

THE PHASE OF THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT CYCLE - A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET ECONOMY

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***Abstract:** Summary: Based on the analysis of integral development cycles, the possible scenarios after the completion of the current one are investigated. The current phases of the K-cycle and the integral cycle are shown. The question has been raised whether this cyclicity can be put to an end and whether actual sustainable development can be achieved. The possibility of using the logistics internet and the global digitization of supply chain management as a tool to achieve the goals of sustainable development and evolutionary transition from a market to a global planned economy is proposed. An analysis of the strategic coalition choice of Bulgaria for the last five integral cycles of the development was made, and on this basis - a hypothesis about the expected consequences.*

***Keywords:** economic cycles, security environment, development, integral development cycle, sustainable development, supply chain management, logistics internet, Kondratiev big waves, Kitchen cycles, Juglar cycles, Kuznets cycles, integral development cycle, planned economy*

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ФАЗАТА ОТ ИНТЕГРАЛНИЯ ЦИКЪЛ НА РАЗВИТИЕТО – КРИТИЧЕН ПОГЛЕД КЪМ КОНЦЕПЦИЯТА ЗА УСТОЙЧИВО РАЗВИТИЕ И ПАЗАРНА ИКОНОМИКА

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***Резюме:** На основата на анализа на интегралните цикли на развитието се изследват възможните сценарии след приключването на настоящия. Показани са актуалните фази от К-цикълa и интегралния цикъл. Повдигнат е въпросът дали може да се постави край на тази цикличност и дали може да се постигне реално устойчиво*

развитие. Предложена е възможността за използване на логистичния интернет и по-конкретно глобалната цифровизация на управлението на веригите за доставки като инструмент за постигане целите на устойчивото развитие и еволюционен преход от пазарна към глобална планова икономика. Направен е анализ на стратегическия коалиционен избор на България за последните пет интегрални цикъла на развитието и на тази основа – хипотеза за очакваните последици.

Ключови думи: *икономически цикли, среда за сигурност, развитие, интегрален цикъл на развитието, устойчиво развитие, управление на веригите за доставки, логистичен интернет, големи вълни на Кондратиев, цикли на Китчен, цикли на Жюглар, цикли на Кузнец, интегрален цикъл на развитието, планова икономика*

10 юли 2023 год.

INTRODUCTION

Cyclical development is characteristic of all systems. Capitalism, as a social economic system, is no exception. This cyclicity was studied even by K. Marx, and later economic theory concretized Kitchen cycles lasting 3-4 years, Juglar - 4-7 years, Kuznets - 15-25 years and Kondratiev - 40-70 years . (Economic Cycles As a Tool for Analysis of the Global Political Situation, 2023) (Korotayev, et al., 2010) (Inlet, 2012) (CFI Team, 2019) (Акаев, 2013) (Генезис теорий цикличности мировой экономики, 2010) (Изследване на икономическите цикли на САЩ и Р. България, 2009) (Циклите на икономическата динамика, 2019) (Смирнов , 2022) (Формите на цивилизационното развитие, 2009) The joint influence of this cyclicity finds its manifestation in the dynamics of socio-economic relations on a global level. (Economic Cycles As a Tool for Analysis of the Global Political Situation, 2023) The historical analysis of events and the drama of socio-political changes at the moments of local minima in the dynamics of development pose the question of whether it is possible to achieve truly sustainable development, what changes are needed and what are the challenges to their implementation.

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DYNAMICS FROM THE END OF THE FIFTH AND THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTH K-CYCLE AND CYCLE OF DEVELOPMENT

On July 7, 2023, during the visit of the President of Ukraine, the President of the Czech Republic made a statement in connection with the conflict in Ukraine, in which he shared the opinion that there cannot be an option in which Russia wins, because it will destroy the values on which the western society is built (Костырин, 2023) (Zachová, 2022). At first glance, this statement is related to the political conjuncture of events that have emerged since the end of 2021. A closer analysis, however, shows that the world is in a severe depression that will lead to fundamental changes far beyond those of the end of the 80s and the beginning of the 90s of The

