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**COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS OF TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT "ONE BELT, ONE ROAD"**

Specialty 08.00.14 - World Economy

ANNOTATION OF THE DISSERTATION
for the degree of candidate of economic sciences

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The relevance of the research topic is due to the rise of relations between the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Russian Federation) and China to an unprecedented high-quality level, the growth of Russian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation, as well as the increase in China's trade with the Russian Federation and the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter referred to as the EAEU). At the same time, the growing flow of goods along the East-West axis dictates the need to expand and optimize the methods and means of delivering goods. One of the most important and relevant areas, in particular the delivery of goods, is offered by the Chinese megaproject "One Belt, One Road". However, in order to implement the project and accelerate the processes of integration of the post-Soviet countries participating in the OBOR project, it is necessary to analyze the dynamics and trends of Russian Chinese trade and economic cooperation as the main vector of economic integration with China in the post-Soviet space, and their impact on international trade and economic relations during the implementation the OPOP project. Studies on the stated topic and the methodological base created on their basis for calculating the main parameters of the economic component of the BRI project, including identifying the features of integration processes between the countries participating in the project and the specifics of Russian Chinese trade and economic relations, are essential for the successful implementation of this undertaking, which can bring significant benefit to the Russian economy. The importance of this topic, which led to the conduct of this study, is especially clearly seen in the context of modern trends in the development of the world economy, among which were highlighted the globalization of the world economy and the processes of regionalization and transnationalization associated with it, the gradual movement of financial centers from West to East due to an increase in the importance of the newly industrialized countries (NIEs) in the world economy, as well as the growth of the world economy, due to the growth in investment in R&D. As you know, China is one of the most developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which has established close trade and economic ties with other subjects of international relations and has a significant impact on the economic development of this region. After the collapse of the USSR, significant changes took place in post-Soviet Central Asia. In this regard, China, in addition to Russia, pays special attention to expanding

trade and economic cooperation with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with which it has a common land border. At present, the priority for Russia remains the preservation of the economic and political presence in the Asian countries mentioned. In this regard, within the framework of this dissertation, the issues of integration of the countries of Central Asia into the world economy are considered, which is due to the following prerequisites: the objective need to develop a system of land transport and communication corridors and related infrastructure, the need to overcome serious constraints to the economic growth of these countries (low degree of integration into global trade, regulatory and physical trade barriers, significant dependence of the group of countries under study on raw material exports and non-commodity trade with the CIS countries, as well as dependence on transactions related to remittances of labor migrants), which will contribute to their successful integration into the world economy in general and in various integration projects in particular.

In the context of globalization, countries have increasingly begun to unite in various partnerships, in connection with which there is a need to form a multivariate network of transport and communication routes, to create a trade, economic, legal and political platform that is beneficial for all participants. At present, China is also actively investing in European countries, acquiring a controlling or maximum possible stake in various enterprises and facilities (the port of Piraeus, the German robotic company Kuka and 50Hertz, which operates in the field of power transmission). In addition, the identified investment projects make it possible to increase the production potential of a number of countries and regions as a whole, which contributes to the development of industry along transport corridors, and also strengthens the relationship within and between continental states and regions. The relevance of the designated topic becomes even more obvious in the light of the plans to link the EAEU (as well as the EU) and the Chinese global project "One Belt, One Road", which is important for the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as PRC) in the light of the acceleration of the development of its western and northeastern regions, as well as solving a number of international issues. Overcoming the inequality in the level of economic development of the Chinese regions, mainly the western and eastern provinces of China, is currently one of the

country's priorities. As you know, the undisputed leader of such an integration association as the EAEU is Russia. It should be noted that this project is also relevant for the Eurasian region, because it can contribute to the development of transport and logistics infrastructure and containerization processes in the transport segment of the Russian economy, which, in turn, will optimize the mechanisms for the transit of international trade, customs and tariff regulation and several others. spheres of foreign economic activity of the Russian Federation. The development of the global project "One Belt, One Road" will contribute to a significant increase in the volume of freight traffic in the following areas:

