1 International trade in Africa as an example of marginalization in the global economy

Introduction

In the age of globalization, the biggest problem for economies in developing countries, and Sub-Saharan African countries in particular, seems to be negative balance of foreign trade. The trade deficit of these countries, which has been growing for a few years now, is a testament to the low competitiveness of their exports. The only solution to this problem is to change the structure of exports and increase competitiveness of products from African countries on foreign markets. The marginalization of this continent has been observed for over thirty years and it has been the subject of numerous scientific studies. These studies emphasize the role of international trade in the process of development and industrialization (Ng, Yeats, 2000, p. 15). Since the industrial revolution global economy has been strongly dependent on the development of international trade (international trade now accounts for just over 25% of global GDP). Surpluses generated by local economies more and more frequently go to international markets. However, not all continents participate in this flow proportionally. As the main poles of international trade (the so-called Triad), North America, Western Europe and East Asia are regularly indicated. Thus, the following question arises: what is Africa's role in international trade?

During the last two decades of the twentieth century (i.e. between 1980 and 1999), Africa's place in international trade was undergoing a significant evolution; Africa's trade capacity deteriorated during that period (Chevallier, 2008, p. 59). However, in the first decade of the 21st century, reverse tendencies were noted – Africa was one of the fastest growing regions of the world, and its share of global commodity flows

– albeit small – demonstrated an upward trend. Individual countries in the region also recorded the highest growth rates in the world, while most developed economies were suffering from the economic crisis. Nevertheless, a relatively small share of African countries was present in global economy at that time. The share of this continent in global trade and FDI flows did not exceed 4%, and the trade volume of any of the region's countries in 2015 did not exceed $ 250 billion (IMF, 2015; UNCTAD, 2015; WTO, 2015). Therefore, it is necessary to reflect on the reasons behind the reduction of Africa's importance in international trade. According to Roger Blein (2013) this loss of Africa's influence is attributed to numerous factors: the weakness of its internal, national and regional markets that deprive Africa of the possibility of conquering external ones; its specialization in several agricultural or mining raw materials; its persistent structural disabilities such as technological delays, poor innovativeness, unstable economy or the shortage of incentives to invest; the shortfall of foreign investment inflows only partly related to political instability.

The problem addressed in this paper consists of three points, which deal with the following issues:

- the place of Africa in world economy and international trade,
- potential causes of this continent's small share in world trade,
- directions – proposed by the author – improving its position in world trade.

The research period generally covers the years 2000–2015, and the source data used is primarily derived from WTO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF and ADB (African Development Bank) reports. The research methods included the study of the subject literature as well as statistical, descriptive and comparative methods.

1. The place of Africa in the contemporary global economy

At this point an analysis of Africa's economic development was conducted. Firstly, it discusses the size of Africa's GDP and its share in the global product, as well as its dynamics against other countries around the world. Subsequently, an analysis of the geographical structure of goods and foreign trade was conducted.

Africa, and in particular Sub-Saharan Africa, is the region with the lowest positions in international statistics according to development indicators. However, this situation has improved significantly over the past 15 years. In 2013 gross domestic product, which is the primary measure of growth and size of the economy, amounted to more than $ 2 trillion for the entire continent. It quadrupled in comparison to the year 1990. According to the International Monetary Fund, in 2014 six out of ten fastest growing economies in the world came from Africa. They included Chad (9.6%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (8.6%), Ivory Coast (8.5%), Mozambique (8.3%), Ethiopia (8.2%) and Sierra Leone (8%) (IMF, 2015). Despite this increase, the gap between Europe and Africa in GDP was growing still. African countries such as Nigeria and Egypt recorded respectively 8- and 7-fold increase in GDP in 2013 compared to 1990. African countries with the highest GDP included South Africa, where it amounted to over $352 billion in 2013 and Nigeria with $284 billion (see Table 1). Despite the overall slowdown in the global economy and

Table 1

GDP in Africa and selected countries between 1990 and 2013 (million USD)

