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Economic Trends, Political Trends and Dysfunctionalities at the Global Level

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ABSTRACT:
This study examines the complex interactions between global economic and political developments, with particular attention to the structural and operational dysfunctions influencing contemporary international relations. In recent decades, rapid globalization, technological advances, and growing financial interdependence have generated both opportunities and vulnerabilities worldwide. At the same time, political phenomena—such as the rise of populism, escalating geopolitical tensions, and fragmentation within institutions—interact with economic processes, often intensifying systemic risks and complicated governance. Using a multidisciplinary methodology that integrates macroeconomic analysis, political science theories, and empirical data from international organizations, the research identifies recurring dysfunctions including market instability, policy inconsistencies, and widening socio-economic inequalities. The results highlight the critical importance of coordinated global governance and adaptive policy frameworks to address systemic risks and foster resilient, inclusive development. This paper contributes to a deeper comprehension of the intricate feedback loops between political and economic trends and their consequences for global stability.

Keywords: global economy, political trends, dysfunctionality, systemic risk, governance, globalization

1. Introduction

In today's era, the global economy is undergoing complex changes and influences that shape its direction and dynamics (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012). The study and understanding of global economic trends is a critical and exciting area of research, providing a detailed look at the interactions, challenges, and opportunities that shape the global economy. Exploring and understanding these global economic trends is essential for adapting to and navigating a changing economic environment, for businesses and investors, as well as for policymakers and consumers (Campos & Nugent, 2002). Ultimately, understanding the depth and impact of these global economic trends allows us to shape more effective strategies and build the economic future on a stronger and more sustainable foundation (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012; Rădulescu et al., 2020; Jianu et al., 2019). In essence, geopolitical tensions and instability can create an uncertain and unpredictable economic climate, affect multiple aspects of the global economy and generate risks and challenges for businesses, investors, and consumers. Managing and resolving these tensions is crucial to restoring confidence and promoting stable and sustainable economic growth globally (Alesina et al., 1996; Bran et al., 2020; Profiroiu et al., 2020).

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2. Global political and economic trends

Global economic trends in recent years reflect a complex context, characterized by uncertainty, structural transformations and accelerated adaptations of economies and the business environment. Among the most relevant developments are geopolitical tensions, the slowdown in economic growth, the persistent effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation, regional divergences in economic development and the accelerated process of digitalization. All these phenomena significantly influence the dynamics of the global economy and the medium and long-term development prospects (Gissinger & Gleditsch, 1999; Nica et al., 2023; Rădulescu et al., 2025).

2.1. Economic trends

One of the major factors influencing the world economy is geopolitical tensions and political instability. They affect international trade flows and the functioning of global supply chains (Cohen, 2008).

Armed conflicts, along with economic sanctions or trade barriers, can significantly disrupt the flow of goods and services, leading to delivery delays, higher transportation expenses, and challenges in obtaining the raw materials necessary for production (Fukuyama, 2014; Bran et al., 2023).

At the same time, geopolitical instability negatively influences financial markets and the investment climate, causing increased volatility in capital markets and fluctuations in exchange rates (Jannils, 2021; Jianu et al., 2019). Investors become more cautious in allocating capital to regions characterized by political uncertainty or conflict, which can lead to reduced investment flows and the postponement of economic development projects. Also, the increase in energy and raw material costs, amplified by geopolitical conflicts such as the one in Ukraine, contributes to inflationary pressures and affects both companies and consumers by reducing purchasing power. In this context, geopolitical instability can slow down economic recovery processes and create a global economic climate characterized by uncertainty and unpredictability (Jannils, 2021).

In parallel with these developments, many economies around the world are facing a slowdown in economic growth. This trend is the result of a combination of factors that have negatively influenced the global economic outlook. An important role was played by the persistent effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which generated major disruptions in global economic activity. Restrictions imposed during the pandemic, such as the temporary closure of some economic sectors or the limitation of international mobility, led to significant decreases in the demand for and supply of goods and services. At the same time, geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties led to a reduction in consumption and investment, as both households and companies adopted a more cautious attitude in managing financial resources. Another important factor is the increase in inflation, which has led central banks to adopt restrictive monetary policies, including increasing interest rates. These measures, although necessary to stabilize prices, can have the effect of slowing down credit, reducing investment and reducing aggregate demand (Neugebauer & Vokoun, 2024; Nica et al., 2023). In addition, persistent disruptions in global supply chains and logistical difficulties have affected the production capacity of some economic sectors,

