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The dynamics of a modern world economy is determined by the globalization of manufacturing and distribution processes (that is, the rapid spread of transnational productive and distributive systems and conversion of MNCs in one globally competitive kind of entrepreneurship) and universalization of consumers’ preferences and trade and consumption.

An equally important factor of the world economy progress is a globalization of productive factors’ markets, development of international institutions (such as global financial market, world markets of technologies and innovations, legal frameworks of cross-border exchange of information, and so on); the most important of which is the labor market.

Labor migration, on the one hand, meets the needs of industrial development by attracting of relatively inexpensive labor resource that can compensate the national labor outflow (for example, due to demographic characteristics, development of services, and so on). On the other hand, international labor migration offers the opportunities for rapid modernization of societies in certain countries by attracting foreign high-tech and innovative capacity, carried by highly qualified personnel.

As a factor of international labor migration development, we can determine that the following are stimulated by globalization:

- Growth of cross-country economic differentiation. Despite approaches that were popular in the middle of the 20th century and idealizing consequences of economic globalization, globalization did not become a “leveling” factor for formation of a flat world. Moreover, globalization trends have blurred competitive advantages of certain countries, have contributed to a reduction of their natural resource potential (for example, through establishment of MNC economic control), and finally, have led to a widening of gap between rich and poor countries, consequently intensifying international migration flows;
- Universalization of corporate requirements to staff, personnel skills, and knowledge. Moreover, it magnified the global distribution of universal educational technologies by implementation of educational reforms on a planetary scale;
- Personification of knowledge, skills, and changing human factor’s role in the “economy of knowledge” and post-industrial society. The most important global economic transformation of the 20th century, consisting of the transition towards new social formation, brought an individual (personality) to the fore in the new structure of production and economic relations. Inseparability of skills and knowledge from the person actualizes usage of international migration as an instrument of social modernization in the way of post-industrial economic relations formation;
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- Institutional changes of productive and distributive processes (e.g., development of multinational entrepreneurship, international organizations, structures of global governance) that laid a basis for migration dynamics in the middle of the last century.

Considering two different components of international labor migration—migration of skilled and unskilled workers—we can determine that for the first type (so-called premium migration) of migration globalization has created preconditions of “over-rated” migrant’s qualifications (that is quite natural in the conditions of a post-industrial society, economy of knowledge, technological and innovative progress), as well as infrastructure for skilled migration (multinational corporations, global information and communications systems, possibilities of distant job search and placement, specialized technological and innovation centers with a simplified migration regime, and so on).

For international migration of unskilled labor, globalization has created preconditions of migrants’ “underestimating” countries of origin (as a result of disproportionate labor potential to natural resources or financial opportunities). Earlier balanced national economic systems of the states in the context of globalization could lose control over national natural resources and part of their financial well-being (for example, due to activation of MNC and capital out-flows to the foreign centers of finance concentration).

Imbalance of the national economic system devalued a price of unskilled labor (and did not give any opportunities to increase this qualification due to the absence or inaccessibility of education or programs for staff development) and stimulated the formation of effective infrastructure for international migration development (international employment agencies, international labor market, inter-country agreements, and organizations that regulate international flows of unskilled labor migrants).

International migration today is a factor of global and national socio-economic trends correction. Migration dynamics create a complex of new challenges and stimulate local administrations, national governments, and international organizations to develop different approaches and modern principles for effective migration policy at various levels.

International labor migration is in close causal connection with the dynamics of urbanization, which is also a modern global socio-economic trend. In its social manifestation, urbanization is an urban population growth and the process of the rural population’s mass migration to the cities. In economic terms, urbanization can be considered as a sharp increasing of cities’ global economic importance, growth of the world economy concentration in global systems of cities, and forming of particular cities’ feasibility for global economic, political, and social regulation.

On the one hand, urbanization is an engine of international labor migration that determines growth of the international labor flows from the countryside of one state to cities of another state. On the other hand, urbanization is a consequence of inefficient regulated labor migration that can stimulate an emergence of a whole range of negative socio-economic impacts and challenges.

