



## CURRENT PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО УПРАВЛЕНИЯ

DOI: 10.22363/2312-8313-2024-11-2-191-202

EDN: JMGQGL

Research article / Научная статья

### The Prospects for the Development of the Global Monetary System through the Implementation of Blockchain Technology: Impact on Political Institutions and Possibilities for the Development of the New Regions of the Russian Federation

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**Abstract.** The article examines the prospects for the development of the global monetary system in connection with the practical implementation of blockchain technology — cryptocurrency. The authors consider the main reasons for trust in money, as well as the reasons for the growing distrust of authorities and financial institutions in modern realities, along with the pros and cons of implementing cryptocurrency and blockchain in the financial system. An attempt is made to answer the question of whether cryptocurrency can change the modern financial system and what should be done to make these changes as effective and fast as possible. In addition to the influence of cryptocurrencies on the financial system, the article draws parallels with the impact of blockchain technology on existing political institutions. The authors analyze the possibilities of using cryptocurrencies for the development of the new regions of the Russian Federation.

**Keywords:** trust, blockchain, distributed communication systems, finance, money, cryptocurrency, the new regions of the Russian Federation

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**Conflicts of interest:** The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

**Article history:**

The article was submitted on 06.02.2023. The article was accepted on 20.03.2024.

**Acknowledgements:** The research was conducted with the support of the Russian Science Foundation as part of the implementation of scientific project No. 24-18-00722 for the implementation of research work on the topic: “Socio-economic and political-administrative transformation of the modern South of Russia. “New” and “old” regions: comparative historical analysis and development prospects”.

**For citation:**

Gromyko D.A., Ivanov V.G. The Prospects for the Development of the Global Monetary System through the Implementation of Blockchain Technology: Impact on Political Institutions and Possibilities for the Development of the New Regions of the Russian Federation. *RUDN Journal of Public Administration*. 2024;11(2):191–202. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2312-8313-2024-11-2-191-202>

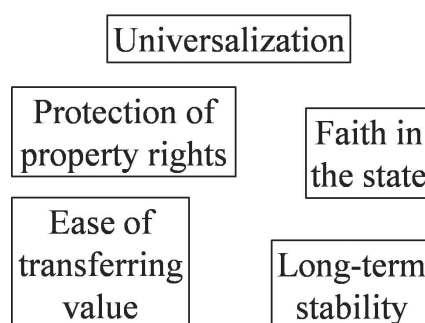
## Introduction

Trust in money is one of the most advanced and important systems ever developed by mankind. The money system, as a means of exchanging and storing value, has deep historical roots and serves as a fundamental basis for the global economy [1]. This system provides a unique combination of versatility, stability and long-term reliability, making it an integral part of our daily lives.

Thus, money is one of the most reliable and stable systems of trust between societies, one of the most reliable and stable innovations created by mankind [2].

Currencies backed by stable economic systems and central banks allow their owners to own assets and have control over their wealth, provide long-term stability and reliability for storing these riches [3]. And the state stands behind the national currency, and the long-term stability of this state, in turn, strengthens confidence in its currency.

Since money can be easily transferred and transferred, this makes it a convenient means to transfer value (wealth) from generation to generation.



**Fig. 1.** Reasons for trust in money

*Source:* compiled by the authors.

Trust in money itself has historically been based on trust in the government [4], which minted or printed money and, accordingly, guaranteed its liquidity.

But what if trust in the government and banking structures begins to decline [5]?

## Growing public distrust of financial institutions and authorities

Public confidence in the established financial and political system may fall for various reasons. However, these factors may vary in different countries and contexts.

After financial crises, such as, for example, the global financial crisis of 2008, many people lost their savings and real estate, which caused discontent and distrust of financial institutions that were considered responsible for the crisis.

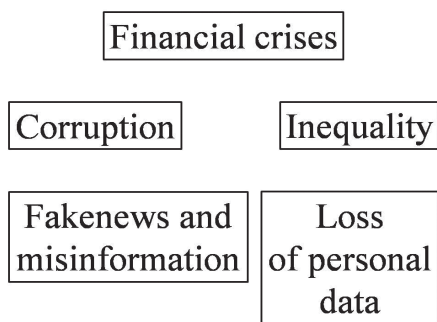
Corruption in politics and the financial sphere clearly shows the population that the authorities or financial institutions act in their own personal, selfish interests, which clearly causes discontent and distrust of the population towards the current political system.