thus contributing to more modest economic growth in many regions of the world (Neugebauer & Vokoun, 2024).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy continues to be felt in multiple dimensions of economic activity. Although many countries have implemented vaccination programs and relaxed health restrictions, the economic recovery process has been relatively slow and uneven across different sectors. Industries such as tourism, hospitality, transportation or event organization have been among the most affected, as their activity depends largely on direct interaction with customers. In contrast, other areas, such as information technology, e-commerce or medical services, have experienced accelerated development, quickly adapting to the new conditions generated by the pandemic. The pandemic has also generated major disruptions in global supply chains, causing production declines, delays in the delivery of goods and increases in logistics costs. The labour market has experienced notable changes due to the health crisis, including job reductions in certain industries and a rapid expansion of remote work. Concurrently, governments have introduced substantial fiscal and monetary support measures to mitigate the pandemic's economic effects, resulting in higher public debt levels in numerous countries. Ongoing uncertainties regarding the pandemic's trajectory and the appearance of new virus variants continue to shape the global economic outlook (North et al., 2009; Belostecinic et al., 2022).

Another important phenomenon that has marked the global economy in recent years is high inflation, which has become a major concern for governments, financial institutions and the business community. The widespread increase in prices for goods and services has significantly reduced the purchasing power of the population and generated pressures on living standards. In many households, the increase in the cost of living has led to the adjustment of family budgets and the reduction of spending in certain areas. For companies, inflation has led to an increase in production costs, especially as a result of the increase in energy and raw material prices. This situation has generated pressure on profit margins and negatively influenced investment decisions. At the same time, in order to combat inflation, central banks have adopted restrictive monetary policies, increasing interest rates and reducing liquidity in the economy. Although these measures contribute to stabilizing prices, they can slow down the pace of economic activity by reducing lending and investment.

In addition, high inflation generates uncertainties in economic planning, affecting the long-term strategies of governments, companies and households (Papadopoulos et al., 2023; Rădulescu et al., 2023).

Global economic developments are also characterized by significant regional divergences in terms of the pace of economic growth. Some emerging or developing economies present more optimistic prospects due to factors such as natural resources, young and growing populations, infrastructure development or investment opportunities. In particular, certain countries in Asia or Africa are recording higher growth rates compared to developed economies (Prasad, 2021; Rădulescu et al., 2025).

In contrast, many advanced economies face challenges such as inflationary pressures, aging populations, geopolitical tensions, or high levels of public debt, which can lead to moderate economic growth. Local factors, the structure of the economy, public

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policies, and the degree of integration into the global economy contribute to these regional differences.

Also, economies that are heavily dependent on exports or certain sectors may be more vulnerable to global market fluctuations and geopolitical changes (Rodrik, 2011; Bran et al., 2023). In this complex context, digitalization has become a key factor in increasing economic resilience and in adapting companies to new market conditions. Digital transformation offers enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones, the opportunity to become more flexible and efficient in managing their economic activities. By adopting digital technologies, companies can respond more quickly to changes in the economic environment, optimize their operational processes, and reduce costs. At the same time, digitalization facilitates access to new markets and business opportunities, as online platforms and e-commerce allow companies to interact with customers and partners around the world.

The use of digital technologies also contributes to stimulating innovation and the development of products and services tailored to consumer needs. The pandemic demonstrated that businesses that had invested in digital technologies were better able to respond to economic disruptions, maintaining operations even under challenging circumstances. Moreover, various governmental and institutional initiatives offer financial aid and advisory services to support the digitalization of SMEs, helping to enhance competitiveness and promote sustainable economic growth (Stiglitz, 2017; Burlacu et al., 2021; Popescu et al., 2021).

2.1.1. Energy security and the impact on global markets

In today's global economic landscape, energy security and international trade regulations have emerged as key issues in discussions about economic stability and sustainable development. Geopolitical tensions and uncertainties surrounding energy supplies have heightened concerns among states and international organizations about the reliability of energy systems. Conflicts in regions critical for the production or transit of energy resources have created significant uncertainty regarding global energy availability and costs. These factors have contributed to rising energy prices, affecting households through higher living costs and businesses through increased production expenses and reduced competitiveness. As a result, many countries are focusing on enhancing energy security by diversifying energy sources and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels from geopolitically unstable areas. This has spurred greater investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, making the energy transition a strategic priority for many economies, both for environmental sustainability and economic resilience (Tao, Wang & Holmgren, 2026; Rădulescu et al., 2022).