Economic consequences of urbanization, including so-called “globalization of cities (urban economic systems),” determine the importance of skills, knowledge, and experience of each employee. An active transformation of the economic importance of individuality, formation of post-industrial society, and knowledge economy is possible only in an urban environment with a higher (than in the countryside) level of social and economic infrastructure, quality of consumption. Global systems of cities are densely inscribed into the global network structure of multinational corporations, and that determines the popularity of the cities as destinations for highly skilled international labor migration.
At the same time, modern urban economic systems are permanently growing centers of service, trade, construction, transportation, and industrial industries with high local demand for low-skilled labor. This is typical both for urban centers of developing countries and countries of the world economic avant-garde.

Due to the close interconnectedness of international labor migration and urbanization socio-economic phenomena and the need for effective regulation of these processes at national and international levels, the research topics presented in this book are relevant and timely.

The purpose of this book is to determine, based on analysis of the various countries’ experiences in international labor migration and urbanization regulating, some theoretical and practical recommendations aimed at leveling the negative impacts of migration and urbanization dynamics and at formation of high national and international policies of international labor migration and urbanization regulation in the current socio-economic conditions.

An important objective of the book was a monitoring of urbanization and migration dynamics in different countries of the world. Due to this, the book included results of the research of 16 scientists (11 from them are Doctors) of the leading universities of Thailand, Russia, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Indonesia, India, the USA, and Taiwan.

First section of the book, considering international labor migration and systems of its national (and international) regulation, analyzes historical approaches to determination of the conditions of international labor migration development, factors, causes, and the possible economic and social impact of the transnational movement of the labor force (research of Etery Rubinskaya, PhD [International Economics]).

Chapter 1 investigates global migration dynamics, the role of states in international migration flow formation and distribution and functional features of multinational business in stimulating skilled and unskilled labor’s transboundary movement.

The next chapter by Oleg Lokota (PhD, Economy) and Elena Kozlova (PhD candidate) analyzes the meaning of labor in provision of modern states’ economic growth. The authors assess the macroeconomic indicators of 70 modern countries and make conclusions about dynamics of growth-promoting effects of natural resources and the financial and labor potential of the states.

Based on original findings about correlation of the resource, the financial and labor potential with countries’ economic performance chapter evaluates the modern economic role of international labor migration and factors of its development in conditions of globalization.

Chapter 3, “National Migration Policy as a Principle for Economic System Structuring in the Modern States: The Case of Russia,” by Andreeva Ekaterina covers three relevant problems of the modern economy: “economic effects” of international migration processes in developed countries, dynamics of migration processes on post-Soviet economic space, and the specifics of economic space structuring, considering an overall impact of migration processes on the territorial economy and the labor markets.

The study includes assessment of the economic role of immigration in developed countries, analysis of economic effects of migration processes, basic characteristics of migration policy, and structure of the economic space of the modern states, recommendations on the modernization of the Russian migration policy related to the use of positive foreign experience, facilitation of immigration economic costs, and the most effective use of its potential.

The impact of international migration on the equilibrium in the labor market of Thailand is a subject of research by Siriwan Saksirirutai (PhD, Economy). The author compares an economic effect of foreign worker inflow in the Kingdom of Thailand with possible negative consequences of the migration dynamics (such as growth of domestic unemployment, reduction of the national wage, growth of skilled
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labor disposal due to the negative labor migration), and also considers the adequacy of the Thai national migration policies, foreign activity of the national government toward efficiency of regional regulation of migration processes (for example, within the Asian Economic Community and the Mekong delta collaboration).

A detailed study of the processes of bilateral contact development, as well as tools for interaction between government and civil society in the context of national and international migration policy modernization is carried out in the chapter by South African scientist Shadrack B. Ramokgadi.

The indisputable advantage of this chapter is its consideration of the international labor migration from a standpoint that is not only purely economic but also geopolitical, humanitarian, and cultural (it significantly extends the range of problems analyzed in book), as well as practical tools for international labor migration governance in South Africa (which is one of the most popular destination for foreign workers).

Indian origin and successful work at the University of Alaska (USA) allowed Professor George Babu (Doctor of Management) to carry out a brilliant study of the process of migration decision-making by Indian migrants to the United States. This study, on the one hand, is a continuation of neo-classical approaches to international migration definition (including the well-known two-factor model of M. Todaro) and a successful attempt of neoclassical approaches’ approbation in the modern globalized economy and cross-cultural cooperation between the two nations.

On the other hand, the researcher added a number of new factors directly affecting the migration decision-making process, such as migrants’ tourism and travel experience, migrants’ industrial affiliation, and psychological characteristics.

