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.

It is necessary to emphasize the fact that the two parts of the book contain courses worked out only by lecturers from Russian universities; and the three parts include exclusively the materials of colleagues from Italy; training courses in five parts are presented by both Italian and Russian academics. This demonstrates that topic specificity in the approach to the analysis of globalization in the two countries exists, as well as there are shared common questions and views on the process of globalization in the modern world.

The structure of the book is logical and allows the reader to get acquainted with the topics of lectures, problematic issues of seminars, recommended literature that includes textbooks, manuals, monographs, and journal articles. The most important component of the published educational courses is comprehension questions, allowing students studying a number of issues independently.

Most parts of the book are written in English language that makes it accessible for acquaintance and work not only in the two countries, Russia and Italy, but also in other universities of the world. At the same time, the collective work, published with the support of the RIAC, is aimed at promoting Russian universities in the international scientific and educational spaces, and it also allows using successfully these materials for development of courses in foreign language in Russia. This publication will promote effective implementation of the policy of “soft power”, formation of a positive image of Russia among foreign citizens, primarily students and youth.

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