twentieth century. Unfortunately the role of the Russian Federation in these processes is wrongly assessed by Western politicians. Russia is not their engine, but only the possible trigger triggered by the circumstances related to the protection of their national interests. Western media rhetoric very often focuses on events related to values demonstrating the transition to transhumanism, related to LGBT ideology, the "green transition" and Satanism. (Дугин, 2014) For this reason, one can be left with the impression that the global opposition is precisely at this level. In fact, it is not about a confrontation between neoliberalism and conservatism, but about countering the infiltration of values that are not inherent to the respective societies. It is not taken into account that no one intends to point to the "West", but foreign understandings of God, family, and homeland cannot be accepted either. Another type of "values" is clearly under threat here. These are the values that fundamentally determine the foundations of society. Here it is worth making a clarification. In 2012, I defined the term "structural reforms" of the third level. (Йоцов, 2012) These are the changes in people's way of thinking and aspirations. On this "front" the fight for *"influencing their hearts and minds"* unfolds. Thus, in this way, the information wars aimed at the control of information processes pass to a new high level - cognitive wars, aimed at transforming information into knowledge, through the thought processes in the human brain (Bernal, et al., 2021) (Cognitive warfare and the vulnerabilities of democracies, 2021) The structural reforms of the second level are the construction of the relevant institutions - laws, ministries, ruling elite, etc., which are called to carry out the transition and maintain the established regime unchanged. Structural reforms of the first order affect precisely those values of the respective society that characterize it as such and distinguish it from the rest. These are the type of economy - slaveholding, feudal, market or planned, the role of religion in the government - theocracy or secular government, attitude to ownership of the means of production – degree, and function of the state in economic relations,

etc. The corresponding constitution expresses this level of structural reforms, respectively a set of values. (Йоцов, 2012). In this sense, the president of the Czech Republic is undoubtedly correct. The "first-level values" of Western society are under threat, but this threat does not come from the Russian Federation. The biggest enemy for it is Western society itself.

Western society is the core of capitalist socio-economic relations, occupying a dominant position at the global level at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. The history of the development of these relations shows a transition to the present through five K-cycles. . (Economic Cycles As a Tool for Analysis of the Global Political Situation, 2023) And every time there has been a severe crisis related to the collapse of empires, changes in socio-economic regimes, etc., it has not been the result of politics on one side or the other, but from the natural cyclicity of capitalism. (Дугин, 2014). Therefore, the situation in this respect is no different at the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth K-cycle.

The historical analysis of events shows that these cycles were always based on imperial relations between the so-called metropolises and colonies - the crisis was resolved at the expense of the expansion of the colonial empire, regardless of whether it was political or financial subjugation. (Дугин, 2014) Today the situation is much different. In the late 1980s, Eastern Europe lost the Cold War long before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Despite strict control and countermeasures by the relevant state authorities, the West won the hearts and souls of the population, through the development of the consumer society and its subsidization through debt growth (Фурсов, 2023). It gives the impression that state elites have sold out, surrendered, or been removed and replaced. Economic ties destroyed and markets closed. Thus, by replacing the values of the third and second level, one logically arrives at the need for structural reforms of the first level, which societies not only lacked the resources and capacity to counteract but also wanted them from the bottom of their souls. The

reasons for the negative gradient at the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth cycle in the dynamics of global development are determined by the exhaustion of the socio-economic model, mainly related to the liberal form of capitalism. (Йоцов, 2018). After 2014, primarily the BRICS countries, but also with the participation of many countries such as Egypt, Iran, and India, laid the foundation for a new world order based on multipolarity, mutual respect of interests, and effective international law. Gradually, the displacement of the US dollar in international currency relations by the respective national currencies began. (BBC News, 2015) (BRICS Business Council, 2023) Western-dominated global governance bodies are driving the creation of alternative ones. In 2012, at the fourth meeting of BRICS, the New Development Bank was established (New Development Bank, 2023). With the beginning of the Special Military Operation (SMO), a new stage in the stratification of the "West" against all others begins. (MacGregor, 2023) Unlike the previous cycle in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the paradigm shift will not happen without resistance from the part that has to give it up, i.e.. The West. There are several reasons for this. First, a historical stereotype has been imposed in which global politics have been dominated by it for several centuries. Second, regardless of the superposition of several negative phases of the listed economic cycles, the accumulated economic power and corresponding influence is significant. Third, at the moment only the Russian Federation is protecting its interests as it sees fit. Nevertheless, the process of consolidating the remaining countries against the "West" is underway. At the BRICS meeting in August 2023, 19 more countries are expected to join the organization. (Vecchiatto, 2023). On 04 July 2023 Iran joined the SCO. (Khaliq , et al., 2023). For now, the African Union is only exploring the possibility of resolving the crisis in Libya (Chothia, 2020), but it has received a categorical refusal from NATO. Thus, the conflict in Ukraine turns out to be zero-sum. For Russia, the loss would also mean the loss of its statehood in its current