Specification	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013
Africa	495,089	536,042	599,609	1,010,166	1,747,851	2,086,116
East Africa	65,080	62,080	70,493	99,475	170,904	255,162
Kenya	11,037	11,701	12,604	18,739	32,181	45,070
West Africa	82,595	76,111	88,043	185,720	346,832	437,304
Nigeria	35,026	30,257	46,386	112,248	229,508	284,352
Central Africa	43,433	29,826	35,670	86,690	173,887	246,278
Cameroon	11,846	8,913	9,287	16,588	23,623	28,814
North Africa	183,938	205,616	260,532	370,085	662,112	761,718
Egypt	35,939	65,758	95,684	94,456	214,630	248,304
South Africa	120,044	162,409	144,870	268,197	394,116	385,654
R. South Africa	112,014	151,113	132,878	247,052	363,241	352,475

Source: own elaboration based on IMF (2005, 2013, 2016).

the problems of some emerging economies, the sub-Saharan region has consistently recorded high growth dynamics. The recession did not affect Africa in 2015 despite the black series of events (Ebola, Al Shabaab, Boko Haram).

Summarizing the economic changes in Africa in the last decade of the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century, it can be stated that the unregulated growth of gross domestic product was taking place since the beginning of the 21st century. Countries with the highest share of gross domestic product, however, dominated in Northern, Western and Southern Africa, and their share in African GDP in 2013 amounted to 36.5, 21.0 and 18.49%, respectively (see Table 1). If we compare the share of regions and their countries in global production, we will notice a huge distance separating Africa from other parts of the world. The share of African countries in global production in 2015 amounted to 2.1%, while in North Africa and the Middle East it was 4.2%. At the same time, the share of East Asia and the Pacific in the global product structure was 29%, and of South America and the Caribbean 7.2%. North America contributed with as much as 26.5% of global production mainly due to the USA (see Table 2).

Table 2

Share of Africa in global production in 2015 against the background of world economy

Specification	GDP		GDP *per capita*	GDP *per capita* PPP
	billion USD	%	USD fixed price	USD fixed price
World	73,502.3	100.0	10,158	14,588
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,572.9	2.1	1,652	3,477
North Africa and B. East	3,113.6	4.2	7,528	17,633
Latin America and the Caribbean	5,298.3	7.2	9,304	14,539
East Asia and Pacific	21,281.2	29.0	9,041	14,857
South Asia	2,666.1	3.6	1,641	5,321
North America	19,503.4	26.5	51,342	51,580
EU	16,229.5	22.1	34,860	35,385

Source: own elaboration based on Rynarzewski, Nawrot, Zajączkowski, Cieślik (2017), p. 44.

Seventeen years ago (in 2000), "The Economist" called Africa a hopeless continent from the point of view of improving the existing situation. However, towards the end of the first decade of the 21st century there was a rapid acceleration of GDP growth, which in Africa, and in Sub-Saharan Africa in particular, remained at about 5.7% in 2008–2015 compared to the 1998–2007 average (4.3%) (see Table 3).

Table 3

GDP growth rate in selected regions between 1998 and 2015 (%)

Specification	1998–2007 annual average	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
World	4.1	3.1	0.0	5.4	4.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.1
Developed economies	2.6	0.2	–3.4	3.1	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.8	2.0
Developing economies	5.6	5.8	3.1	7.5	6.3	5.6	5.0	4.6	4.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.3	6.0	4.1	6.6	5.0	4.3	5.2	5.0	3.8
Asia*	7.3	7.3	7.5	9.6	7.9	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.5
Latin America	2.7	3.9	–1.3	6.1	4.9	3.1	2.9	1.3	–0.3
EU	2.3	0.7	–4.3	2.1	1.8	–0.4	0.2	1.5	1.9

* Developing countries in Asia (excluding Japan).

Source: own elaboration based on IMF (2005, 2013, 2016).

The data in Table 3 also shows that the growth rates of developing countries were higher in the 21st century than their counterparts in highly developed countries. Over the period under review, high growth rates were also reported in Asian countries, which have hovered around 7% on average over the past three decades.

The commodity trade structure is very unfavorable for the African region. The average share of exports in GDP in 2014 amounted to 28.4%, and in Sub-Saharan Africa only 2% of global exports (WDI, 2016). Export has been dominated by minerals – crude oil, natural gas, copper, iron ore, phosphates, etc. Taking into account agricultural raw materials (mainly cotton, cocoa beans, coffee, etc.) these products account for about 95% of the entire export value. Import, however, is a reversal of the export structure. Over 62% of imported goods are finished products, machines and semi-finished goods.