The expansion of solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, along with the modernization of energy infrastructure, helps improve national energy autonomy and reduce vulnerabilities linked to imported energy. Simultaneously, implementing energy-efficient technologies lowers resource consumption and supports the long-term sustainability of economic systems.

In addition to the challenges related to energy security, trade regulations and environmental policies adopted at international level increasingly influence global economic relations. A relevant example in this regard is the Carbon Border Adjustment

Mechanism (CBAM) introduced by the European Union, which aims to reduce carbon emissions by applying taxes on imports of products with a high carbon footprint. This measure is part of the European strategy to combat climate change and aims to avoid the phenomenon of "carbon leakage", through which companies could transfer production to countries with less stringent environmental regulations.

However, the implementation of this policy has generated debates and concerns at international level. Some countries and trade organizations believe that such measures could generate market distortions and restrict access to certain products on the European Union market (Tsiotas, 2022; Buzoianu et al., 2024). There are also fears that these regulations could negatively influence international trade and the competitiveness of certain industries, causing tensions in trade relations between the European Union and other major economies (Tsiotas, 2022).

These developments highlight the complexity of the relationship between environmental policies, energy security and the dynamics of international trade. While states aim to enhance their energy independence and minimize environmental impact, they also face the challenge of balancing global trade relations and preventing the onset of economic conflicts.

Thus, finding a balance between environmental objectives, energy security and maintaining an open and fair-trading system is one of the main challenges for governments and international organizations in developing future economic policies.

In parallel with these developments, the year 2023 was marked by significant concern among investors and economic decision-makers regarding the evolution of inflation at a global level. After periods of accelerated price increases recorded in previous years, financial markets began to focus on the possibility of a gradual decrease in inflation and on the pace at which this could occur. In the United States, for example, economic data indicated a trend of decreasing inflation, and economic analysts anticipate the continuation of this trend. The evolution of inflation is an essential element for the stability of financial markets, as it influences the monetary policy decisions of central banks and the performance of different asset classes.

The outlook for lower inflation is supported in part by the easing of logistical constraints that have affected the global economy during the pandemic. Lower transport costs and the gradual normalisation of supply chains have helped to reduce price pressures. Business surveys also point to a decline in inflationary pressures from production costs. In the absence of major supply shocks, these developments could facilitate the continuation of the process of reducing inflation. However, there are still many uncertainties about achieving the inflation target of around 2%, a level considered optimal by many central banks. Factors that could slow down the disinflation process include continued robust consumer demand, a relatively strong labour market and persistent inflation in some sectors of the economy, notably the housing sector. For example, house prices have only recently started to decline, while rent inflation continues to remain at high levels. Historically, rent developments have lagged house prices by about a year, suggesting that inflationary pressures in this sector could persist for a longer period.

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Against this backdrop, central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, need to adopt a cautious approach to monetary policy. While signs of easing inflation are encouraging, the persistence of structural factors that maintain price pressures could limit the scope for more accommodative monetary policy in the short term. Inflation developments therefore remain a key driver of global economic stability and financial market dynamics in the period ahead.

Figure 1. Inflationary shock 1974/2022
Source: OECD

The prospect of a Federal Reserve monetary policy change in 2023 is a topic of interest for investors, given the recent low-interest rate levels, which have led to high valuations of performance indicators such as price-earnings ratio or price-sales ratio. Investors hope that the improving inflation outlook will influence central banks to review recent monetary policies and adopt a different approach in 2023.

As for the war in Ukraine, it has generated significant market risk, known as geopolitical risk, and its value is inversely proportional to the distance from the conflict zone. The risk premium linked to the conflict in Ukraine is estimated to be relatively modest, around 2–3% in terms of the price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio, although certain sectors could gain from a resolution of the conflict. The food and agricultural industries have been among the hardest hit by the war. Together, Ukraine and Russia account for more than 20% of global corn exports, with Ukraine holding the largest share. Consequently, an end to the conflict could provide significant benefits to these sectors, given their critical role in international food trade.

