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**УСТОЙЧИВОЕ РАЗВИТИЕ ЭКОНОМИКИ:
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ И НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ**

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Устойчивое развитие экономики: международные и национальные аспекты
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Впервые материалы конференции «Устойчивое развитие экономики: международные и национальные аспекты» были изданы в 2012 году (печатное издание).

Рассмотрены демографические и миграционные процессы в контексте устойчивого развития экономики; обозначены теоретические основы, практические аспекты управления человеческими ресурсами; выявлены и систематизированы драйверы инклюзивного экономического роста в Беларуси и за рубежом; раскрыты актуальные финансовые и экономические аспекты развития отраслей; приведены актуальные проблемы и тенденции развития логистики на современном этапе; отражены современные тенденции совершенствования финансово-кредитного механизма; освещены актуальные проблемы учета, анализа, аудита в контексте устойчивого развития национальных и зарубежных экономических систем; представлены новейшие научные исследования различных аспектов функционирования современных коммуникативных технологий.

Для научных работников, докторантов, аспирантов, действующих практиков и студентов учреждений высшего образования, изучающих экономические дисциплины.

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PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC TRANSITION

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In a paper written in 1991 and published in 1992 I attempted to predict the pace and success of economic transition in post-communist states [1]. The paper argued that economic transition required the decentralization of the Soviet-style administrative economic system. The highly centralized Soviet system was very successful at achieving extensive growth and industrialization of the underdeveloped and war-torn Russian economy of 1921 and the rebuilding of the post-war economy of 1945. However, the Soviet system failed because the administrative-command economy could not sustain economic progress after the extensive growth of the 1930s and the 1950s. Furthermore, attempts to decentralize the economic system were poorly conceived and implemented by the authoritarian state. These attempts increased the demands by the public for democracy. A lesson from the failure and break-up of the USSR is that it is difficult to reform the economy independently from the political system.

After an economic system has progressed to a point where its heavy industry and infrastructure are fully developed extensive growth is no longer capable of rapid economic development. At that point, intensive growth is required to generate technological change, innovation, and invention. The Soviet-style administrative economy did not demonstrate a capability of promoting intensive growth. For this reason the pressure for a transition to a more market oriented economy is greater the higher the level of economic development.

Although one can imagine an authoritarian state coexisting with a decentralized market oriented economy, actual examples tend to demonstrate a high degree of monopoly and concentration of wealth. In fact, several factors link the process of democratization with the process of economic decentralization. For example, rule of law is a foundation for both democracy and a market-based economy. Both democratic government and a decentralized market economy favor a self-reliant citizenry. A democratic political process is more likely to define and enforce private property rights than an authoritarian state. For these reasons, economic decentralization is likely to be accompanied by political democratization. Because democracy involves grass-roots coalition building, democratic processes tend to work best with smaller populations.

The successes of nations like Japan and the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland are attributed to some degree to their relatively homogeneous populations. It is argued that populations that share ethnicity, history, tradition, language and culture are easier to govern because of the shared values and experiences that bind all citizens. Therefore, demographic homogeneity promotes effective governance, and effective governance is necessary for the kind of structural changes that successful economic transition requires. For these reasons my 1991 predictions were that the fastest progress toward post-communist transition would occur in relatively developed countries with small but homogeneous populations.

Figure 1 illustrates my 1991 ranking of the 15 former Soviet republics based on an evaluation of their relative level of development, population size, and the homogeneity of their populations.

1	Lithuania
2	Estonia
3	Armenia
4	Latvia
5	Russia
6	Turkmenistan
7	Belarus
8	Azerbaijan
9	Ukraine
10	Georgia
11	Moldova
12	Kazakhstan
13	Uzbekistan
14	Kyrgyzstan
15	Tajikistan

Figure 1. – Ranking of the 15 former Soviet republics

Source: author’s own design

With the notable exceptions of Armenia, hampered by years of conflict with Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, hampered by decades of authoritarian cults of personality, the 1991 rankings hold up well. Among the European republics, the Baltic states have made the smoothest transitions with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine following in that order.

The fundamental institutions of a market economy are private property rights, stable money, and robust capital markets. Belarus lags in the establishment of each of these institutions. State ownership in industry, finance, and retail trade is high and corruption erodes private property rights. Belarus and Ukraine have the worst histories of inflation among the former USSR republics. The banking sector in Belarus is dominated by state ownership and foreign direct investment is very low. Figure 2 shows the progress of GDP per capita measured in purchasing power parity from 1992 through 2018 for the Baltic States, Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. As you can see, by this measure Lithuania and the Baltic states have made the most progress followed by Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