More than two thirds of Africa's foreign trade is carried out with highly developed countries of Western Europe, North America and Japan, and about one third with other developing countries, primarily China, India and Brazil. The largest buyers of African goods include the following: France, Great Britain, USA, Germany, Netherlands and Italy, and the most important exporters to the African market include the following: France, United Kingdom, USA, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Spain and Japan. Developing countries, which are trading partners of Africa, include the following: China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Turkey. Taking into account the data in Table 4 concerning the geographic structure of African exports and imports, there is a clear dependency of the foreign trade of this continent on the markets in the highly developed countries, especially the EU countries.

Table 4

Geographical structure of trade in goods indicated by the most important African partners (%)

Export				Import			
2000		2015		2000		2015	
country	%	country	%	country	%	country	%
1. USA	16.6	1. China	10.6	1. France	11.5	1. China	17.7
2. Italy	10.6	2. India	6.8	2. USA	8.5	2. France	6.1
3. France	8.6	USA	6.2	3. Germany	7.3	3. USA	5.2
4. Spain	6.6	4. Spain	6.2	4. South Africa	6.7	4. Germany	5.0
5. UK	6.0	5. France	6.0	5. Italy	6.0	5. South Africa	4.8
6. Germany	5.5	6. Italy	4.8	6. UK	5.7	6. India	4.7
7. Netherlands	3.3	7. UK	4.3	7. Japan	4.0	7. Italy	4.0
8. Belgium	3.0	8. Germany	3.7	8. China	3.4	8. Spain	3.3
9. China	2.9	9. Netherlands	3.7	9. Saudi Arabia	3.3	9. Netherlands	2.6
10. India	2.5	10. South Africa	2.9	10. Spain	2.9	10. Turkey	2.3

Source: Knap (2016), p. 80.

On the other hand, the weakening of export links with the geographically closest markets of other African countries (except South Africa), which is a testimony to the lack of regional economic cooperation, has been a very negative phenomenon. In turn, emerging economies

(BRICS) are showing more and more interest in Africa. It is well known in the case of China, but it extends well beyond this country and concerns India, Brazil, South Africa and Turkey, which are more active in Africa. The development of trade relations between the African continent and its emerging partners was relatively quick: their share in trade with Africa increased from 23% in 2000 ($ 56 billion) to 36.1% in 2009 ($ 245 billion) (Ambukita, 2012, p. 26). China's share in Africa's exports in 2015 amounted to 10.6%, making it the leading African partner, ahead of The United States (6.2%), while in 2000 The United States accounted for 16.6% and China only 2.9%. In 2015 India's share was 6.8% – close to the USA, and that of South Africa was over 2 times lower (2.9%) (see Table 4). This means that the African economy is too one-sidedly outside oriented.

International trade is one of the most important drivers of economic growth. Economic relations between Africa and the rest of the world are determined by a variety of factors involved in the economic development of each of the parties and the colonial and postcolonial past. These relationships are currently loosened due to the economic marginalization of Africa and competition from BRICS countries (Ambukita, 2016, p. 87). According to data published by WDI (2015), world trade in international goods in 2014 amounted to $ 18,494 billion, with 40% of the European Union, 28% of East Asia, 14.5% of North America, Latin America 5%, and only 2% of Africa. Moreover, Africa's share of global trade in the 1950s and 1960s amounted to around 6–7%, in 1970 it dropped to 5%, and in 2007 down to almost 2.3% (WTO, 2008) and 2.0% in 2014, despite the fact that Africa owns three quarters of the planet's resources.

In addition, the share of this continent in the export of goods in the 20th century remained low. In 2015 it was only 2.4%, whereas in the 1970s this share was higher and amounted to 5% (WTO, 2016). Moreover, it was even bigger than that of East Asia. However, numerous Asian economies comparable to the African economies of the 1970s (namely Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Korea), in the following years significantly increased their share of international trade. The change began around 1990 and has continued until today (Hugon, 2009, p. 21).

According to the UNCTAD-*Afrique Rapport* (2013) data, Africa's share in 1990 amounted to 3.02%, and in 2000 2.31% and 3.33% in 2010 as opposed to 8.06%, 23.8% and 32.8% for Asian countries (see Table 5). There are a number of reasons behind Africa's decline in international trade, including its export-oriented agricultural commodity market with long-lasting unfavorable price relationships. As mentioned above, Asian countries have played the most important role among developing countries. Thus, Asia like Europe has become a global export engine, while other developing countries play a relatively small role in global exports. Africa's low participation in global trade has largely been due to the slow growth of production and internal supply constraints.