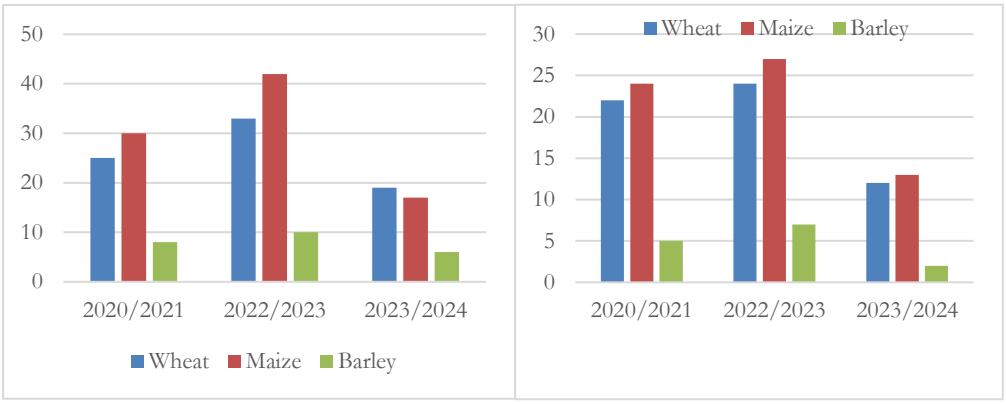

Figure 2. Ukraine's production and exports of major cereals
Source: OECD

2.2. Governance patterns

In today's global political environment, developments across different regions are driving significant and rapidly evolving changes. Political dynamics worldwide reflect an ever-shifting reality, shaped by the varied aspirations, ideologies, and challenges confronting modern states and societies. From rising nationalist movements and influential social forces to the pressures of technological advancement and globalization, international politics is becoming increasingly interconnected and complex (Köksoy, 2023; Aydemir et al., 2023).

The following sections will examine these dynamics in greater detail, highlighting the primary factors shaping them and their effects on contemporary societies and international relations.

2.2.1. Strategic competition between the United States and China

According to the forecasts outlined in *RiskMap 2023*, strained relations between the United States and China continue to represent a defining element of the contemporary geopolitical landscape. Although a direct military confrontation is viewed as unlikely in 2023, strategic rivalry between the two global powers is becoming increasingly pronounced. Both nations are working to enhance self-reliance in critical sectors, particularly technology and defense. The United States is expected to rely on legislative measures and international partnerships to reassess strategic dependencies and restrict China's access to advanced technologies and global capital markets. This firm position toward China remains one of the rare areas of bipartisan consensus within an otherwise politically polarized United States.

Conversely, China is likely to employ regulatory instruments to counter and discourage U.S. foreign policy actions it perceives as provocative, including the introduction of additional export controls.

Beijing will seek closer collaboration with non-aligned countries and those that are less favourable to the United States. While tensions are escalating, Taiwan remains a focal

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point of disputes between the US and China, a sensitive topic that accentuates the geopolitical rivalry between the two powers.

Rise of nationalism and populist movements: In many countries, there has been a rise in nationalism and populist movements, manifested through anti-globalization discourses, criticism of international institutions, and the promotion of protectionist policies.

These trends have influenced the domestic and foreign policy of some states, bringing significant changes in terms of economic policy, migration, and international relations.

Certain populist and nationalist movements have increasingly questioned the role of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and NATO, arguing that these institutions constrain national sovereignty and fail to adequately reflect the interests of ordinary citizens.

Change has become a central issue in global political debates. Governments and international bodies are under growing pressure from public opinion to implement effective policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions and safeguarding the environment. The Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 marked an important milestone in this process, encouraging many countries to reassess their strategies in favour of greater sustainability and environmental responsibility.

At the international level, current political developments are marked by escalating geopolitical tensions, shifts in public policy priorities, and emerging challenges related to security, technological transformation, and cross-border mobility. Interactions among major powers—particularly the United States, China, and Russia—have reshaped international security structures as well as the dynamics of global political and economic cooperation. Consequently, both regional and global security have become key concerns for the international community, as geopolitical rivalries contribute to instability in strategically important areas such as Eastern Europe, East Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. The war in Ukraine, territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and tensions in the Baltic Sea region illustrate how these rivalries can threaten regional and global stability.

These geopolitical pressures have also produced significant effects on international trade and economic relations. Intensifying strategic competition among major powers has accelerated the reconfiguration of global supply chains, redirected trade patterns, and prompted a reassessment of foreign direct investment strategies.

At the same time, geopolitical divergences have influenced international cooperation and the functioning of multilateral institutions. In certain situations, rivalries between influential states have blocked or slowed down decision-making processes within international organizations, limiting their ability to respond effectively to global crises or transnational problems.