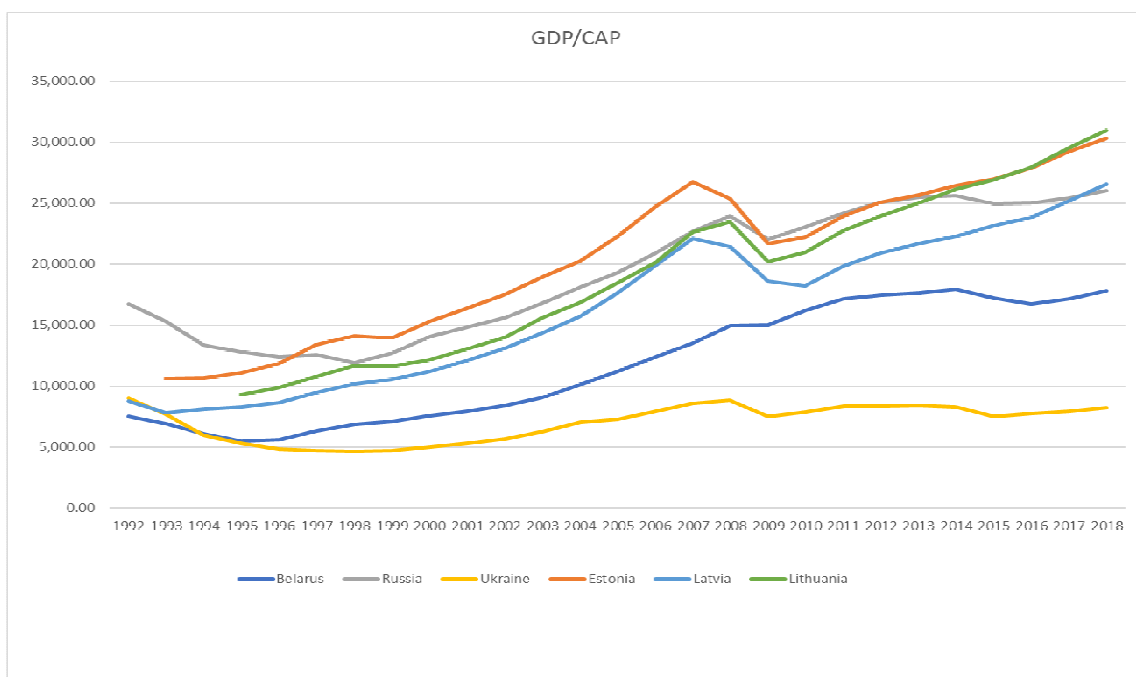


Figure 2. – Progress of GDP per capita measured in purchasing power parity in 1992 - 2018

Source: author’s own design

Finally, recognizing that GDP per capita is not necessarily the best measure of a country's well-being, Figure 3 pictures the same countries with respect to their happiness index from 2008, when the measure was first reported, to 2018. The results are consistent with the GDP per capita measure.

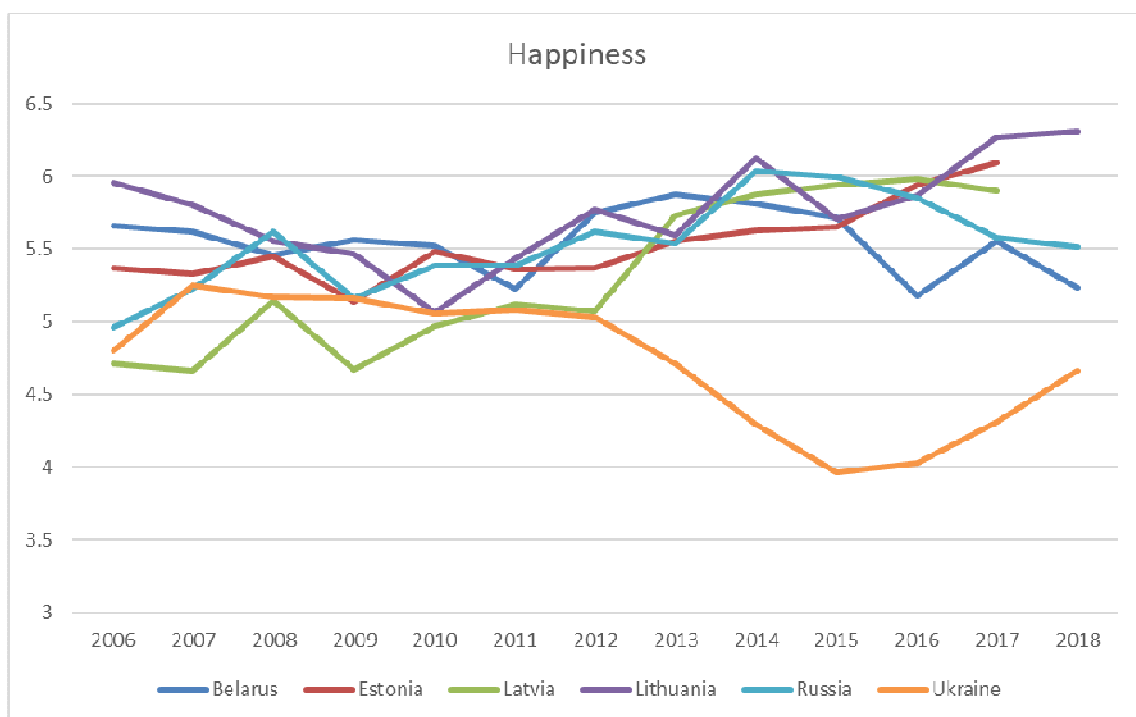


Figure 3. – Happiness index 2008-2018

Source: author’s own design

In conclusion, although Belarus has progressed toward a more decentralized and market-oriented economic system since independence in 1991, other former socialist republics, notably the Baltic states, have progressed farther. Not coincidentally, those countries have become more democratic, and have integrated more completely with the rest of the global community.

Referens

1. Toumanoff, Peter G., "Economic Decentralization and Democratization in the USSR," in Nugent, Margaret (ed.), *From Leninism to Freedom*, Westview Press, 1992, – P. 211–229.

ПРОГРЕСС В ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОМ ПЕРЕХОДЕ

В статье представлено исследование развития экономик стран постсоветского пространства и их сравнение. Продемонстрированы преимущества в экономическом развитии стран, которые быстро смогли перейти к рыночным институтам ведения хозяйства, таких как обеспечение прав частной собственности, стабильная валюта, надежные рынки капитала. Также в статье представлено сравнение стран постсоветского пространства с Республикой Беларусь по показателям ВВП на душу населения и индекса счастья. Из проведенного анализа сделаны соответствующие выводы.