- from China through Central Asia, Russia to Europe (Baltic Sea);
- from China through Central, Western Asia, Persian Gulf to Europe (Mediterranean Sea);
- from China to Southeast and South Asia to the Indian Ocean. The implementation of the designated project will contribute to increasing the level of connectivity of these regions (connectivity, which corresponds to the terminology of the documents of the Belt and Road Initiative (hereinafter BRI) in English). It should be noted that this project contributes to the improvement of the logistics infrastructure in those regions that, due to their geographical location, have no access to the sea (Siberia, the Urals, as well as the whole of Central Asia). Considering the above circumstances, it should be noted that within the framework of conjugation of the EAEU and the One Belt, One Road project, Russian-Chinese economic cooperation will have the opportunity to form a new integration model of partnership, which will bring new, significant accents to the development of the modern world economy.

This raises the question of the need for and importance of conducting a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China in the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project. The World Bank study assessed the effectiveness of the project's prospects for the development of transport infrastructure, which includes not only the process of directly creating a roadway, but also providing additional market access and a number of potential economic benefits. In order to assess the potential of this project, an evaluation of recently completed projects within the framework of the "Belt and

Road" - the port of Piraeus and the highway Hargos - Almaty is being carried out. Deloitte has found that China's Belt and Road Initiative is no longer synonymous with developing countries as the project spreads around the world. In addition, as part of the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is planned to select only those projects that have the greatest transparency and eliminate the risks associated with their implementation. In conclusion, it should be noted that this initiative will cover new industries and new countries. For example, a number of high-tech projects are currently being implemented, including the production of Chinese unmanned tractors, which are delivered to Tunisia in order to develop the country's agro-industrial complex. The studies presented above are similar in structure to monographs, have a large amount of factual material presented in tabular form, which allows for a certain analytical assessment. The presented works do not use, for example, methods of multivariate data analysis, as well as SWOT analysis, but the absence of designated research methods does not make them less informative. In this regard, it is relevant to use the methods of multivariate data analysis (factorial and cluster analysis), conduct a qualitative assessment of the business environment for Russia and China using the SWOT analysis methodology, as well as conduct a quantitative analysis related to assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the designated project.

When evaluating the project, it is advisable to assess the impact of relevant factors on the designated countries: the geographical location of the countries under study (area, length of land borders, climate, area of land used); population; main macroeconomic indicators by country (gross domestic product (hereinafter referred to as GDP) of the country, GDP per capita, the share of the population living below the poverty level, the number of labor resources, the share of the unemployed, the volume of exports and imports); communications and communications of the country (number of mobile phones in operation and number of Internet users); transport and logistics characteristics of the country (the length of railways and the length of roads). Thus, this dissertation reflects the author's desire to fill a certain gap in research related to promising areas of bilateral cooperation within Central and East Asia and a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China in the implementation of the One Belt, One

Road project.