Table 5
Structure of global exports of goods by geographic region in 2000–2015 (%)

Region	2000	2004	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2014	2015
Africa	2.3	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.0	2.4
South America	2.5	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	6.1	5.6	5.8
Asia*	23.8	25.9	28.6	29.8	30.9	32.8	33.9	26.8	28.9
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Developing countries in Asia (excluding Japan).

Source: UNCTAD (http://unctadstat.unctad.org, July 2011 and 2016); WTO (2016).

Africa boasts the smallest share of industrial products in the total exports of goods (18.5% in 2013). In addition, the export of raw materials such as crude oil, gas or mineral raw materials has continued to increase, while the share of industrial products has decreased. It seems clear that Africa specializes in the production of unprocessed goods, which are less demanded in the world market and are economically dependent on prices, and therefore occupy a marginal place in international trade.

The share of sectors in Africa's GDP in 2000 and 2013 against other regions is presented in Table 6. The obtained data show that in 2013 the share of industry in Sub-Saharan African GDP amounted to 27.5% and of North Africa – 33.3%, while the EU and North America enjoyed

24.3% and 20.5%, respectively. By contrast, the share of the processing industry in the same period was only 11.2% in the Sub-Saharan Africa, and 14.4% in North Africa. Agricultural sector's contribution to GDP is relatively low, despite the fact that in many African countries more than half of the employed work in agriculture. Agriculture is a major component of GDP in most West African countries (e.g. Togo, Guinea-Bissau), Central Africa (Chad, Central African Republic) and in East Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia).

Table 6

Structure of African GDP against other geographical regions in 2000 and 2013 (%)

Region	Industry						Services	
	agriculture		industry (total)		manufacturing			
	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013
World	4.0	3.1	29.1	26.4	19.1	16.2	66.9	70.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	17.3	14.7	33.6	27.5	13.4	11.2	49.1	57.8
North Africa	18.8	15.6	34.4	33.3	14.4	14.4	46.8	51.1
East Asia and Pacific	5.8	4.0	34.9	32.0	25.8	23.3	59.3	63.9
South Asia	23.4	19.1	25.5	29.1	15.2	16.7	51.0	51.8
South America	5.4	5.0	32.8	32.1	18.2	15.4	61.8	62.9
UE	2.4	1.6	28.1	24.3	18.8	15.3	69.6	74.1
North America	1.2	1.4	23.2	20.5	15.7	12.4	75.6	78.1

Source: own elaboration based on Rynarzewski, Nawrot, Zajączkowski, Cieślik (2017), p. 44.

In conclusion, the last decade has shown a high economic growth rate for the African continent (more than 5% on average) along with more than twice as high economic growth rate as developed countries. Despite this rapid economic growth, Africa remains largely on the periphery of the global economy. Also the dynamic growth of African trade with foreign countries observed since the beginning of the 21st century is primarily related to the growing export of raw materials, which until recently was held under the conditions of a sharp rise in prices of these articles on the global market. The state of African economies has fluctuated according to international changes in exchange rates and commodity prices, as they remain predominant in international trade. It has oscillated between growth and recession according to the asymmetry of positive and negative shocks. African countries have been unable to diversify their exports in such a way as to protect themselves against international risk and to produce strong resilience to economic turmoil. Taking all the above into account, the striving for diversification of production and export by African states seems a necessary solution to create conditions for the sustainable economic development of these countries.

2. Reasons for the marginalization of Africa in international trade

In Africa, and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, individual countries unevenly participate in global exchange and certainly only a small proportion of the population is involved. Most of the region's inhabitants live in rural areas; lack adequate technical and institutional infrastructure, political and economic stability and small and non-integrated internal markets limit the benefits of the inhabitants' participation in global trade. National systems – of transport and communications – are underdeveloped and result in a situation when large harbors such as: Durban (South Africa), Richards Bay (South Africa), Mombasa in Kenya, Dar Es Salam (Tanzania) and other cities have better connections with the rest of the world than with their own backcountry (Kolodko, 2003, pp. 155–156).

