

Introduction

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So far, in international relations, four basic periods can be distinguished, in which the perception of the role of developing countries has fundamentally changed. The first one was related to their political drive to liberate themselves from colonial oppression – the political determinant. Its apogee was at the turn of the 1950s and 1960s. The second one took place in the 1970s and was initiated by the global energy and raw materials crisis. As a result, a postulate was born to create a new international economic order – the economic determinant. The third period was opened by the terrorist attack on the towers of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001. It brutally exposed the underestimation or even disregard of cultural and religious antagonisms – the social determinant. Moreover, after the collapse of the bipolar system in 1991, it was the conflict between highly developed and developing countries that determined the system of international relations in the 21st century, which was announced by the theses of Samuel Huntington about the “clash of civilizations” or of Francis Fukuyama about the “end of history”. The turning point for the fourth period was the outbreak of the pandemic at the turn of 2019 and 2020 – the deglobalizing determinant. For developing countries, COVID-19 means that the focus of the West’s attention will not be on actions aimed at eliminating or at least mitigating the economic underdevelopment of these countries, but on eliminating the economic consequences of the pandemic, focusing on internal problems,

in particular on ensuring the security of one's own society and economy. Western politicians in the third decade of the 21st century adopted the axiom that it is not being that determines consciousness, but broadly understood security. Therefore, there will probably be a temporary freezing or even a reduction in funds allocated to development aid, a reduction in foreign direct investment in developing countries, and even a reduction in trade. Most developing countries will not be able to overcome economic underdevelopment without the support of the West. Therefore, it is possible to petrify and aggregate it, with all possible negative effects (Banaszyk, Deszczyński, Gorynia, Malaga, 2021, p. 77).

Contrary to the fourth period, the first three observed an increase in the role of developing countries on the international forum. Each time the processes taking place in them were also an impulse for the increased interest of scientists in the problems of developing countries. This was also true for me. The fascination with economics while studying economics and organization of foreign trade at the Poznań Academy of Economics coincided with a violent global crisis in energy and raw materials, followed by an economic crisis, and then the emergence of demands from developing countries to create a new international economic order. However, I did not immediately decide to undertake research in the field of developing countries. At that time, I was already aware of the complexity of this issue. So, at Professor Ludwik Jankowiak's MA seminar, I proposed the topic of "Federal Republic of Germany's capital export to the USA" ("Eksport kapitału RFN do USA"), which on April 10, 1978. during the oral exam in the subject "Foreign trade planning and forecasting" ("Planowanie i prognozowanie handlu zagranicznego"), at the suggestion of the then associate professor Henryk Wojciechowski and with the full approval of the supervisor, I changed to "Eksport kapitału RFN do krajów rozwijających się" ("Federal Republic of Germany's capital export to developing countries"). And so, a bit by chance, I started to study the problems of this group of countries. My PhD thesis, written in Bonn and Hamburg thanks to a scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung), was devoted to the "Policy of Republic of Germany's economic expansion towards developing countries" ("Polityka ekspansji gospodarczej RFN wobec krajów rozwijających się"). After that

the F. Ebert Foundation awarded me a scholarship again, this time to finance research in Germany on the role of German Social Democrats in solving the problems of developing countries. I presented its results at the international scientific conference of the F. Ebert Foundation “Leben in der einen Welt” in Potsdam in October 1991. It also became the basis for my future habilitation dissertation *Kraje rozwijające się w koncepcjach ekonomicznych SPD. Doktryna i praktyka* (“Developing countries in the economic concepts of the SPD. Doctrine and practice”). On October 19, 2001, the Council of the Faculty of Economics of the Poznań Academy of Economics awarded me with a postdoctoral degree in the field of economics with specialization in international relations. Therefore, I became an independent researcher with the ambitious intention of promoting PhDs specializing in developing countries and thus creating the Poznań School of Development Economics.

Development economics as a scientific discipline was established after the Second World War. Despite the formulation of more than three hundred theories devoted to the economic problems of developing countries, none of them has contributed to overcoming economic backwardness, and some of them, implemented in an orthodox manner in the practice of economic life, have even deepened this underdevelopment. The theories of development economics should explain the phenomena occurring in the economy, they should be helpful in making decisions in the economic sphere, but they cannot be an end in themselves, because it is only a matter of time when such an orthodox attitude, regardless of whether it concerns supporters of neoliberal solutions, or state interventionism, will lead to the implementation of assumptions opposite to those assumed by them. The reason for that is that the economic situation of each developing country has its own specificity, related to political and social conditions, as well as historical and cultural traditions.

