

SECTION 2. WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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PATENTS AS TRIGGERS FOR RELATIONS OF ECONOMIC NEODEPENDENCE

The article makes an attempt to address the meaning of essential mutations in the dependence theory, because in times of the knowledge-based economic the concept of “dependency” calls for closer attention for the two central reasons. Firstly, although the concept of “dependence-based development” is not accepted by us, especially from the long-term perspective, we do believe that absence of production means may be the principal barrier for industrial modernization in peripheral countries. Manufacturing of production means can exist only in developed countries possessing advanced technologies as a key factor for survival in the knowledge-based economy. Secondly, the backwardness in economic development terms cannot be confined to the sum of economic variables, because they are also the social structures and the processes determining this sum. The issue of speed and strength is a crucial one in the new industrial game. The cumulative process, either in terms of quantity or in terms of speed of industrial production, cannot be accessible for many. This will inevitably make the periphery depend on the center

from technological point of view. Transfer of a technology is an important issue including this technology assessment in parallel with the country’s capability to capitalize on this technology, to master it and adapt to the local environment. In other words, transfer of a technology is supposed to combine access to the technology and its acquisition with its effective utilization for the benefit of economic development and catching up development in technologically backward countries. Accessibility and acquisition of an advanced technology are, therefore, insufficient per se to ensure local technological and industrial development. We argue that a supplementary central component of a strategy for technological development at the country level is technological effort aiming at mastering, adaptation, possession and improvement of a technology, which involves the permanent process of technology exchange. This approach to the components of cross-country technology exchange allows us to refute the optimistic assumption that the globalization per se is capable to ensure the equal technological advantage for all the regions and economic agents.