Studying the causes of the marginalization of Africa in international trade leads to a conclusion that there are multiple and often interrelated causes. Africa's ability to participate more widely in international trade is currently limited primarily by the following:

- the quality of production of African economy,
- the low inflow of foreign investment into the African continent,
- the lack of poor transport infrastructure.

2.1. The quality of production of African economy

Contrary to developed countries Africa is still suffering from industrial delays. Existing industrial entities are largely remnants of the colonial system that developed the mining industry. In the meantime, international trade is primarily concerned with processed products (machine tools, automobiles, electronics, etc.), which constitute the most important part of trade flows (about 70%). Africa can only offer raw materials to the international markets due to its weak development of the processing industry. Meanwhile, strong competition in this sector comes from a number of countries. Regarding oil and gas, they include Gulf countries, Russia, Norway, Venezuela and, in the case of bananas, Latin American countries. Africa's field of operation is still narrowing.

The small share of Africa in international trade is due to the structure and nature of the goods it exports. As mentioned above, it is primarily about raw materials from the extractive industries and agricultural products that can only grow in damp tropical climates such as coffee, cocoa, palm oil, sugar cane or cotton. This makes Africa less active on the international market for industrial products.

2.2. Low inflow of foreign investment into the African continent

Foreign direct investments (FDI), i.e. investments made by companies in other countries than their own, are indicators of the vitality of the economy in the country which benefits from it. In fact, these investments could help Africa make up for industrial delays in relation to developed countries. The influx of foreign investment into Africa, as shown in Table 7, is very small. The scarcity of FDI in Africa can be explained by such factors as political instability, corruption, intra-state and external conflicts, and low levels of economic and social infrastructure (Ambukita, 2015, p. 181). These factors affect progressive exclusion of African countries from globalization processes and deepen their marginalization.

Table 7
FDI inflow by regions of the world 2010–2015 (billion USD)

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
World	1,409	1,700	1,403	1,467	1,278	1,762
Developing countries	637	725	639	662	698	765
Africa	44	48	56	52	58	54
Asia	401	431	401	431	468	541
Latin America and the Caribbean	190	244	178	176	170	168

Source: own elaboration based on UNCTAD (2015, 2016).

The data in Table 7 shows that in 2015, FDI inflows amounted to $ 765 billion – up by more than 9% over the previous year, and 20% over 2010, mainly thanks to Asia, which attracted $ 541 billion in the same period. On the African continent, however, the situation deteriorated in 2015 and the inflow of FDI decreased by 7% (to 54 billion USD). According to UNCTAD, the main cause of this decline was the end of the "super-cycle" of raw materials that limited investments in the natural resources sector. This table also shows that the largest recipients of FDI in the years 2010–2015 included Asian and Latin American countries. Moreover, Africa's share of global FDI inflows was just 3.1% in 2010, and 4.5% in 2014 and down to 6.8% in 2015. In reference to other regions, FDI inflows to Africa were smaller, while in Asia FDI they were never below 10% during that period.

2.3. The lack of transport infrastructure or its shortage

Quality and low cost infrastructure for end users is a decisive factor in improving communication between producers and consumers as well as between exporters and importers, and is a key determinant of price competitiveness in international markets, allowing for the safe delivery of goods and services in a timely manner.

Infrastructure is an important element in the improvement of African trade. Having the markets with the necessary transport, communication and energy infrastructure will increase the competitiveness of African trade. The problem of economic and social infrastructure in developing countries, especially in Africa, constitutes an important barrier to economic development. Africa has been experiencing very low levels of telecommunications infrastructure and there are also major shortcomings in access to electricity and even to the sources of drinking water (Rapport, 2016, p. 154). It all results in high transport costs, which are factors that prevent the development of intra-regional trade and regional integration, and also limit investment. High transport costs related to infrastructure problems make intercontinental exports to international markets less competitive and imports are more expensive for African consumers. Numerous elements of infrastructure are related to trade. These include in particular local and international roads, railways, ports, airports, telecommunications, energy and water. For example: sending a car from Brussels to Kinshasa costs $ 2,500 (the distance between these cities is 6,231 km), while sending a car from Kinshasa to Addis-Abeba costs $ 5,000 and the distance is 2 times shorter (2,995 km). The shortage of adequate road and rail infrastructure hampers regional cooperation and integration with global economy.