form, possibly the fragmentation of many small states and the return to power of the comprador dictatorship of the oligarchic type. (Шейтельман, 2023) (Сивков, 2023). For NATO, amid the ongoing conflict in Syria, North Africa and growing tensions in other parts of the world, an inability to meet all the challenges with the subsequent decline and collapse of the organization. In such a situation, the preservation of the status quo is in favour of Russian interests, because in this way anti-Western sentiments are consolidated and the push out from spheres of influence increases. (Smith, 2022). NATO will seek to escalate the conflict before it happens, hoping to provoke Russia into actions that will lead to its loss, or at least in the eyes of the public, to be classified as a weakness. The first step in this regard is the decision to hand over depleted uranium projectiles to Ukraine. (Al Jazeera, 2023). Cluster munitions follow (ABC, 2023) Particularly disturbing is the deployment of the alliance's armed forces in the Baltic countries, Poland and Romania, which increases the likelihood of an escalation of the conflict and its expansion into the territory of Eastern Europe. (Meduza, 2023) (Italy 24 , 2023) (Сивков, 2023) (Macgregor, 2023) Historical analysis shows a similar situation already in the 13th-15th centuries, when Eastern Europe took the blows from the East, was ruined and from the centre of European civilization becomes its periphery and remains less developed than the western part of the continent in its socio-economic development. The situation was similar during the Second World War when most of the fighting took place on the territory of Eastern Europe.

Such scenarios are completely unacceptable for the Russian leadership, which will undoubtedly use the full range of its available arsenal if the existence of the state in its current form is threatened. (Coffey, 2022) The new types of weaponry, the scale of the means of attack and the possibility of covert deployment of a significant part of the strategic nuclear forces categorically exclude this possibility. Considering

the intellectual and volitional capacity of the ruling elites, however, does not mean that such an attempt cannot be made.

Therefore, from 2022, the world enters a severe depression, and two extremely difficult moments can be expected, in which uncertainty is particularly high and can become a bifurcation point with a variant of events with severe consequences for the entire civilization. (See Figure 2)

II. ECONOMIC CYCLES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. EVOLUTION FROM A MARKET ECONOMY TO A PLANNED ONE.

If, however, this period of high turbulence in the global security conditions is successfully passed, then the logical question arises - can the world continue in the same way? Won't the subsequent depression in the conditions of high technology turn out to be without the possibility of a favourable outcome? Can sustainable development be achieved and if the answer to this question is positive, what are the next steps and what could be the main challenges to solving the problems?

Sustainable development is a relatively simple concept of the United Nations (UN), adopted by world leaders in September 2015 (United Nations, 2016) further developed over the years. In short, these are 17 goals, the achievement of which by 2030 should ensure the sustainable development of society. (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023) These goals refer to four main pillars – social development, economy, environment and culture. The backwardness of one of them or its development at the expense of the others leads to an imbalance in the relevant social system. Achieving sustainable development in any system should ensure global sustainable development.