The growing inequality in society shows people that the system is unfair and works in favor of a small group in power or in the closest circle of the ruling stratum.

The large-scale spread of fake news and disinformation creates long-term negative stereotypes about politicians and existing financial institutions, which also contributes to the growth of public distrust of the authorities.

Incidents of personal data leakage and privacy violations raise concerns about the protection of personal data, which significantly increases distrust of financial institutions.

Thus, to ensure the growth of public confidence in existing banking mechanisms and government structures, the state must guarantee transparency of officials' actions, the inevitability of punishment for irresponsible acts, as well as timely reforms in these areas.



**Fig. 2.** Factors influencing trust in authorities and financial institutions  
*Source:* compiled by the authors.

## The emergence of cryptocurrencies as an alternative to cash

In 2008, the moment came when human genius, multiplied by the achievements of science (mathematics, cryptography) and technology (computers), invented a mechanism that could become the next step of the global financial and political system — blockchain technology and its first practical implementation — crypto money [6].

With the advent of cryptocurrencies, new opportunities have emerged that in the future will be able to displace traditional money. Digital money provided a mechanism that provided a fast and secure way to exchange values. Cryptocurrency, like money itself, is also based on trust, but with significant, revolutionary differences in technology and regulation.

We believe that the development and widespread adoption of blockchain technology, the widespread use of cryptocurrencies, theoretically can have a positive impact on the growth of trust in existing political and financial institutions, as well as on trusting relationships between different societies [7], create a new image of the global financial and political landscape.

### **Advantages of introducing cryptocurrencies and blockchain into the financial and political system**

Among the main advantages of introducing cryptocurrencies and blockchain into the financial and political system, including to justify increasing public confidence in them, the following should be noted.

Firstly, crypto money allows users to control their finances without involving central banks or governments [8]. Thus, the absence of central institutions controlling finance (decentralization) will reduce the dependence of the population on financial institutions and political authorities, which in turn, since there is no single point of failure and control, will help strengthen public confidence in them.

Under no circumstances will any bank be able to voluntarily close access to accounts or provide information about transactions to a third party without the owner's consent. This condition is guaranteed by the implementation of the blockchain technology itself.

Secondly, the technology of cryptocurrencies makes them available anywhere in the world, which promotes inclusivity and cooperation [9], as it greatly simplifies international financial transactions and exchange between different societies.

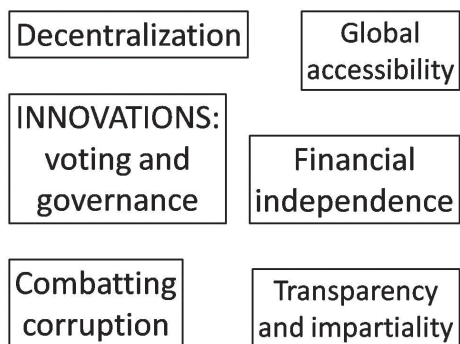
Thirdly, cryptocurrencies make financial services more accessible to people who were previously excluded from the traditional financial system [10]. For example, they provide financial independence to people in countries with limited access to banking services, as well as reduce dependence on services such as loans, which stimulates innovation in the banking sector and potentially reduces banking monopoly.

As a result, the inclusion of more people in economic life will lead to a reduction in inequality and significantly strengthen people's confidence in their financial capabilities.

Fourth, the blockchain technology underlying the cryptocurrency ensures high transparency and immutability of data [11]. All transactions, without exception, will be able to be verified and tracked, which will definitely affect the increase in transparency of financial transactions, especially in the implementation of financial projects involving public funds and public procurement, and will help prevent large-scale corruption in political institutions. For example, reducing the possibility of manipulating information will allow for more secure and open voting and management systems.

All this, with proper coverage and popularization, will definitely increase public confidence in state institutions, and will also help prevent, among other things, possible electoral fraud.

Fifth, the blockchain provides an opportunity to create smart contracts [12] that automate the execution of agreements, which ultimately eliminates the need to make a decision on trusting third parties in various transactions.



**Fig. 3.** Benefits of implementing cryptocurrency and blockchain into the financial and political system.  
*Source:* compiled by the authors.