The degree of development of the research topic is determined by the contribution of several foreign scientists whose scientific interests include the study of issues related to the development of Russian Chinese economic cooperation, as well as the prospects for pairing the EAEU and China in the context of the One Belt, One Road project. Among these researchers are Sun Wanhu, Feng Yujun, Yang Cheng, Song Niu, Wang Xiaoquan, Natalia Arno, Lin Minwang Minwang, Zhang Yao, Feng Shuai, Guo Shuqing, Cai Cuihong, Zheng Jiyong, Wu Xinbo, Shi Zhiqin), Ma Bin (Ma Bin). Various aspects of Eurasian integration are reflected in the works of such domestic scientists as: Vinokurov E.Yu., Baranov A.V., Volodina M.A., Gutnik A.V., Epikhina R.A., Karneev A.N., Kortunov A.V., Kashin V.B., Petrovsky V.E., Luzyanin S.G., Klimenko A.F., Gelbras V.G., Korshunov D.A., Larionov A.V., Lukin A. V., Makarov A.A., Nevskaya A.A., Bordachev T.V., Spartak A.N., Filippova L.V., Tsukarev T.V. It should be noted that China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which also includes the EAEU countries, is a multifactorial integration project that has no analogues in the world, which also has significant risks in Central Asia for Russia associated with the spread of the terrorist threat due to neighborhood with Afghanistan, as well as the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China, which is a hotbed of tension due to growing separatist sentiments and the activities of the terrorist group East Turkestan on its territory. A significant contribution to the study of the problems of this dissertation was made by Chinese economists, among whom it is worth highlighting Zhao Huasheng, Xu Poling, Liu Huaqin, Shi Ze, Lu Naxi (Lu Nasi), Lu Shangbin, Huang Mengfang, whose work is related to the study of the main directions of integration processes between the largest countries of the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, one cannot fail to note the contribution of other foreign scientists to the study of the issues presented in the dissertation work: Jonathan Fenton, Fernando de Carcer, Ted Rhodes. David Moore, Amir Kordvani, Marcin Bejm, Kostadin Sirleshtov, Adrian Wong, Dr. Nicolas Wiegand, Hugo Coetzee, John Gibson.

The overall goal of the study is to determine the prospects and directions for the development of Russian Chinese economic cooperation in the context of conjugation of the EAEU and the One Belt, One Road project based on the scientific and methodological framework developed by the author.

To achieve the stated goal of the dissertation, the following **tasks** were set and solved:

1. Conduct a retrospective analysis of the dynamics of China's foreign trade and evaluate the structural relationship of the main components of the country's foreign trade, as well as analyze the main trends in the development of world trade using the method of studying the economic situation. Conducting a retrospective analysis within the framework of this work using the country's export efficiency indicator (ExpPerft) will allow us to analyze the change in China's position in international trade. This section also requires the use of functional analysis elements.
2. To identify the main prerequisites and prospects for the implementation of China's mega-project "One Belt, One Road" in the medium term in the northern direction of the OBOR project.
3. Analyze the main prerequisites and conditions for the development of Russian Chinese cooperation at the present stage using quantitative indicators of integration (the degree of countries' involvement in world trade and in MRI, generalizing indicators of the development of trade relations).
4. To assess the dynamics and structure of mutual trade, as well as to analyze the main trends in investment and financial cooperation between Russia and China.
5. Conduct a quantitative assessment of the qualitative parameters of doing business by Russian companies in the PRC using elements of the extended SWOT analysis methodology.
6. Carry out a cluster analysis that will allow identifying groups of countries that are most attractive for cooperation in the northern direction of the OBOR project.
7. Conduct a factor analysis that will allow assessing the main conditions and prerequisites that have a positive or negative impact on the implementation of the BRI project.
8. Assess the possibility and probability of forming a sustainable integration

model of Russian Chinese trade and economic cooperation, using elements of economic and mathematical modeling.

The subject of the study is the problem of a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China in the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project.

The object of the study is the trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China in the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project.

Theoretical basis and research methods. The theoretical basis of the study was the works of Russian scientists - economists, among which it is worth highlighting the works of the following authors: Boyarkina A.V., Brilliantova N.D., Buchkina A.A., Karataeva K.E., Kookueva V.V., Kondorsky B. .M., Larina O.N., Makarova I.A., Mozias P.M., Ostrovsky A.V., Prokofiev I.V., Remyga V.N., Sizykh E.Yu., Sokolova A.K. ., Uyanaeva S.V., and in addition to the provisions already proposed in the world economy, it is necessary to single out the main works presented by political scientists: Khrustalev M.A., Bogaturov A.D., Shakleina T.A., Lebedeva M. M., Voskresensky A.D., Brodovskoy E.V., Vdovichenko L.N., Grachikov E.N., Tsygankov A.P. In addition, the methodology of the integrated approach used by the author in assessing the prospects for the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project also formed the theoretical basis of this dissertation. In turn, the complexity of the approach to assessing the prospects of the designated project is determined by its constituent elements:

- conducting a quantitative assessment of the prospects for increasing the number of participants in the project under study using the appropriate methodology developed by the author of this dissertation;
- carrying out a quantitative assessment of the conditions for doing business in Russia in China based on the methodology proposed by the author of this work, the basis of which was the use of an extended SWOT analysis;
- carrying out a cluster analysis of the effectiveness of the Northern Route of the OBOR project, which makes it possible to identify the most appropriate group of countries participating in the Northern Transport Corridor;
- conducting a factor analysis of the OBOR project, which made it possible to identify the main factors that have a positive and negative impact on the project

under study.