Interdisciplinarity seems to be a *sine qua non* for constructive dealing with developing countries, and it is precisely this that is a characteristic feature of the Poznań School of Development Economics, where scientific research has been conducted in this way since the very beginning. The scientists who are part of it are graduates of not only the University of Economics in Poznań, but also such faculties as law, political science,

history, English studies, German studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the Jagiellonian University and the University of Łódź. PhD theses were defended at the University of Economics in Poznań, but also two at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and one, in political science – at the Western Institute in Poznań. Four habilitations were obtained in economics at the former Faculty of Economics of the University of Economics in Poznań, and two in politics at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Journalism at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The achievements of the Poznań School of Development Economics also include one professorship, obtained in 2012.

Apart from interdisciplinarity, the Poznań School of Development Economics is characterized by focusing on research in the field of development aid. It was assumed that the condition for overcoming underdevelopment in developing countries is the creation of the Marshall Plan II for this group of countries (Deszczyński, 1992, pp. 55–59), since for the vast majority of them it is not possible to independently enter the economic growth “take off” path without external support. The negative experiences of development aid so far do not mean that the implementation of the idea of the Marshall Plan, which saved Western Europe from communism, cannot be equally effective in the fight against liquidation, or at least in significantly mitigating the negative effects of underdevelopment not only for the developing countries themselves, but for the entire international community. The current situation with the pandemic made everyone realize that our planet Earth in the 20th century, and even more so in the 21st century, has become a global village, that we operate in the paradigm of “communicating vessels”, that what is happening not only in the Middle East but also in the Far East, North and sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, directly affects Western societies. Under these conditions, the need to jointly solve global problems has been increasing. Most often they include, apart from global warming and the progressive destruction of the natural environment, the deepening economic disproportions between developing countries and highly developed countries, uncontrolled population growth, migration crisis, the occurrence of famine in many regions of the world, the risk of serious diseases, including mainly COVID-19, but also AIDS, BSE and

drug addiction, depletion of raw materials, debt crisis, danger of a war, especially nuclear war, international terrorism. The importance of global problems results from the consequences that they may have in the event of their further aggregation – in an extremely pessimistic variant, even the collapse of our civilization. The complexity of the essence of global problems means that their effective and efficient solution requires taking comprehensive actions in many spheres of socio-political and economic life, covering basically all entities of the world economy. The vast majority of these problems are directly or indirectly related to the functioning of developing countries, and their solution without reforming the economic situation of this group of countries will be difficult or even impossible to implement. It is for these reasons that it is necessary to initiate the Marshall Plan II, free from the instrumentalisation of the political and economic goals of the West – the original sin, which for decades had a negative impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of development aid (Deszczyński, 2001b, pp. 125–142). It is assumed that the pandemic and the growing, also because of it, of egoisms among Western politicians and societies will have only a short-term negative impact.

The third feature of the Poznań School of Development Economics is the pragmatic approach and the perception of economic theory, including in particular the theory of development economics, in these categories. Its essence is to take into account the conditions accompanying economics as a scientific discipline. Economics is a social science and, unlike natural sciences, e.g. physics, which deals with the study of the general properties of matter and phenomena occurring in it, as well as the detection of general laws governing these phenomena, identifying the regularities occurring in the economy does not mean that they are universal and timeless. Even if we discover them, we cannot be sure whether they will also occur elsewhere (broadly understood territorial determinism) and whether they will become obsolete over time (time determinism). Economics therefore has a limited ability to anticipate what will happen in the future, and that is at virtually all levels – mega-, macro-, meso- and microeconomic. One can make predictions, but there is no guarantee that the adopted hypotheses will prove successful in practice, especially in the long term. What is more, despite the deepening computerization of life,

this task becomes even more difficult with the dynamically progressing globalization and the constantly increasing number of entities affecting the global economy, and with it – an increasing amount of information to be processed and verified in terms their quality and data reliability. In an open economy, in contrast to an autarkic economy, it is much more difficult to formulate a universal economic theory. The world economy covers a specific area in which various economic, political, social and intellectual forces cooperate, but also compete with each other.

At the Poznań School of Development Economics, doctorates in the field of development aid were prepared, dealing with the development aid of three former colonial metropolises – Great Britain, France and the Netherlands, and Sweden. The culmination of this achievement is a professor's monograph by Przemysław Deszczyński, *Konceptualne podstawy pomocy rozwojowej* ("Conceptual Fundamentals of Development Assistance").