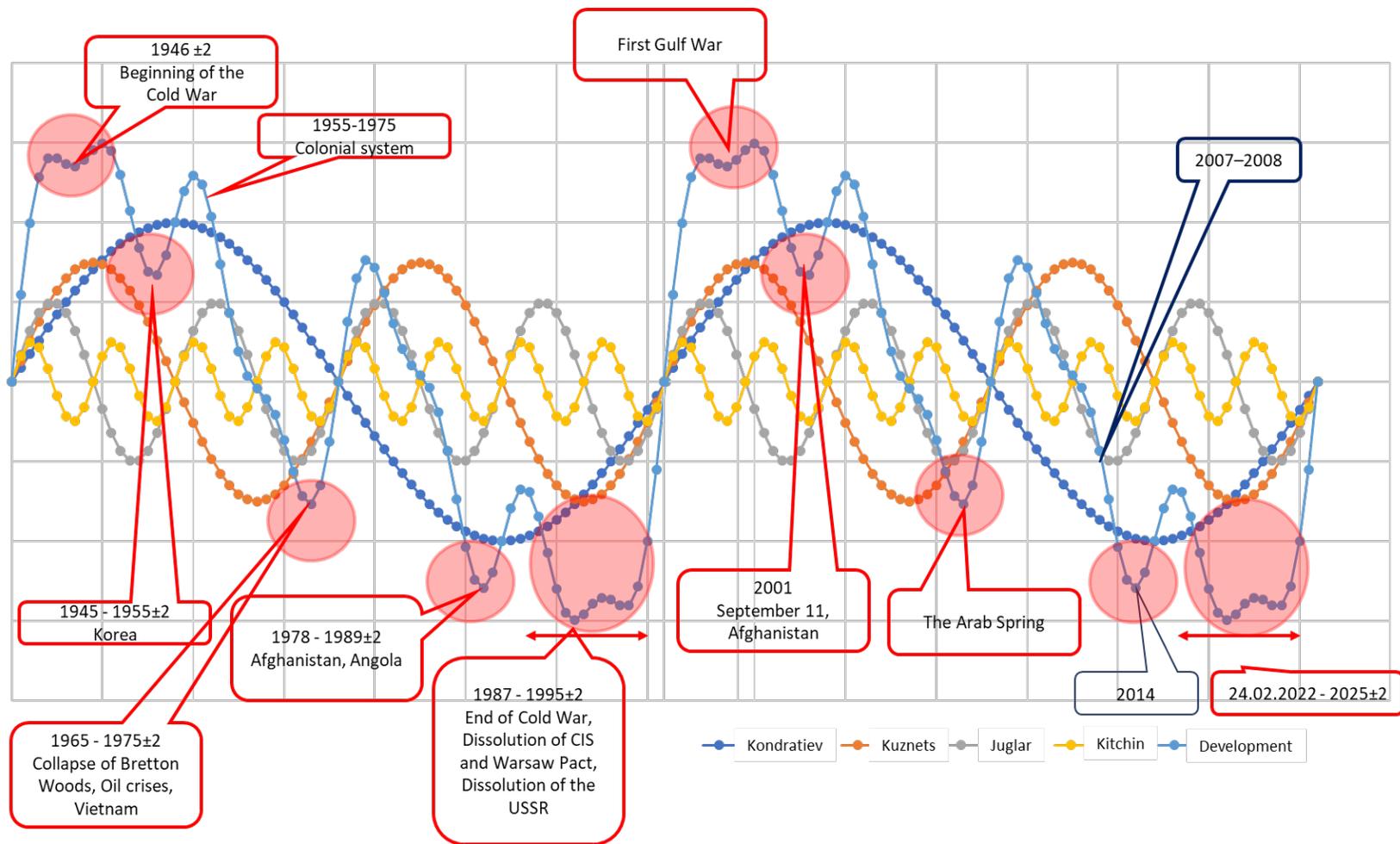


Fig. 1 Distribution of the last two integral cycles of development and major crises

A closer analysis of the individual goals shows that they are entirely unfeasible and that no matter what effort is made, the concept will fail. The reason for this is the dialectical nature of the modern socio-economic organization of society, relying on the "invisible hand" of the market to regulate and optimize everything. Economic development is the foundation on which society's prosperity is built, therefore achieving its sustainability is the main necessary condition for ensuring general sustainability. Without sustainable economic development, failure in environmental protection, social and cultural development follows. Economic cycles are an inherent characteristic of capitalist socio-economic organization. At the same time, at the age of 40-70, several negative phases of the Kitchen, Juglar, Kuznets and Kondratiev cycles accumulate in the same period of time. The mutual feeding of different economic processes deepens the negative dynamics. This is the reason why the concept of sustainable development is doomed to failure under the conditions of the dominant capitalist socio-economic organization.