In addition, the theoretical basis of the work was made up of the works of both Russian and foreign (namely Chinese) researchers whose works are devoted to theoretical aspects of the development of the world economy in the 21st century, an analysis of the reasons for the shift in the center of world economic growth to the East, as well as integration processes in the Asia-Pacific and evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project for China and the EAEU countries.

The methodological basis of the dissertation work was a set of general scientific research methods, of which it is necessary to pay attention to special methods, focusing on statistical methods for studying the economic situation, functional analysis, methods of multivariate data analysis (cluster, factor analysis), SWOT analysis, as well as on individual elements of economic and mathematical modeling and carrying out on its basis of appropriate quantitative estimates using the methodology proposed by the author. The information base of the study was made up of the following information resources and materials: official statistical information published by the EU member states, the EAEU, as well as the National Bureau of Statistics of China and international organizations, among which the World Bank, WTO, OECD, UNCTAD, IMF should be highlighted; statistical information published by logistics and transport companies of the EAEU member states (BZD, KTZ, RZD), the EU, China; data of Russian, Asian, European and other regional structures that provide statistical information, including data from research, international and analytical centers, data from news agencies; statistical information and quantitative estimates by independent experts and research organizations, among which Ernst & Young Global Limited, Non-Profit Partnership "Russian International Affairs Council" (NP RIAC) should be mentioned.

Field of study. The work was carried out within the framework of the passport of scientific specialties of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Russian Federation 08.00.14—World Economy: 19. International economic integration. 20. Activities of international economic organizations. Multilateral mechanisms and initiatives for regulating economic processes. 21. Participation of

the Russian Federation in the system of international economic relations. Foreign economic activity of Russian economic entities. Foreign economic policy of the Russian Federation.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation work is determined by the following provisions:

1. The dissertation proposes the author's view on the content and use of the methodology for a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for the implementation of the BRI project, which seems useful and timely in the light of the constant updating of the current political and economic interpretations of the feasibility and usefulness of this mega initiative both for China itself and for its countries. members, as well as states that may join it in the future. In the previously presented studies related to the assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, including in the country context, other methods for qualitative and quantitative assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the designated project were proposed than those previously used in studies on this issue. for the EU-BRICS and the EAEU. In turn, the parameters of the factorial and cluster analysis of the Belt and Road initiative proposed by the author were also chosen by the author independently, considering the modern features of the implementation of the project under study. The author made an attempt to offer his own vision of a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the BRI project, which is the main provision of the novelty of the dissertation.

2. The author has developed a methodology for quantitatively assessing the effectiveness of increasing the number of participants in the One Belt, One Road project and carried out an appropriate quantitative analysis that proves the validity of the thesis about the need for China to go beyond the implementation of bilateral trade cooperation with individual countries and involve several countries in the designated project. The EU, as well as parts of the Central Asian states, which will allow the formation of a single transport and logistics infrastructure that contributes to the implementation of the Chinese initiative. A feature of the methodology proposed in the dissertation work was the possibility of conducting a quantitative assessment of the inclusion of individual new participating countries in the project

being implemented. The implementation of the proposed methodology is possible with any changes in the composition of the participants in this project, considering the appropriate recalculation based on the formula presented in the work. It should be noted that the choice of the countries participating in the BRI project presented in this paper was determined by the result of the analysis of the legal framework governing the composition of the participants in the Belt and Road Initiative. In turn, the choice of countries for analyzing the effectiveness of the Northern Transport Corridor was determined primarily by the geographical location of the countries on the East-West route.