Under the scientific supervision of Professor Przemysław Deszczyński, doctoral theses were prepared in the field of economics of development:

- Katarzyna Anna Nawrot, PhD – on December 1, 2006 defended her doctoral dissertation *Determinanty rozwoju gospodarczego państw ASEAN w latach 1990–2003* („Determinants of economic development of ASEAN countries in the years 1990–2003”), for which she received a grant 1 H02C 070 28;
- Marcin Nytko, PhD – on June 1, 2007 defended his doctoral dissertation *Rozwój bezpośrednich inwestycji zagranicznych w Indiach w latach 1991–2005* („Development of foreign direct investment in India in 1991–2005”);
- Ireneusz Barczak, PhD – on May 7, 2010 defended his doctoral dissertation *Pomoc rozwojowa Szwecji dla krajów rozwijających się w latach 1995–2006* („Sweden's development assistance for developing countries in the years 1995–2006”), for which he received a grant NN112212834;
- Katarzyna Andrzejczak, PhD – on June 18, 2010 defended her doctoral dissertation *Pomoc rozwojowa Francji dla krajów rozwijających się w latach 1981–2007* („France's development assistance

for developing countries in the years 1981–2009”), for which she received a grant B/H03/2009/37;

- Edyta Wojtyła, PhD – on March 2, 2012 defended her doctoral dissertation *Pomoc rozwojowa Unii Europejskiej dla Maroka w latach 1995 – 2009* („European Union Development Assistance for Morocco in the years 1995–2009”);
- Grzegorz Grabowski, PhD – on September 6, 2013 defended his doctoral dissertation *Współpraca gospodarcza Wielkiej Brytanii i Indii w latach 1991–2010* („Economic cooperation of Great Britain and India in the years 1991–2010”);
- Michał Postracha, PhD – on December 2, 2016 defended his doctoral dissertation *Podejście sektorowe we współpracy rozwojowej Holandii w latach 1998–2012* („Sectoral approach in development cooperation in the Netherlands in the years 1998–2012”);
- Aleksandra Rabczun, PhD – on September 23, 2020 defended her doctoral dissertation *Pomoc rozwojowa Wielkiej Brytanii dla krajów rozwijających się* („Great Britain’s development assistance for developing countries”).

The Poznań School of Development Economics also includes professor Filip Kaczmarek, who, being a member of the European Parliament of the 6th and 7th term in the years 2004–2014, dealt with the development policy of the European Union. The culmination of his achievements was the habilitation thesis *Dylematy polityki rozwojowej Unii Europejskiej wobec Afryki Subsaharyjskiej w latach 2000–2015* (“Dilemmas of the European Union’s development policy towards sub-Saharan Africa in the years 2000–2015”), published by the Poznań University of Economics and Business Press in 2018. Katarzyna Andrzejczak (now Świerczyńska) was the first of the promoted doctors to obtain the title of habilitated doctor on the basis of her habilitation thesis, *Uwarunkowania i różnicowanie rozwoju gospodarczego Afryki Subsaharyjskiej* (“Conditions and diversification of the economic development of sub-Saharan Africa”), published in 2019 by CEDEWU. Katarzyna Anna Nawrot, PhD prepared her habilitation thesis *Współpraca i integracja gospodarcza Azji Wschodniej. Studium teoretyczno-empiryczne* (“Cooperation and economic

integration of East Asia. A theoretical and empirical study”), published by the Polskie Wydawnictwo Ekonomiczne in 2021.

The achievements of the Poznań School of Economic Development include several hundred works published in reputable publishers and magazines around the world. There are four hypotheses present in them, similarly to this monograph:

1. Disastrous economic situation of developing countries was caused by accumulation of negative impact of entire catalog of internal and external factors.
2. Solving the disastrous economic situation of developing countries is impossible without thorough internal reforms and external assistance.
3. Low efficiency of the development aid to date resulted from its political and economic instrumentalisation which also negatively affected transparency and coherency of the methodology of development aid.
4. The problems of developing countries cannot be solved solely on the basis of the theories of development economics, economic calculus, knowledge and experience of economists. What is needed here is an interdisciplinary approach and awareness of the existence of Eurocentric burdens that effectively prevent the development of solutions adequate to economic, political and social reality of developing countries.

The work is empirical- analytical in nature. It uses inductive inference, i.e. generalizations are derived from the information material collected in the course of empirical research. The wide range of the studied issues, enabling the extension of the field of observation and the framework of the analysis, and the hypotheses made resulted in the adoption of several research methods in the monograph. The comparative historical method was very helpful here, because the work covers a very long period of time, from the beginning of decolonization to the second decade of the 21st century. There are, therefore, a number of planes that have common features (e.g. for individual decades of development) as well as a number of

differences (e.g. between theories of economic development in developing countries, in the perception of individual geographic regions or groups of developing countries). Finally, the comparative historical method allows not only to get to know specific phenomena and facts, but also to explain them in the light of the known causes, conditions and premises of a given behaviour.