It is important to understand that the development and implementation of these technologies, which can lead to the replacement of the existing monetary system with cryptocurrencies [13], is a long-term process that will require the cooperation of many parties, including governments, financial institutions and technology companies. In addition, it will require a significant increase in the level of public knowledge about the real potential of blockchain technology, mass popularization of this technology, and a comprehensive discussion at all levels of the educational pyramid — from schools to higher educational institutions.

### **Prospects for changing the modern financial system**

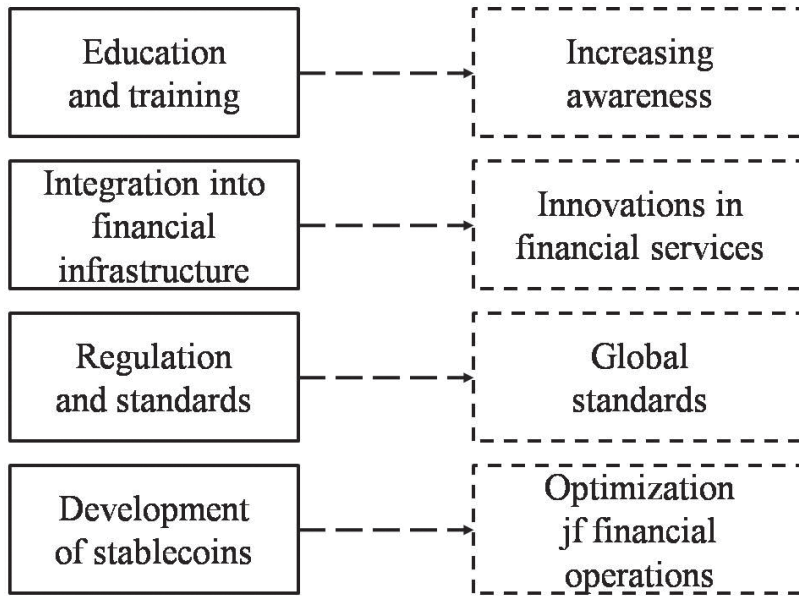
Cryptocurrency has the potential to change the modern financial system, but this is likely to happen gradually and, of course, depend on several key factors.

Thus, the necessary awareness-raising of the population and institutions about the blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies itself may require time and significant efforts by the state directly in the scientific and educational spheres. Further, based on newly created educational programs and research in the field of cryptocurrencies and blockchain, it is necessary to create an appropriate base for fundamental training of specialists aimed specifically at the development and implementation of new technologies.

In parallel, appropriate regulatory norms and laws, international standards and protocols should be developed and implemented.

Ultimately, the inclusion of cryptocurrencies in the existing financial infrastructure [14] will create conditions for banks and payment systems, as well as other financial institutions, to integrate blockchain technology into their processes. Cryptocurrencies can become the basis for new financial products and services such as decentralized loans, insurance and asset management.

At the same time, the development and implementation of stable cryptocurrencies (stablecoins), the value of which is not subject to strong fluctuations, for use in everyday financial transactions (purchase of goods and services), is also an important step in the development of the crypto industry.



**Fig. 4.** Measures for integrating cryptocurrencies into the financial system

*Source:* compiled by the authors.

### The use of cryptocurrencies in various countries

Despite the relatively young age of blockchain technology, in modern realities cryptocurrencies, especially Bitcoin and Ethereum [15], have become not just a new form of financial assets, but also an object of deep interest and research from governments and central banks around the world, which has led to the development of various strategies and regulations related to the use of cryptocurrencies.

However, even though the first cryptocurrency appeared in 2008, and a number of countries are actively considering the possibility of using digital money for various purposes, their widespread use by government agencies and the banking sector has not been observed to date.

First, states face challenges in developing effective regulatory mechanisms for cryptocurrencies [16] to prevent illegal activities, including money laundering and terrorist financing, and to ensure the safety of investors.

In addition, due to their high volatility, cryptocurrencies pose risks to economic stability [17] for both an individual member of society and the state. Thus, effective measures are needed to develop management mechanisms and minimize its (volatility) impact on the economy.

The creation by states of their own digital national currencies, which allows them to strengthen their control over monetary policy and facilitate tax collection, sets the task of reviewing the entire regulatory policy.