3. The author's approach to the quantitative assessment of the conditions for doing business by Russian companies in the PRC is proposed in the dissertation work based on the use of elements of an extended SWOT analysis, the McKinsey model, as well as the Hurwitz optimism-pessimism criterion, which can form the basis for assessing the prospects for countries' participation in certain or other integration associations and the implementation of cooperation, both in a bilateral and multilateral format. The use of elements of an extended SWOT analysis made it possible to draw several relevant conclusions that have not previously been found in the scientific literature when assessing the effectiveness of the participation of individual countries in the BRI project.

Based on the analysis, the author identified the following patterns:

- it is necessary to pay attention to the existing opportunities V2, V4, V5 (demand for Russian goods and their popularity in the PRC; lack of substitute goods produced on the local market (V4); the possibility of long-term planning for the implementation of bilateral cooperation (V5)), the share of each of which, according to the results of the weighted scoring, is 0.23;
- The greatest threat to doing Russian business in China is posed by such factors as cultural differences (U1), regulatory issues (U2), and the authoritarian management style (U3) prevailing in China;
- the use of the McKinsey model made it possible to assert the unstable nature of Russian business in China, which is confirmed by the presented quantitative estimates (1.56; 1.90), that is, the level of influence of threats and negative factors of the internal environment corresponds to an average level ranging from 0, 67 to 2.32;

- the calculation of the acceptable risk was carried out, the value of which was 11.5%, which indicates that the risks U1, U2, U3 associated with cultural differences, regulatory issues and the authoritarian management style prevailing in the PRC are expected risks (Exp) and could have serious implications for Russian businesses compared to U4 and U5 (copyright issues and atypical distribution model), respectively.

4. A cluster analysis of the Northern Route of the BRI was carried out, the route of which originates in China (Urumqi), passes through Kazakhstan (Alashankou - Dostyk), Russia (Kazan - Moscow), Belarus (Brest) and ends in Germany (Hamburg)). The conducted cluster analysis, being a constituent element of a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for the development of trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China, allows us to assess the effectiveness of the participation of China itself, as well as Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Ukraine, Germany, and Mongolia in the Northern route of the presented project.

5. Positive and negative factors influencing the implementation of the BRI project are identified, which are aggregated into three groups of factors ("Economic and logistics", "Density of the road network", "Land resources") that determine the effectiveness of creating a new transport corridor. Consideration of the factors affecting transit cooperation between the Russian Federation and China was supplemented by an analysis of the impact of containerization of international transportation along the Northern route and methods of their state support by both China and Russia, considering the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

6. The author substantiates the choice and usefulness of using the formula used by the German Federal Statistical Office to assess the effectiveness of a country's foreign trade with a wide range of international partners. On its basis, the applicant conducts an appropriate valuation of the One Belt, One Road integration project. In the work, the indicated formula is used in a serious author's transcription, designed to contribute most effectively to solving the problems of the dissertation. The applicant characterizes the methodology of its application, showing the compliance of the author's interpretation of the named formula with the purpose of this work. In contrast to the methodology presented in one of the

Russian dissertations, the author evaluates the effectiveness of trade with the sequential inclusion of new countries, and the presented German formula is only one of the possible tools for conducting an appropriate assessment. In the presented author's transcription, an assessment of the export potential of any individual country, as was the case with the author of the work (Germany or Russia), is not carried out, and the value of the indicator is not limited to the limit from zero to one, but may exceed the indicated value, while reaching its maximum efficiency in obtaining the resulting values closest to unity.

The theoretical and practical significance of the work is as follows:

1. The theoretical basis of this work, in addition to the already existing valuable developments of authors-theorists of international relations, was the methodology proposed by the author for a comprehensive assessment of the prospects for the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project, which was based on the use of a combination of methods for conducting qualitative and quantitative analysis: to assess the effectiveness implementation of the One Belt, One Road project, it was proposed to use the methods of quantitative, cluster, factorial and SWOT analysis. A feature of the author's approach is the combination of all the indicated methods of analysis to achieve the goal of the dissertation work. The author substantiates his choice of the parameters necessary for the implementation of those assessments, the totality of which is an integrated approach to assessing the effectiveness of trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China in the implementation of the One Belt, One Road project.