Logically, the question arises whether it is possible to change this paradigm. Figure 1 shows that since 2014-2015 the world has entered the sixth K-cycle. The unipolar world dominated by one hegemon has come to an end. The beginning of the multipolar world order has been laid. This is confirmed by strengthening the role of the BRICS countries in international relations (BRICS Business Council, 2023), reducing the share of the US dollar in international payments (BRICS Business Council, 2023), building a new model of economic cooperation within the SCO (Nucharapova, 2019). and sanctions that lead to self-isolation of the West (MacGregor, 2023). In fact, the foundations were laid not only for the new world order. The construction of new economic ties, interaction and cooperation begins, which is increasingly reminiscent of economic cooperation within the framework of the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance (CMEA), but at a new level, based on modern management concepts and technologies. It is noteworthy that the Russian

Federation under the personal control of Prime Minister Mishustin in 2020 is successfully deploying an information system for managing the national economy (online system for monitoring and analysis) (Министерство цифрового развития, связи и массовых коммуникаций Российской Федерации, 2023). This is the main reason for the low effectiveness of sanctions imposed by the West (Hivert, 2023). Also in 2021, the World Economic Forum announced a concept for building a "logistics internet", which envisages the complete digitization of supply chain management (Jensen, 2020). The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted the need for real-time supply chain management. Undoubtedly, the digitization carried out within the borders of the Russian economy will also spread to the SCO, as long as the countries of this organization have an additional political incentive for this in the form of the constant threat of sanctions from the West. The next step will be the spread of the model of economic interaction within the BRICS, and from there to the regional level in South America and Africa. Thus, we are essentially witnessing an evolutionary transition to real-time supply chain management at national, regional and global levels, i.e. global planned economy in real time. This creates the economic basis for truly sustainable development. To stimulate the other pillars of sustainable development, existing global governance bodies need to be reformed, or they will be replaced by an alternative that fairly reflects the interests of all countries.