In the final chapter of the book’s first section, South African scientists P. P. S. Sifolo and Unati Sonvabile Henama analyzed the interactions between two opposite expressions of people’s cross-border movement: international tourism and international labor migration. The authors identified a relationship between these two phenomena (the case of South Africa) and the conditions for the international tourism development in the country that are also strongly affecting international labor migration (in both positive and negative ways).

As a conclusion, the researchers give comprehensive recommendations for modernization of the South African tourism policy in terms of national economic security priority and migration stability in the country.

The second section of the book includes six chapters devoted to the study of urbanization’s economic and social impacts in various regions of the world.

The first chapter presents an academic study by Raeni Dwi Santy (PhD) and Refi Mayasari Bukhari about driving forces, factors, economic, and social impacts of urbanization in Indonesia. The geo-economic and political characteristics of Indonesia (country’s location on the world’s largest archipelago within the Fire zone of the Earth, huge population and population density on few islands, primary weakness of national governance due to dispersal of economic and administrative centers, and so on) have led to formation of the specific features of Indonesian urbanization dynamics. Their considerations, as well as formation of recommendations for an effective national regulation and control of urbanization are the main objectives of this chapter.

Academic research by Denis Ushakov (PhD, Macroeconomic) and Shieh Chich Jen (PhD, International Business) investigates dynamics, conditions, and consequences of the world economy leading
transformation: globalization of urban economic systems and economic urbanization. The authors analyze causes of cities’ globalization, formation of infrastructure, and institutions for global economic regulation in modern cities.

Based on the comparison of the macroeconomic indicators of leading urban economies, scientists propose a set of recommendations regarding formation of strategies for urban development and urban governance modernization.

In the third chapter, Alexei Arkhipov (PhD, Economy) and Denis Ushakov (PhD, Macroeconomics) analyze the dynamics of urbanization and economic patterns of urban economic system formation in the Russian Federation. The authors define a uniqueness of Russia’s urban economic system (due to historical, economic, and political conditions of its formation), evaluate the role of the cities in the structure of investment, consumption, trade, and fixed assets of the Russian Federation.

Further, based on comparisons of economic roles of Russia’s largest cities with living standard of their populations, the authors give comprehensive advice on the modernization of the national system of urban development state regulation and of Russian cities’ effective integration in the global economic space.

Professor Evelyn Chiloane-Tsoka (PhD, Economy) assesses governmental infrastructure initiatives as tools to overcome some problems of contemporary African cities (such as Johannesburg and Lusaka). The study of economic efficiency of municipal (or provincial governments) infrastructure projects allowed the authors to practically prove that local administration, even in conditions of insufficient funding, poor quality of urban population life, non-developed social and economic infrastructure, can implement efficient infrastructure initiatives for overcoming problems of ineffective regulation of urbanization processes in Africa.

Another representative of the African continent, Andrew Onwuemele (PhD), well-known researcher of social and economic processes in West Africa, studied the characteristics and consequences of urbanization dynamics in one of the world’s largest metropolises, Lagos. Possible consequences of urbanization in the region are classified into two groups (the first group includes consequences associated with food problems, shortages of drinking water, growth of crime in the sphere of land, unemployment and poverty; the second group of problems includes consequences of environmental pollution, natural disasters, climate change) and examined by their relationship with the dynamics of urbanization and local authorities’ programs for urban population regulating.

Finally, the concluding chapter of the book is a study of Mexican scientist, Professor Jose Vargas-Hernandez (PhD, Economy), dedicated to the analysis of socio-economic indicators dynamics in rural Mexico, stimulated by growth of urbanization. The author concludes that dynamics of urbanization in rapidly developing and industrialized countries greatly differ from each other, analyzes the dynamics of urbanization in Mexico typical for various types of cities and agglomerations, and causes a set of recommendations for a national regulation of the situation in the countryside.

Obviously, the problems studied in the book are complex and display the results of dynamic processes of international labor migration and urbanization development.

Moreover, this book concentrates the findings and achievements of academic and practical experience of the national system for regulation of migration and urbanization processes forming in ten countries on four continents.
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This certainly defines the value and richness of this publication for anyone interested in the problems of the present stage of world economy development.

In conclusion, I would like to personally thank all reviewers and members of the editorial advisory board for their kind and helpful assistance in the preparation of the book, their relevant comments, advice, and reviews.

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