

ROLE OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

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Abstract. The presented study examines the intricacies of global governance and its interaction with political institutions, with particular attention to international political institutions. The article discusses various definitions of political institutions proposed in the scientific literature and their relevance in the field of world politics. The study links the emergence of global governance to the effects of globalization and describes its history as well as the main characteristics attributed to it by experts in the field. Finally, the author sums up by evaluating the role and importance of global governance.

Keywords: political institutions, global governance, domestic politics, international relations, global politics, international organizations, United Nations (UN).

Introduction

Modern management of society is inextricably linked with the work of political institutions participating in power distribution. Such institutions include the head of state, parties, legislative bodies, and others. The possession and distribution of power are crucial elements for understanding how these institutions work. The forms of power may vary in nature. For example, legitimacy is one of the primary indicators of a democratic form of power.

Political institutions provide a mechanism for operating general governance, which depends on many factors widely studied in scientific literature. Most political research covers political institutions within a country. However, globalization has extended the scope of the “governance” concept, forming a new one - the “global governance.” Different political institutions forming local political processes directly or indirectly participate in the global ones, depending on their role. Globalization increases the interdependence between countries, making it challenging to fulfill national interests, creating many interrelated factors influencing politics, which were united in the “global governance” approach.

Domestic politics, the functioning of political institutions in the modern world, is almost impossible to consider in isolation from global processes, especially those related to the economy, and as it was seen during COVID-19 (1) from health sector. For example, the pandemic has become the object of research by political scientists since the implementation of measures to respond to the pandemic, being more of a field of medicine, required political involvement. The need for urgent identification of problems and their equally urgent solution has shown the importance of political measures and the effectiveness of political institutions on a global scale.

Definition of Political Institutions and World Politics

The activities of political institutions are subject to the logic of observing the country’s sovereignty. Moreover, since the states are bound by numerous treaties and other documents of a legal nature, the policy of the institutions must comply with the provisions adopted within the framework of those documents. One of the studies of contemporary world politics (2, p.42) defines institutions as “sets of rules, known and shared by relevant community, that structure political interactions.” Considering institutions in world politics, the authors note that institutions also set rules, often enshrined in treaties or within organizations such as the United Nations (UN).

There are many approaches to defining political institutions in the scientific literature. Thus, F. Ferrara begins with the study of political order and the ideas of N. Machiavelli, who first created

“full-fledged explanatory theory” (3, p.5) in this context, and characterizes them as “rules and procedures” (3, p.18) designed to structure political behavior.

Rothstein explains that society, and any united groups of people, need political institutions “in order to pursue their common interests” (4, p.133), which, according to the author, are represented by four main types: make collective decisions, enforce these decisions, resolve disputes that arise and the ones that punish for non-compliance with established rules. In this complex system, the author identifies political, electoral systems, government structure, etc., including the relationship between the state and the economy (liberal and corporatist). Characterizing political institutions, T.M. Moe (5, p.213) also focused on the economy, namely the trade issue, indicating that they “...allow the various actors in politics to cooperate in the realization of gains from trade.”

Huntington (6; p.33; p.45) defined institutions as sustainable, meaningful, and reproducible forms of behavior, while the creation of political institutions was identified with the ability to create social processes. Other authors (7, p.13) entirely avoid a clear, unified definition of political institutions, leaving room for different interpretations, such as the “reflecting habits and norms, more likely to be evolved than to be created” or as a broader “architecture and rules.” Institutions can be viewed as structures and norms that shape how actors behave, who can participate, how hard it is to change them, and what methods can enable or prevent change in such architecture.

Political science, like many other disciplines, is adapting to modern trends and is expanding. Some authors point out that current institutions can also be considered as “forms of social organization” and is “a multi-faceted term” used to describe “social phenomena” (8, p.3), which covers various spheres of life, including politics.

The characteristics of political institutions have expanded significantly in the process of globalization. Thus, some authors (9) identify “three types of political institutions, i.e. national, supranational, and non-governmental organizations.” Domestic politics often drives governments’ participation in international institutions. The most powerful members (states) of world politics use their influence over these institutions to achieve foreign policy goals and pursue domestic interests.

International institutions that influence world politics are widely established in the international relations system. However, world processes, geopolitics, etc., can influence these institutions, increasing or undermining their effectiveness. Participants in world political processes are not limited to official state structures - governmental institutions. Non-state structures are also actively involved in the processes. The interaction of multiple actors formulates world political processes.