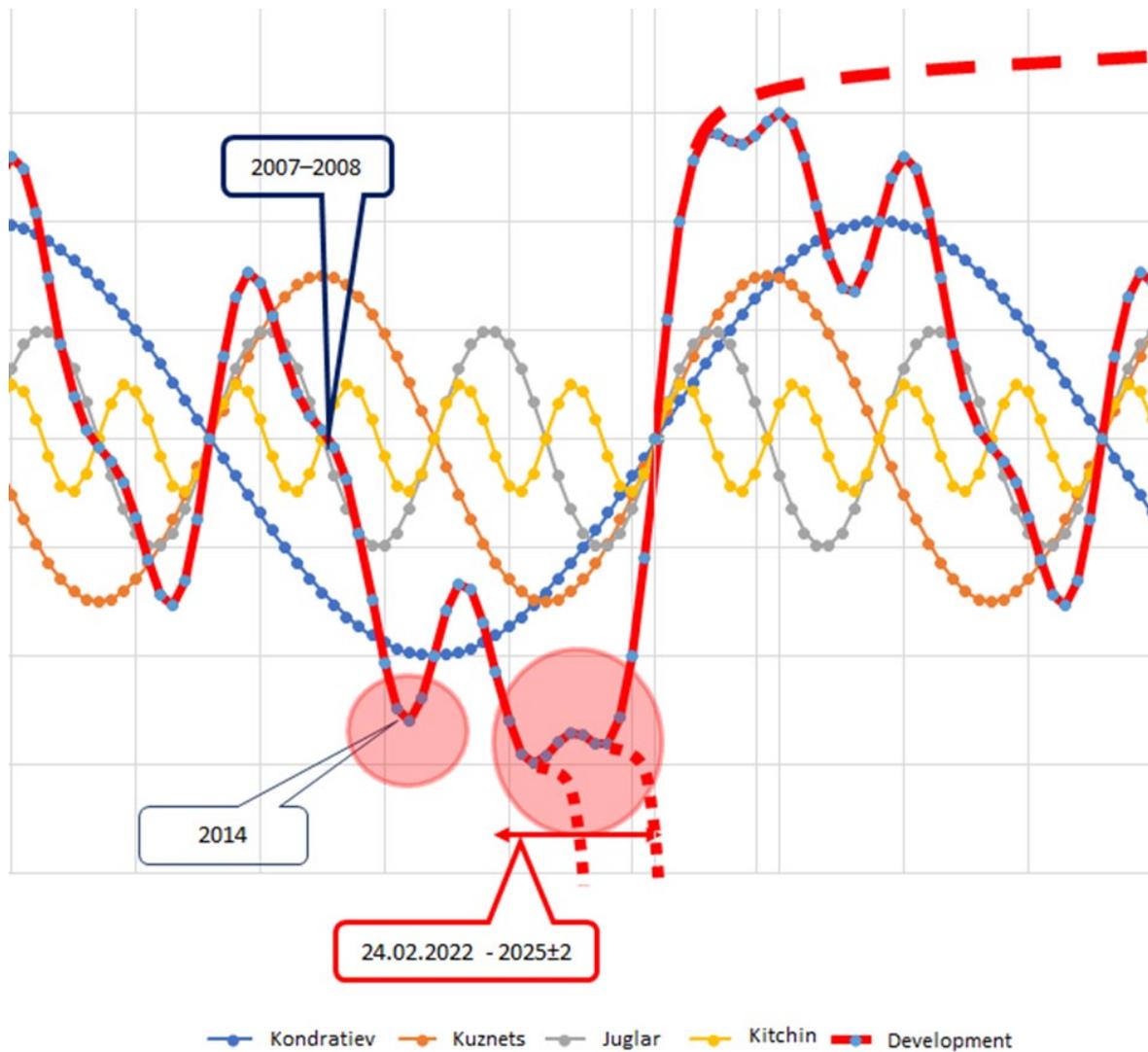


Fig. 2 Expected bifurcation points

The potential curve of global development has a relatively small slope because it must correspond to economic growth, which in turn corresponds to demographic growth, plus minimal increase in well-being. (LONG-RUN DRIVERS OF INFLATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY, 2022) This also means a total rethinking of economic growth as a development factor and its measure, especially since the Earth's resources are limited to its geographical characteristics.

These processes will be accompanied by unprecedented challenges, which will also require non-standard solutions. First, probably the majority of the so-called

developed world will not accept third-level structural reforms. This will divide the world, at least in the first decades, into two spheres again. Second, the model of sustainable development requires socially responsible behaviour of all individuals. In conditions where vast masses of the population, mainly in Europe, North and South America, have been weaned for generations that life and prosperity are based on construction work, unpopular measures will have to be implemented to change this attitude.

Thus humanity is currently faced with the dilemma of whether to continue with cyclical development with the ominous prospect of uncontrolled development, including ambiguous technologies such as genetics, artificial intelligence and population control, or to lay the actual foundations of humanism and global sustainable development under the control of global governing bodies. The point of bifurcation will be after the end of the conflict in Ukraine, if the previous one is overcome - in the conflict itself, when the very existence of the majority of humanity is at stake. (See Figure 2)

In case that the crisis that began in 2014 with a loss for the Russian Federation is overcome, it will inevitably follow a smooth march towards the establishment of global transhumanism (Дугин, 2014)), financial dictatorship and control, and continue into the next cycle with increasing scales of crises and threats to humanity. This is illustrated by the five local minima of the integral development cycle in Figure 3.

