

Introduction

We present the Readers with another, 37 volume of the journal issued by the Institute of International Business of the University of Gdańsk. For the sixth time now the publication appears under a new title: *International Business and Global Economy*, IBAge for short, which can be read as IB Age, or the “Age of International Business”.

This volume is divided into four sections devoted to the challenges facing today’s world economy.

Section one, “Challenges of the world economy”, comprises 13 articles which deal with the most important consequences of globalization. Although the last years have seen a slowdown in those processes, such issues as global supply chains, international competitiveness, cross-border transfers of technology, international migrations, the rise of protectionism, or the changing role of Asian economies, including China, set out the direction of further research.

The eleven papers presented in section two have been collected under the title “Challenges of contemporary trade and finance”. Their authors focus on assorted aspects of the aforesaid issues, pointing, i.a., to the factors determining the slowdown in international trade or the role of state in the internationalization of the yuan.

Section three is titled “Challenges facing companies in the global economy”. The nine authors of this part deal with problems of great relevance to international business cooperation, such as cultural intelligence or relational competence.

In the last section, titled “Challenges of the integration processes”, seven authors discuss, i.a., the theory and practice of economic integration, explaining the current problems of different integration groupings, from Brexit and the European Union to the recently turbulent integration processes involving the United States of America.

On the one hand, the papers published in this volume are proof of the scientific development of the staff of the Institute of International Business as well as researchers from other Polish and foreign universities; on the other, they complement the source literature for courses related to broadly understood international economics.

Some of the papers are written in English, which will hopefully make the publication more accessible to foreign Readers interested in the issues discussed herein.

I wish the Readers of IBage to get inspiration for their research from the papers comprising this volume, and the Authors to persist in their efforts and delve deeper into the matter of their interest.

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