At the same time, the rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence has generated new political and ethical debates at the global level. Governments and international organizations are analysing the impact of these technologies on the labour market, data protection, democratic processes and social equity. From this perspective, the development of appropriate regulations for the responsible use

of artificial intelligence is a priority for many states, requiring a balance between stimulating technological innovation and protecting the public interest (Poliak et al., 2025; Rădulescu et al., 2025). Another major factor that has influenced global policies in recent years is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to significant transformations in the field of public health policies and global governance. To limit the spread of the virus, many governments have implemented restrictive measures, such as lockdowns, the closure of educational institutions, travel restrictions and the limitation of non-essential economic activities. These measures have generated intense debates on the balance between protecting public health and maintaining economic activity and civil liberties. The development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines have also become central to government policies, posing challenges related to supply, distribution and equitable access to medical resources.

The pandemic has also highlighted the importance of international cooperation and coordination in managing global crises (Belostecinic et al., 2022; Burlacu et al., 2020). International organizations and national governments have collaborated to facilitate the exchange of information, mobilize resources and implement common strategies to combat the pandemic. In parallel, public authorities have also had to manage the phenomenon of disinformation, which has influenced public perception of health risks and the effectiveness of the measures adopted. Thus, public communication and combating false information have become essential components of public health policies (Köksoy, 2023).

In the context of these global transformations, another worrying trend is the rise of authoritarianism and the erosion of democratic institutions in certain regions of the world. In some states, authoritarian governments have adopted policies that limit civil liberties, restrict press freedom and reduce the space for civil society. In parallel, the undermining of democratic institutions, such as an independent judiciary or transparent electoral mechanisms, has become a major problem in certain political contexts.

The manipulation of electoral processes, the concentration of political power and the limitation of political pluralism can lead to the diminution of democratic legitimacy and the consolidation of authoritarian regimes (Profiroiu et al., 2020; Jianu et al., 2019).

This development is often accompanied by the rise of nationalist and xenophobic discourses, which can generate discriminatory policies against ethnic, religious or migrant minorities. Relevant examples of these trends can be observed in political developments in states such as Russia, China, Hungary, Turkey or Venezuela, where authoritarian elements have become more pronounced in recent years. Such developments can have significant implications for global stability and the rules-based international order, affecting the democratic principles that underpinned the post-Cold War international system.

In parallel, international migration and immigration policies have become central themes in global political debates. The increase in migratory flows has led governments to pay increased attention to border security and the fight against illegal migration, as well as human trafficking. At the same time, immigration policies must also address issues related to the social and economic integration of immigrants, including their access to education, health services, housing and employment opportunities.

Managing migration flows also involves finding balances between the economic and demographic needs of host states and their humanitarian responsibilities towards refugees and migrants (Burlacu et al., 2022; Profiroiu et al., 2020). The European Union, for example, has faced major challenges in developing common policies on the distribution

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of migrants among its member states and the management of migration flows from unstable regions. Similarly, in the United States, immigration policies are a constant topic of political debate, particularly with regard to border security and the status of undocumented migrants. In the Gulf states, strict immigration policies are closely linked to the dependence of local economies on migrant labour.

Taken together, these developments reflect the complexity of the contemporary global political environment, characterised by economic interdependencies, rapid technological transformation and significant geopolitical challenges. In this context, the ability of states and international institutions to cooperate, to develop effective policies and to maintain a balance between security, economic development and respect for democratic values is an essential element for the stability and sustainability of the international system.

3. Global dysfunction analysis

In the contemporary world, global dysfunctions are a pervasive reality that profoundly influences the course and dynamics of human society. These dysfunctions extend beyond national boundaries, influencing not only specific regions or communities but the global system as a whole. Challenges such as climate change, social inequality, geopolitical conflicts, and pandemics collectively undermine stability and hinder sustainable progress worldwide (Bran et al., 2020; Rădulescu et al., 2020).

In the contemporary international environment, large-scale dysfunctions have become increasingly visible, exerting substantial effects on global stability, development, and interstate cooperation. Among the most significant issues are geopolitical tensions, unequal access to education, environmental degradation, and regional conflicts, all of which contribute to the growing complexity of global challenges and heightened international uncertainty.