Reducing dependence on traditional banking institutions for financial services such as loans and payments requires a review of macroeconomic policy and the monetary system.



As a result, all this may lead to an urgent need for government regulators to make a constant choice between extracting benefits from this innovation and managing the risks and problems associated with it.

### **The possibility of using cryptocurrencies to circumvent external sanctions**

Cryptocurrencies are also of increased interest due to the possibilities of using them to circumvent economic sanctions affecting the Russian Federation. This interest is mainly due to their anonymity and lack of centralization — these features of cryptocurrencies built on blockchain technology allow transactions, including international ones, without involving central financial institutions or governments. Thus, a mechanism is being implemented to ignore or circumvent existing financial regulators and total monitoring and control of crypto-money flows becomes very problematic. And the fact that cryptocurrencies are available in almost all corners of the globe, with access to the Internet and a smartphone, allows users from countries, including those under sanctions, to exchange digital assets outside the traditional banking system and external prohibitions.

So, starting in 2017, the blockchain attracted the attention of the Russian government, and already in 2018, the country's leadership considered a project to use cryptocurrency settlements with international companies established in the territories of special administrative regions (SAR).

In 2022, Russia began the official and regulatory-supported development of a mechanism for international payments in cryptocurrency. And after the tightening of the sanctions policy by the West, the government instructed the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank and other departments and regulators to develop norms for the issuance, circulation and transactions in digital currencies for settlements with other countries.

However, Western states, not having the technical ability to regulate cryptocurrencies, use political tools against the Russian Federation and several other sanctioned countries. Political pressure is being exerted on institutional, legalized participants in the crypto market, such as crypto exchanges, P2P platforms and tokenizing platforms, as well as on issuers of digital assets. The US authorities are putting pressure on trading platforms and banks, imposing bans on replenishing exchange wallets from Russian accounts and from Russian citizens. This is especially true for platforms that are registered in the United States or have accounts with American banks.

One of the workarounds of such pressure is the creation of an independent participant in the crypto market. At the moment, Iran is such a player. Crypto exchanges, exchangers, and even their own mining pools already exist in this country, and these tools actively promote the use of cryptocurrencies for international settlements. At the end of the summer of 2023, the Iranian government ratified a law introducing rules for trading with cryptocurrencies and allowed businesses to pay for imports with digital assets.

Back in 2022, RAKIB announced the possible creation of a Russian-Iranian stablecoin, a digital token backed by gold, which is planned to be used as a means of payment in foreign trade settlements. However, there is still no public information about the planned Russian regulatory framework related to cross-border payments and the introduction of an experimental economic regime. Possible developers are also silent about the planned technical solution for the implementation of the new stablecoin.

It is also possible to circumvent sanctions through the development of the digital ruble. And after the announcement of a joint cryptocurrency project with Iran, Russia announced plans to introduce the digital ruble, choosing the Crimean Peninsula as a pilot territory for this. The media actively publishes articles with expert opinions that the digital ruble platform has a huge potential for international settlements. And the Bank of Russia has already launched a PR campaign to attract foreign regulators and participants in foreign economic activity available in the new conditions to the project.

Sanctions measures may be ineffective when it comes to the monetary policy of an entire state that affects the political and economic situation around the world. The right countersanctions aimed at the development of the digital ruble will be able to reduce the possibility of the impact of external sanctions in the modern geopolitical context. And if the digital ruble becomes the main payment system in transactions, it will make partner states less vulnerable to sanctions measures. Such a decision could theoretically weaken the impact of sanctions and provide greater financial autonomy to the state.

Also, from the point of view of using the digital ruble to circumvent economic sanctions [18], it is necessary to understand that vulnerability lies mainly in the need to convert cryptocurrency into fiat in real conditions. The sanctions applied by Russia's opponents may be directed against certain companies, including cryptocurrency exchanges, in order to limit their interaction with Russian investors or companies under the threat of serious financial costs. For example, any violation of sanctions can be equated to money laundering and terrorist financing. Therefore, partner companies will prefer to close accounts and prevent the exchange of cryptocurrencies for the fiat currency of Russian residents to avoid economic and political risks.

Considering these possibilities of the digital ruble and various cryptocurrency mechanisms, there are many related nuances, including legal ones.

