Abstract: The world is in the state of industrial revolution. At the same time, there are different approaches to the forms of its implementation and different ideas about the smart industry: some call it the third industrial revolution, others - the fourth, leading to "Industry 4.0". There is a fundamentally different understanding of the essence of the industry of the future. For Ukraine and other post-Soviet economies, that deals with physical and moral deterioration of production assets and an unfavorable investment climate, following the ideology of the fourth industrial revolution, involving the use of vertical links, the complication and robotization of production, is fraught with an increasing gap between world economic growth leaders and the conservation of poverty and backwardness. Following the same concepts of the third industrial revolution, due to its inherent orientation toward the domination of horizontal ties and the distribution of industry, gives a chance for a radical economic development.

Keywords: the third industrial revolution; the fourth industrial revolution; the smart industry; Industry 4.0; robotization; vertical communications; horizontal communications

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