Geopolitical tensions represent a major source of instability at the global level. State rivalries, political confrontations, and strategic conflicts have created a strained international climate, influencing trade relations, diplomatic engagement, and global security structures. Territorial disputes—such as those in the South China Sea, Crimea, the Middle East, and the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan—demonstrate how competing territorial claims can escalate into serious conflicts. At the same time, competition over natural resources, including oil, natural gas, water supplies, and fertile agricultural land, intensifies interstate rivalries and often serves as a catalyst for regional tensions. Furthermore, the pursuit of power and influence among major global actors fuels economic and political competition, weakening international cooperation and increasing instability across multiple regions. Managing these challenges requires sustained diplomatic engagement, dialogue, and coordinated international action aimed at preventing escalation and encouraging peaceful conflict resolution.

Global dysfunctions are also reflected in persistent inequalities in access to education (Jianu et al., 2019; Nica et al., 2023). Disparities between developed and developing countries in educational opportunities reinforce cycles of poverty and economic inequality, thereby restricting prospects for social mobility and long-term economic development worldwide (Bran et al., 2020; Rădulescu et al., 2020).

Climate change and pollution are other major challenges with transnational impacts. Industrial emissions, road traffic, deforestation and poor waste management generate air, water and soil pollution, affecting human health and biodiversity. Biodiversity loss, driven by habitat degradation and urbanization, compromises the functioning of ecosystems, natural cycles and essential resources for food and water supplies (Rădulescu et al., 2022; Mogos et al., 2021).

Regional security issues and conflicts also contribute to global dysfunction. Armed conflicts, terrorism, humanitarian crises and political instability generate tensions that affect international peace and stability (Bran et al., 2023; Rădulescu et al., 2025). In this context, the rise of nationalism and protectionism can weaken international cooperation, affecting multilateral organizations and treaties, such as the World Trade Organization or global trade agreements. This can lead to increased uncertainty, reduced trust in the international system and slowed progress towards more effective global collaboration.

Promoting constructive dialogue, cooperation between states and fair-trade policies are essential elements for strengthening economic and political stability at the global level. Understanding and awareness of these dysfunctions are fundamental for building a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all people on the planet, through an integrated approach to economic, political, social and environmental challenges.

According to a survey conducted by Ipsos and the World Economic Forum (WEF), support for globalization has decreased in recent years, with about half of those surveyed considering globalization to be beneficial for their country. Nevertheless, this level of support has fallen by approximately 10 percentage points compared to 2019, while nearly one-third of respondents expressed approval for the introduction of trade restrictions. Although the expansion of trade continues to be viewed favourably—around 75% of respondents consider it advantageous—overall support for globalization has weakened, alongside a growing inclination toward protectionist measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial disruptions to international trade, leading to a significant contraction in 2020, with services trade experiencing a sharper decline than trade in goods. Despite generally positive attitudes toward trade liberalization, increasing demands for trade barriers indicate a rising protectionist trend. The pandemic also reshaped global trade patterns, generating stronger demand for durable goods and enabling this sector to recover more rapidly than the services sector.

4. Conclusion

The analysis of contemporary global dynamics demonstrates that current economic and political trends are deeply interconnected and mutually reinforcing, generating systemic pressures that transcend national boundaries (Nica et al., 2023; Rădulescu et al., 2025).

Economic transformations—marked by technological acceleration, environmental transition, financial volatility, and structural inequalities—interact with political shifts such as geopolitical realignment, institutional fragility, and declining consensus within multilateral frameworks. These interactions produce persistent

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dysfunctionalities, including governance inefficiencies, fragmented policy responses, and reduced capacity to address global collective-action problems.

Rather than representing temporary disruptions, these patterns indicate a structural transition in the architecture of the international system (Burlacu et al., 2024; Bran et al., 2023; Rădulescu et al., 2023). The emerging global landscape is characterized by multipolarity, strategic competition, and differentiated development paths, all of which complicate coordination yet simultaneously create opportunities for institutional innovation and adaptive governance. Addressing these challenges requires integrated policy approaches that bridge economic and political domains, strengthen international cooperation mechanisms, and promote inclusive and sustainable growth models.

Ultimately, the resilience of the global system will depend on the ability of states, international organizations, and non-state actors to recognize interdependence as a foundational principle of modern governance. Strengthening transparency, fostering trust, and aligning national strategies with global priorities will be essential for mitigating systemic risks and ensuring long-term stability.

Continued interdisciplinary research is therefore indispensable for understanding evolving global trends and informing evidence-based policy solutions capable of navigating an increasingly complex and uncertain world order.

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