These weaknesses originate in the times of colonial empires. They built infrastructure aimed at extracting the natural resources of Africa, which they needed much more than the integration of the continent. As far as roads are concerned, the African continent is characterized by poor road network density: 6.84 km per 100 km^2 compared to 12 km per 100 km^2 in Latin America and 18 km per 100 km^2 in Asia. In addition, the road network in Africa is poorly maintained due to insufficient financial resources for its expansion and improvement (*African*…, 2015).

3. Perspectives for the development of international trade in Africa

Institutions concerned with socio-economic development have envisaged that Africa should develop its economy through increased exports, which was a reference to export development strategies and comparative advantage and cost-of-production theory in a given country. In addition, in order to improve its participation in international trade, Africa would have to apply measures to increase domestic production. To achieve this, the following needs to be taken into consideration:

1. Support for research and development aimed at discovering or developing new production techniques. Africa should strive for genuine industrialization through research and development. To achieve this, African countries within the African Union should devote a large part of their budgets to R&D funding so that each country or sub-region is specialized in a particular area. The United States and Japan, for example, have largely developed their industrial powers by funding such work.
2. The transfer of technology from existing partners is necessary here. Africa is a continent with tremendous potential. It is currently using mass investment of emerging markets such as China. This is a unique opportunity for African countries, which should demand from their partners the transfer of technology they already use, which would allow them to focus their production in a more appropriate way.
3. Raw materials should be processed to increase added value in order to increase their role in international trade.
4. Africa's political and economic environment should be healed to attract more foreign direct investment.
5. Trade in goods and services should be promoted to generate more added value.

Conclusions

Based on the analysis, several conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, international trade is taking place with the ever smaller share of Africa, and its share is the lowest among all continents. Secondly, the reasons for this phenomenon are primarily technical and economic in nature, and it is therefore important to reform these areas. Third, the large decline in Africa's share of global exports is structural, since it has been contributing to the marginalization of the continent in the global economy for more than thirty years. Poor trade performance is linked to African export structure that is concentrated on primary products (gross or slightly processed) and heavily dependent on external factors (price fluctuations, exchange rates, climatic conditions and others), which underline the African economies' vulnerability. Finally, to further stimulate intra-African trade, it is necessary to accelerate the process of regional integration, whose potential remains largely untapped.

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Summary. The article presents the situation of the international trade in Africa. Despite its ongoing globalization, international trade still remains one of the main links between national and global economies. The economy of Africa is in a state of underdevelopment and its share in the global economy has been permanently declining. This is demonstrated by the underdevelopment of infrastructure, backwardness of industry, agriculture, etc. This state of affairs results in a fact that the international trade does not develop. Moreover, the structure of weak industry is very unfavorable from the point of view of the international division of labor and exchange conditions. The primary objective of this paper is to analyze the current situation of international trade in Africa with particular emphasis on the reasons behind low participation of the continent in global trade, as well as the prospects for the future.

Keywords: international trade, Africa, marginalization

JEL classification: B27

Handel międzynarodowy w Afryce jako przykład marginalizacji w gospodarce światowej

Streszczenie. W artykule przestawiono sytuację dotyczącą handlu międzynarodowego w Afryce. Pomimo postępującej globalizacji, handel międzynarodowy nadal pozostaje jednym z głównych łączników między gospodarką krajową a światową. Gospodarki krajów afrykańskich są słabo rozwinięte, a ich udział w gospodarce światowej stale się zmniejsza. Potwierdzeniem tego jest słabo rozwinięta infrastruktura, zacofanie przemysłu, rolnictwa itd. Taki stan rzeczy powoduje, że nie rozwija się handel międzynarodowy. Co więcej, struktura słabego przemysłu jest bardzo niekorzystna z punktu widzenia międzynarodowego podziału pracy i warunków wymiany. Głównym celem artykułu jest przeanalizowanie obecnej sytuacji dotyczącej handlu międzynarodowego w Afryce, ze szczególnym podkreśleniem przyczyn niskiego udziału kontynentu w handlu globalnym oraz perspektyw ewentualnych zmian.

Słowa kluczowe: handel międzynarodowy, Afryka, marginalizacja

Klasyfikacja JEL: B27