The importance of political institutions is becoming increasingly important. Thus, one of the studies assessed the mutual influence of different political players with the right of veto, not only within the framework of one state but even within such an international structure as the European Union (10, p.250). The EU includes various institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, etc.), the decisions of which may influence the integration processes in the Union. Thus, political institutions taking part in various processes at the international level can be involved in world politics.

Global Governance Concept

The concept of global governance is one of the areas of political science research that has emerged in response to globalization. The idea itself was proposed by Rosenau in the 90s of the 20th century, after which this concept began to be more widely studied by political scientists. Rosenau (11; 12, p.5), making a distinction between the terms “government” and “governance,” points out that the first is “a system of rule” and “refers to activities backed by shared goals that may or may not derive from legal and formally prescribed responsibilities.” Describing this system, he concludes that in order to be implemented, such activities have to be accepted by the majority (or at least the most influential of those affected by it), while this is not a prerequisite for a government as it can work “even before the face of widespread opposition.”

According to A. Mulieri (13, p.15) global governance includes different sides “that function, with variable effect, to promote, regulate or intervene in the common affairs of humanity.” According to some authors, “global governance has eroded some of the existing domestic

accountability standards” (14, p.98) because it was previously considered through the prism of the state itself. Indeed, today there are some supranational institutions, such as the European Court of Human Rights, a supranational judicial body, that can make a decision binding on the country.

K. Pease indicates the difficulty of classifying international organizations and their “multifaceted role in world politics” (15, p.3), as they are only part of a complex system. If the state’s struggle for power includes specific actors, such as political parties, then there is no government at the global level. In our opinion, we can even say that there is some kind of randomness. However, the struggle for political influence and geopolitical interests extends globally. For example, such a large organization as NATO often becomes the research subject in the context of the possibilities of forceful impact.

Non-governmental organizations such as Greenpeace, the Red Cross, and others also play an influential role in world politics, whose reports, while not having legal nature, can be a significant political element of influence. As another group of global governance players, Pease (15, p.4) identifies multinational corporations, often with a budget exceeding that of some countries. The possession of considerable financial resources allows them to create subdivisions in individual countries, having the opportunity to indirectly or directly be involved in domestic politics, promoting their interests.

A. Triandafyllidou uses the “global governance” concept to point to the emerging transnational world order and interactions beyond traditional state actors (16, p.3). The author argues that the focus has changed from international relations to global governance, which can be carried out through negotiation, cooperation, or regulation. Although it occurs at the national and sub-national levels, it can impact the transnational one and vice versa. The author concludes that global governance is not a doctrine and may appear as a “value-neutral term” to describe the “method of government.”

The approach based on global governance has expanded to many areas of life. For example, in current conditions of the global problem of climate change, the theory of global governance is often used to study environmental issues through the ecology prism (17; 18). Likewise, global health governance has also transformed into a field of study and is reflected in many works (19; 20).

Global governance has been extensively studied and presented as a theory in its own right by Michael Zürn (21, p.4; 22). The author identifies various areas of global governance: world, global governance with (such as the UN) and without (such as the International Accounting Standards Board) governments. Using a comprehensive and rigorous theoretical framework, the author identifies four significant contributions to the field. As per the author’s observations, global politics is governed by a system of norms and institutions that are hierarchically structured and unequal, which gives rise to conflicts, challenges, and fights over resources and power. The proposed theory reconstructs global governance as a political system based on normative principles and reflexive authorities. In the global governance system at the international level, the author highlights the UN Security Council and, at the transnational level - private rating agencies.

The presence of many “intergovernmental agencies that characterize the public elements of the contemporary world order” (23, p.4) is a significant difference in the modern perception of global governance. Organizations such as G7 and G20 unite the world’s largest economies and represent one of the means of global governance. The activities of international structures such as the UN, WTO, etc., began to be perceived as part of an international organization (as a process) and global governance that is a combination of “formal and informal ways of managing the world.” (23, p.9)

Impact of the Global Governance on the Political Institutions

The global governance framework involves many formal and informal mechanisms that enable political institutions to engage with one another to address global issues (24, p.99). Formal mechanisms include international organizations like the UN and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For example, the UN’s main goal and task is to keep global peace, safeguard human rights, and extend humanitarian aid. Informal mechanisms, on the other hand, involve networks of experts, think tanks, and advocacy groups.

Global governance as a field of cooperation between countries can have a positive effect by promoting collaboration and addressing issues that affect multiple nations. For example, achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals requires close cooperation between national and international institutions. The corona virus pandemic has also shown the importance of involving politicians in health issues.