2. The theoretical significance of the work is also the method proposed by the author for quantifying the effectiveness of including new countries in the BRI project using the ExpPerft indicator. The mathematical representation of this formula (ExpPerft) is as follows:

$$ExpPerft = (\sum X_t^D / \sum X_{t-1}^D) / (\sum J_t^i / \sum J_{t-1}^i) \quad [3.1.]$$

Where:

X is the total volume of exports in period t;

J is the total volume of imports in period t.

3. The method proposed by the author for quantitative assessment of the effectiveness of the consistent inclusion of new participants in the BRI project is

set out in clause 3.1. of the present dissertation work. The implementation of the methodology proposed in the work includes the following steps:

- At the first stage, the ExpPerft indicator is calculated for each of the eight pairs of countries participating in the project (China - Russia, China - Georgia, China - India, China - Iran, China - Kazakhstan, China - Mongolia, China - Turkmenistan, China - Turkey).

- The next stage includes a sequential summation of the values of exports and imports by country, considering the order in which they are included in the designated project. Next, the ExpPerft indicator is calculated for the indicated groups of countries.

- At the final stage, this indicator is re-evaluated (ExpPerft), which makes it possible to conclude in what number of countries the effectiveness of this megaproject will be maximum.

4. The theoretical significance of the work was also the method proposed by the author, described in section 2.3. of this dissertation, the basis of which was the use of elements of an extended SWOT analysis, which allows for a quantitative assessment of business conditions or other qualitative parameters that are significant in resolving cooperation issues, both in the framework of the implementation of bilateral and multilateral formats.

5. The approach proposed by the author to conduct a quantitative assessment of the One Belt, One Road project is of practical importance. According to the method proposed by the author, the calculation is carried out in an integral form in a country-by-country context. The integrity of the form of calculations carried out in the work is due to the method used by the author, which is similar to that used by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany to assess the dynamics of the country's foreign trade, which does not take into account the sectoral aspect of exports or imports, but considers changes in the ratio of the total export volumes of the current and base year in relation to the same value according to import, required to assess the effectiveness of the export component of the country's foreign trade for a certain period of time (ExpPerft), most often for one calendar year, but can also be carried out on a quarterly and even monthly basis.

6. The provisions and results of the dissertation research proposed by the

author may be useful for further analysis of current trends in the world economy related to the conclusion of trans-regional trade and economic mega-agreements and increasing the efficiency of their implementation. The provisions of the dissertation can be useful for use in the work of ministries and government structures of Russia, for example, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and several other departments.

7. The tables compiled by the author of this dissertation work on the commodity structure of China's mutual trade with the EAEU countries, as well as a table that summarizes the main characteristics of trade agreements, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) can be useful for the formation of methodological materials on foreign trade of the EAEU countries, and can also be used by business representatives as reference tools in relevant areas.

8. The practical significance of the dissertation is also determined by the possibility of using the materials of the presented work in teaching several specialized disciplines, for example, such as “Problems and Prospects for the Development of the Asia-Pacific Countries”, “China's Economic Development”, “Main Trading Partners of Russia”.

Approbation of the results of the dissertation research. The main provisions of the dissertation research are reflected in the articles and abstracts of the author published in scientific journals, as well as which were tested at International scientific and practical conferences, including foreign scientific conferences in Switzerland and England, because of which reports were published in the collections of materials of the indicated conferences.

The reliability of the results of the dissertation research is confirmed using scientific research methods, the completeness of the analysis of theoretical developments.

The structure of the work is determined by the purpose and objectives of the study. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, twelve paragraphs, a conclusion, a glossary, a list of conventional abbreviations and symbols, a list of references and an appendix.