In particular, the lack of cryptocurrency exchanges in Russia puts users in difficult conditions due to the blocking of Russian accounts on foreign cryptocurrency exchanges. In fact, the choice turns out to be very limited — between keeping the cryptocurrency or losing citizenship. The formation of a new infrastructure for the introduction of cryptocurrencies into everyday use, including mining and cryptocurrency exchanges in Russia, requires additional regulation to ensure the security and stability of the market. Returning to the creation of cryptocurrency exchanges, it should be pointed out the comprehensive introduction of additional rules and regulations, including licensing, monitoring compliance with the rules of the exchange, investor protection and measures against the legalization of criminal proceeds.



On the other hand, as soon as money becomes the digital currency of the Central Bank, the regulator will be able to fully control the entire volume of the issue. The ability of the state to track each payment will make it possible to implement a mechanism for transparent and comprehensive control over financial flows. And it can also become a serious political and economic tool for the implementation of centralized efforts in the targeted development of individual sectors of the economy and regions.

At the same time, it should be noted that for the average consumer, the digital ruble is no different from non-cash payments, which are already available in banking applications today. And from the point of view of daily use, its introduction will not change anything, since currently the total volume of non-cash payments in Russia is about 87%. Thus, people are used to electronic money, and changing the mechanism of their control, accounting and allocation will not be a shocking event.

### Conclusion

Summarizing the above, it is important to note that precisely because the use of cryptocurrencies as a state currency or means of payment is associated with risks such as exchange rate volatility and potential regulatory problems, most countries still remain cautious about integrating digital money into the official financial system.

At the same time, despite the existing problems, the widespread use of cryptocurrencies and the introduction of blockchain technology represent a revolutionary change in the global monetary system [19]. This technological transformation can bring with it potential benefits that states and global financial institutions will need to learn how to widely implement and use.

The world is at a crossroads where countries and international organizations are balancing the desire for innovation and the need to ensure stability and security in the global monetary system [20]. In this process, it is important to ensure cooperation and coordination between countries and multinational businesses in order to develop balanced solutions and standards that would contribute to the sustainable development of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies and could change the face of the global financial system, making it more accessible, efficient and transparent. At the same time, in the current configuration of international relations, it is not possible to achieve such cooperation based on trust, at least in the short-medium term.

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## **Отдельные перспективы эволюции мировой денежной системы посредством внедрения технологии блокчейн: влияние на политические институты и возможности развития новых регионов Российской Федерации**

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**Аннотация.** В статье разбираются перспективы развития мировой денежной системы в связи с появлением одной из практических реализаций технологии блокчейн — криптовалюты (криптомонеты, цифровые деньги, цифровая валюта). Авторами рассматриваются причины доверия к валютам, а также особенности роста недоверия к властям и финансовым институтам в современных реалиях, плюсы и минусы внедрения криптовалюты и продуктов, созданных с использованием технологии блокчейн, в финансовую систему. Рассматривается вопрос о том, как широкое внедрение криптовалюты способно изменить современную финансовую систему. Проводится параллель с влиянием самой технологии блокчейна на существующие политические институты. Авторы отдельно анализируют возможности использования криптовалют для развития новых регионов Российской Федерации.

**Ключевые слова:** доверие, блокчейн, распределенные системы коммуникаций, финансы, деньги, криптовалюта, новые регионы РФ

**Заявление о конфликте интересов:** Авторы заявляют об отсутствии конфликта интересов.

**История статьи:**

Поступила в редакцию: 06.02.2024. Принята к публикации: 20.03.2024.

**Благодарности:** Исследование проведено авторским коллективом при поддержке Российского научного фонда в рамках реализации научного проекта № 24-18-00722 на выполнение научно-исследовательской работы на тему: «Социально-экономическая и политико-административная трансформация современного Юга России. «Новые» и «старые» регионы: сравнительный исторический анализ и перспективы развития».

**Для цитирования:**

*Громыко Д.А., Иванов В.Г.* Отдельные перспективы эволюции мировой денежной системы посредством внедрения технологии блокчейн: влияние на политические институты и возможности развития новых регионов Российской Федерации // Вестник Российского университета дружбы народов. Серия: Государственное и муниципальное управление. 2024. Т. 11. № 2. С. 191–202. <https://doi.org/10.22363/2312-8313-2024-11-2-191-202>