The research procedures introduced into the methodology by the system analysis were also used. Their use is especially advisable when the research subject is of an interdisciplinary nature, and this is exactly what the analyzed issues are. Development aid can be treated as a system, the components of which should contribute to the success of the whole, i.e. to its full and possibly quick realization. The elements of the system are the institutional structure of development aid in a multilateral and bilateral system and in the European Union, as well as its various forms. Therefore, there are several levels of analysis: general, relating to the global development aid system, and detailed, at the level of bilateral aid, each time with regard to individual continents, regional groups, and individual developing countries. The interactions between systems and subsystems and between subsystems are also taken into account.

The concept of the work presented above has determined the formal structure of its content. The book consists of three parts, nine chapters in total. The first part is devoted to the conceptual foundations of development economics. It is a kind of starting point and theoretical structure of the whole monograph. The author of the first two chapters is Przemysław Deszczyński. In the first one, the term “developing countries” has been conceptualized and the author’s classification of developing countries based on the criteria of political, economic and social dualism has been presented, which is the contribution of Poznań School of Development Economics to science. In the second chapter, four main groups were distinguished from among more than three hundred theories of economic development, based on the primacy of factors: internal, external, external-internal and global. The first part ends with the third chapter by Katarzyna Nawrot. It conceptualizes the quantification of economic development broken down into classic quantitative indicators and – becoming more and more important – qualitative indicators. Among

the latter, social, institutional, ecological, and sustainable development indicators have been distinguished.

The second part, titled “Development Aid – Conceptualization and Practitce”, contains five chapters. Chapter four is conceptual in nature. Its essence is conceptualization of the term “development aid” and classification of forms of development aid, which is another manifestation of the contribution of the Poznań School of Development Economics to science. It was made on the basis of five criteria: the channel of transfer, the way of transfer and usage by the donor, the beneficiary’s repayment burden and the beneficiary’s freedom of managing it. On the basis of these criteria at least two basic forms were distinguished each time. The authors of chapters six and seven refer to and submit to the convention of analysis adopted in their works. In the fifth chapter, by Aleksandra Rabczun, and the sixth, by Katarzyna Świerczyńska, an analysis of development aid in relation to Great Britain and France was carried out. In both cases, the same four criteria were used: development aid conditions, institutional and geographic structures of development aid and its most important forms. Adopting such a methodology makes it possible to compare the functioning of the development assistance of the two largest colonial metropolises and is a valuable achievement in the context of recommendations for Polish development policy. The second part ends with two chapters devoted to the development policy of the European Union. Chapter seven by Filip Kaczmarek contains basically the same criteria of analysis, adjusting them to the specificity of the functioning of the European Union in this area. At this point, it is worth emphasizing the uniqueness of the texts by Filip Kaczmarek, on the one hand co-creator of the European Union development policy and its attentive observer from the perspective of the European Parliament, on the other – a scientist.

The monograph ends with the third part – the role of communication in the implementation of development policy and economics. In spite of appearances, this is of key importance for the success of the Marshall Plan II. It is not enough to create a successful concept of development aid in scientific circles. We still need to convince influential politicians both from the West and developing countries to accept it, and then place great emphasis on the economic education of both donor and recipient societies

and make them aware that we operate in the paradigm of “communicating vessels”. US President J. F. Kennedy learned how difficult this task was. Initiating development aid for developing countries in the early 1960s, he argued that “If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich” (Deszczyński, 2009a, p. 8). Continuing to tolerate the deepening imbalance between developing and highly developed countries could lead to the storming of the starving poor people of the “Third World” on the West’s “Bastille of Prosperity” and its value system. The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 on the skyscrapers of the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon building in Washington, as well as the emigration crisis of 2015, are only a prelude to what may happen in the near future, if we do not show prudence and the ability to anticipate and draw logical conclusions from the current situation. It is therefore about the elimination of the information gap – a specific asymmetry of information present in societies, additionally petrified by the perception of reality only in terms of short-term political, economic or national interest. Professional communication based on scientific research can fill this gap. Such an attempt was made in part three. In chapter eight Izabela Janicka deals with the role of the media in the dissemination of development policy and economics, and Marcin Leszczyński writes about the reputation of developing countries. The specificity of the media in the 21st century and the resulting changes in communication have been highlighted and the misconceptions in the media, as well as – particularly important from our point of view – development policy in Polish media have been presented. Reputation has been considered from the perspective of shaping the international position of developing countries, pointing to the limitations existing in this respect. In chapter nine Jacek Trębecki deals with the convergence of internal communication areas, pointing to the role of internal communication in the context of development economics. Waldemar Rydzak emphasizes the importance of communication in crisis situations in developing countries. He presents information activities of developing countries that are being undertaken in the international area and intercultural differences in the context of effectiveness of communication in crisis situations. In the latter case, knowledge and skills are particularly important due to the high probability of its occurrence.