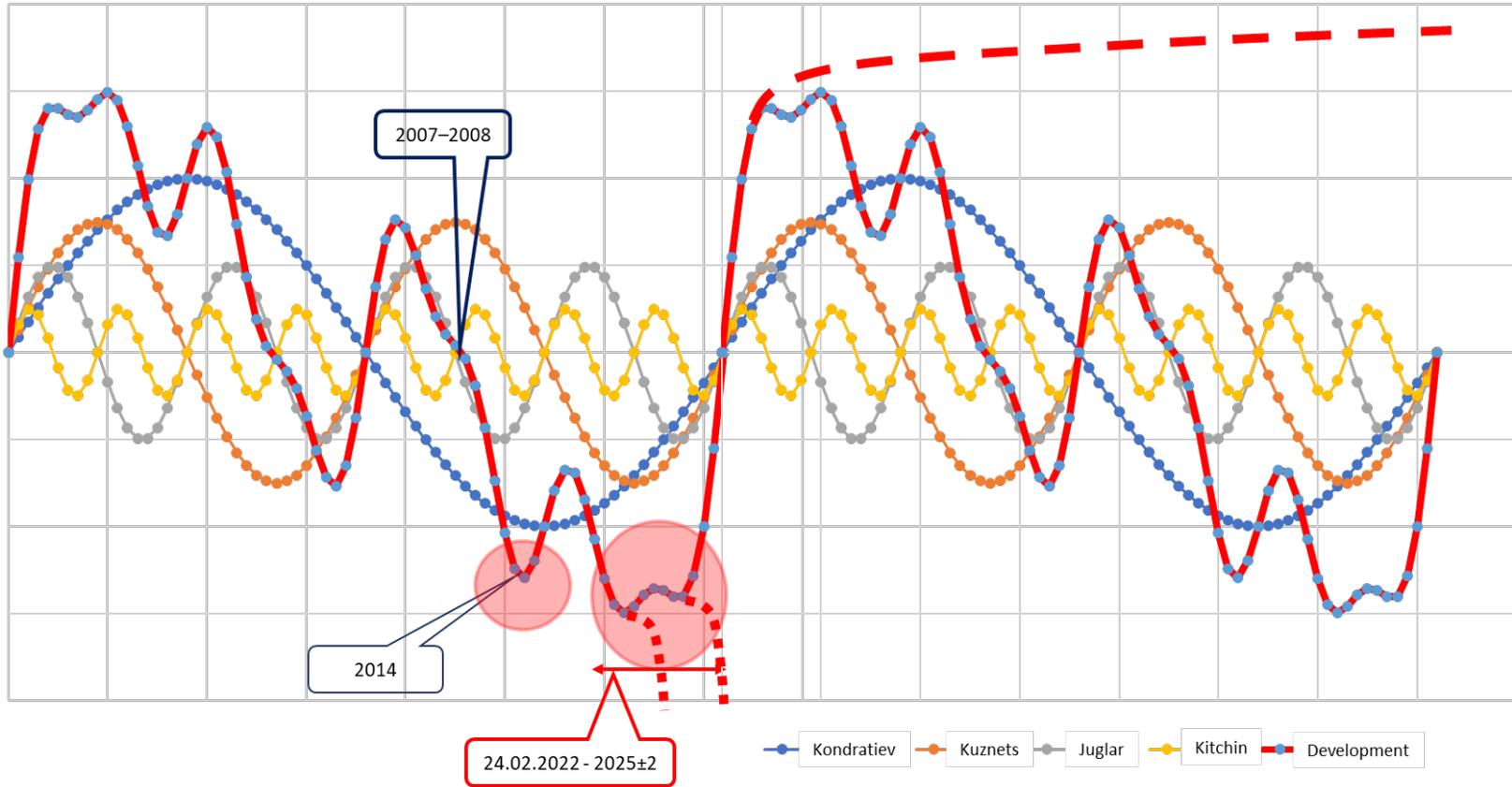


Fig. 3 Expected transition bifurcation points in the sixth cycle

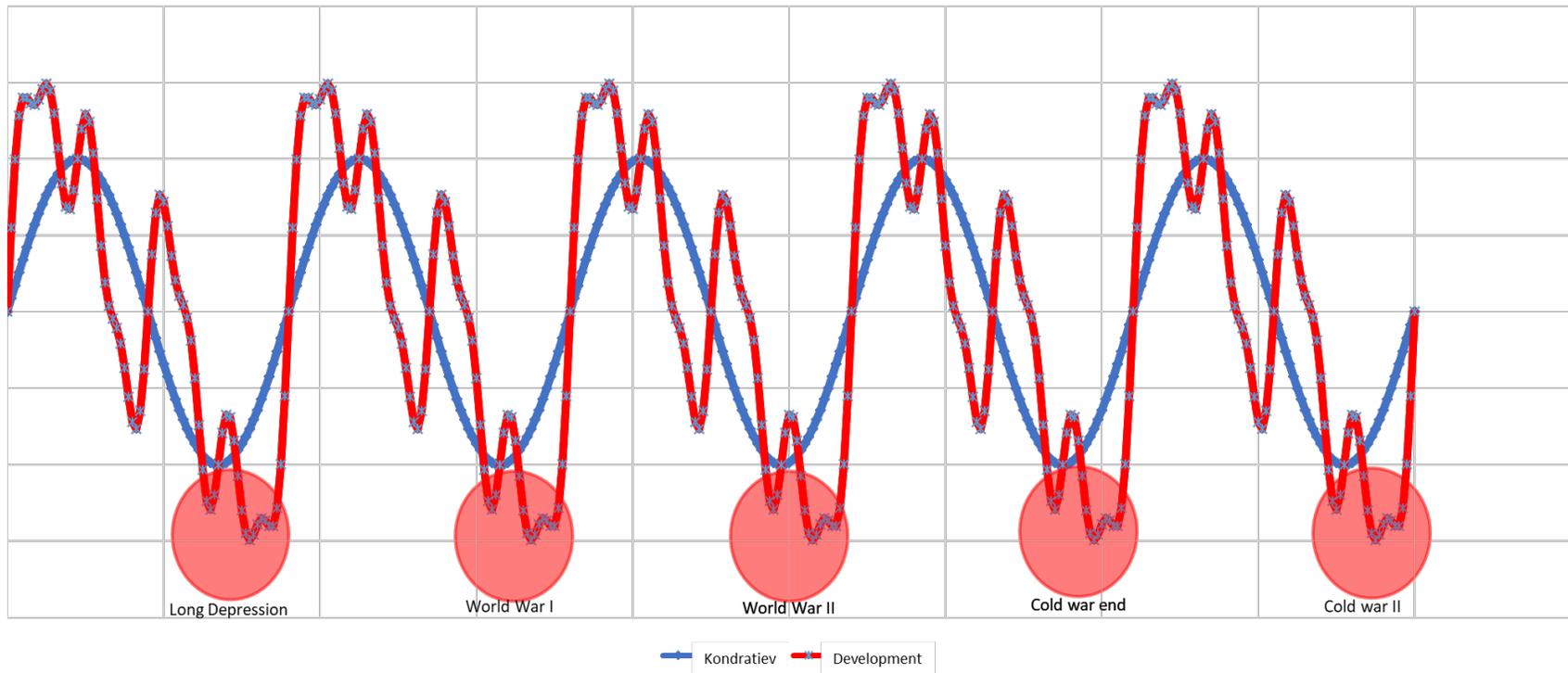


Fig. 4 Distribution of global crises of the late 19th and 20th centuries

Everything described so far gives a relatively straightforward perspective on the development and is of particular importance for the strategic choice of countries that do not have the resources to manage these processes. Figure 4 shows conditionally the last K-cycles and the integral dynamics of development, which are directly related to the strategic level of management. Regarding Bulgaria, the historical analysis shows that the country is always in the coalition of countries that lose in the respective confrontation with severe consequences, characterized as national catastrophes. Even within the Ottoman Empire, when it had no choice, the situation was similar. This raises the reasonable question of whether wrong decisions have been made again, leading to results similar to the past. (Христов, 2021)

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the dynamics in the development and analysis of the strategic standoff show that it is zero-sum and the world is in a severe crisis, placing all aspects of security in an extremely unstable state. Uncertainty is high, and some of the possible scenarios foresee an eventual escalation with the use of nuclear weapons. If the dominant position of the West is preserved, the global imposition of the neoliberal ideology and the entry into a new series of crises related to the uncontrolled development of a number of technologies will follow. However, it is more likely that the crisis will be overcome, the world will be divided into a so-called West, which will monitor the actions and development of the remaining consolidated countries. Sustainable development will be achieved at the expense of complete digitization and real-time planning and management of the economy.

The historical analysis of the strategic choice of partners and coalitions for Bulgaria in the past cycles of development dynamics shows a sustainable trend of failures leading to severe national crises.

The described theses and analyses are likely to meet fierce criticism and epithets such as populism, national socialism, Trotskyism or utopia by experts who have built their prosperity based on conformity and financial support behind which are unlimited financial resources and power. This clarification is made to help critics find a foothold, but I will gladly accept reasonable and reasoned, constructive criticism that proves the unsustainability of the described processes, phenomena and expected perspectives.

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