

tegy for preserving its own cultural values. By importing Western technology under the slogan “Japanese spirit and Western skills” (wakon yosai), in practice, they were significantly different from the American model.

Economic theories challenge the cultural roots of long-term employment by pointing out the fact that its origin dates back to the early twentieth century, when it gradually developed as a business strategy that avoided significant fluctuations in the number of employees, which created difficulties for companies, especially in key industries such as iron and steel. In order to tackle this problem, companies began to offer incentives aimed to encourage experienced workers to stay. The actual long-term employment system was created as a compromise between management and trade unions, being a mutually beneficial deal rather than as a solution imposed by cultural norms. The legal framework that developed during the same period and supported long-term employment was arguably based on public policies that promoted the long-term employment practices. In parallel, Japanese courts simultaneously established the legal doctrine of abusive dismissal, which has been present in a number of cases since the 1950s, limiting the employer’s authority to dismiss workers.

To a certain extent, the Japanese legal system today is a hybrid of continental and Anglo-American legal structures. Consequently, in Japan there are two sets of rules that have coexisted for more than a century, that is, the legal system imported from the West (legal norms), and traditional non-legal social rules and standards. While cultural aspects remain active at present, Japanese law is also a dynamic system that has undergone major changes and reforms over the past two decades.

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## **GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR IN A MODERN WORLD**

## **РАЗРЫВ МЕЖДУ БОГАТЫМИ И БЕДНЫМИ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ**

Capitalists and anti-capitalists have always argued about which economic system is more suitable. However, almost all countries adhere to capitalism. Nevertheless,

capitalism has a number of serious problems. This applies to aspects such as monopoly power, externalities, financial instability and economic cycle [1].

From our point of view, one of the main disadvantages is inequality which leads to a gap between the rich and the poor. This particular aspect we would like to analyze. The issue was included into MDGs and was partially solved. It was also included on the list of SDGs [2]. There is a question: is the gap still widening or not in the world?

There are two points of view regarding this issue. Firstly, that the gap between societies most and least affluent is constantly widening. Secondly, that it's not widening. In support of the first claim, there is a global anti-poverty charity organization Oxfam, which publishes an annual report that is frequently referenced in this regard. According to Dmitry Medlev, the Head of Oxfam in Russia, "In 2014 we announced that 85 people in the world own the same amount of material wealth as the poorest half of the population" [3].

According to the statistics, 70 % of people in the world have less than 10 thousand dollars in savings. If we add all their money together, it turns out that they own only 2.7% of the world wealth. And only a small number of people who own huge money: 0.7 % of the world's population controls almost 46 % of the world wealth [1].

One more point in support of the gap's widening is the research of Robert Manduca, a Harvard Ph. D. Student. Manduca states that "In 1980, only about 12 percent of the population lived in places that were especially rich or especially poor. By 2013, it was over 30 percent." He connects inequality with what he called "sorting", which means that high-earning people and high-paying jobs have become more geographically concentrated, for example in such cities as New York and San Francisco [1].

On the other hand, there is evidence in support of the gap's non-existence. For example, one of them is the research of French economist Thomas Piketty, who wrote the bestseller "Capital in the Twenty-First Century". He analyzed that the gap between the poor and the rich didn't grow considerably over the most part of the twentieth century. Moreover, according to the Harvard University professor Steven Pinker's book "Enlightenment Now", which was published in 2018, "over the past 200 years the rate of extreme poverty in the world has fallen from 90 % to 10 %" [2].

However, it should be noted that now measures are being taken to reduce poverty in the world. One of the Sustainable Development Goals of UN is ending poverty in all its forms. In 2018 the UN Secretary-General announces progress in overcoming it. The report of Antonio Guterres indicates that in 2000 there was 27 % below the extreme poverty line, and now only 9 % [1].

To summarize, we would like to emphasize that the problem of the gap between rich and poor people is topical today. In a market economy the world cannot get rid of it completely. However, the inequality can be reduced if governments take the right economic policy at the national level.

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### **THE PROBLEM OF INFORMATION FALSIFICATION IN THE INTERNET AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY**

### **ПРОБЛЕМА ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЙ ФАЛЬСИФИКАЦИИ В ИНТЕРНЕТЕ И ЕЕ ВЛИЯНИЕ НА ЭКОНОМИКУ**

Currently, the main source of information for most modern people has become neither TV, nor newspapers or books, but the Internet. Most people are unshakable in the confidence of receiving reliable and independent information on the Internet. The whole offline world is perceived as an inferior parody to the world of online servers.