Considering international treaties as the main instrument of global governance, it is worth noting their legal force. For example, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) of 2017 is “the first globally applicable multilateral agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons” (25). Furthermore, preventing the spread of nuclear weapons is one of the main goals of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Within its powers, the IAEA carries out monitoring and verification measures. For example, the US State Department in its activities indicates the possibility of imposing sanctions for engaging in proliferation activities.

Another critical tool is the environmental agenda. The 2015 Paris Agreement represents a “new governance” of climate change, which “is at base a political problem” (26, p.109; p.124). Following the agreement adopted within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change framework, the states agreed to counter global warming jointly.

The modern global governance system is often criticized (27) for the dominance of the interests of world powers. Thus, Zürn argues that “supranational and transnational governance undermine the notion of a sovereign state” (28, p.409). A report prepared under the GLOBE (Global Governance and the European Union) program funded by the EU’s Horizon 2020 notes that polarization, disputes, and state tensions are only increasing. This process is characterized as “gridlock,” symbolizing the inability or poor preparation of treaty-based intergovernmental organizations, which are often “principal leaders of global governance” (29, p.4), to act on a global level. As a result, they cannot achieve the goals of global governance.

Conclusion

Today, global governance has become an independent field of study, which is widely researched in the scientific literature. It can cover various areas, depending on which international players should be involved. The emergence of the concept was the result of globalization. However, despite the importance of international institutions, we believe that global governance, in the absence of a unified government, cannot decisively change international political processes. Nevertheless, international institutions can significantly influence domestic political agendas.

The influence wielded by political institutions in global affairs is intricately tied to their ability to exercise power. Drawing a comparison between the impact of political institutions on both a state and global level proves to be valuable. The decisions made by international institutions, such as the WHO, can have an impact on political matters, even though they are not directly related to politics. The WHO garnered significant media attention amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with frequent mentions in global news headlines.

We believe that today the world continues to be highly fragmented. Depending on the level of economic development, and geopolitical potential, the country’s participation in the global process may be different. Thus, quite often we observe how the countries of the UN Security Council use the right of veto, blocking documents that do not meet national interests. However, the modern development of society, transport, logical routes, the Internet, etc. makes it almost impossible to exclude the influence of globalization. Accordingly, the political institutions of the state become participants in world processes, namely global governance, promoting their interests, and vice versa, global processes adjust the politics of local political institutions.

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QLOBAL İDARƏETMƏDƏ SİYASİ İNSTİTUTLARIN ROLU

Lalə Cəfərova

Xülasə. Təqdim edilən məqalədə beynəlxalq siyasi institutlara xüsusi diqqət yetirməklə qlobal idarəçiliyin incəlikləri və onun siyasi institutlarla qarşılıqlı əlaqəsi araşdırılır. Məqalədə elmi ədəbiyyatda təklif olunan siyasi institutların müxtəlif tərifləri və onların dünya siyasəti sahəsində aktuallığına nəzər yetirilir. Tədqiqatda qlobal idarəetmənin meydana gəlməsini qloballaşmanın təsirləri ilə əlaqələndirilir və onun tarixi, eləcə də bu sahə üzrə mütəxəssislər tərəfindən ona aid edilən əsas xüsusiyyətləri təsvir edilir. Sonda müəllif qlobal idarəetmənin rolunu və əhəmiyyətini qiymətləndirərək nəticələri yekunlaşdırır.

Açar sözlər: siyasi institutlar, qlobal idarəçilik, daxili siyasət, beynəlxalq münasibətlər, qlobal siyasət, beynəlxalq təşkilatlar, BMT.

РОЛЬ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ ИНСТИТУТОВ В ГЛОБАЛЬНОМ УПРАВЛЕНИИ

Лала Джафарова

Аннотация. Данное исследование представляет анализ глобального управления и его взаимодействия с политическими институтами, уделяя особое внимание международным политическим институтам. В статье рассматриваются различные определения политических институтов, предложенные в научной литературе и их актуальность в сфере мировой политики. Исследование связывает появление глобального управления с последствиями глобализации и рассматривает его историю, а также ключевые характеристики, описанные различными экспертами в этой области. В заключении автор подводит итоги, оценивая роль и значение глобального управления.

Ключевые слова: политические институты, глобальное управление, внутренняя политика, международные отношения, глобальная политика, международные организации, ООН

Rəyçi: h.e.d., prof. Habil Qurbanov