

PRO-GLOBALIZATION AND ANTI-GLOBALIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Globalization refers to increasing global connectivity, integration and interdependence in the economic, social, technological, cultural, political and ecological spheres. Globalization is an umbrella term and is perhaps best understood as a unitary processes (such as enhanced economic interdependence, increased cultural influence, rapid advances of information technology, and novel governance and geopolitical challenges) that are increasingly binding people and the bio-sphere more tightly into one global system.

KEYWORDS: *globalization, global economy*

The term globalization was coined in the latter half of the twentieth century, and the term and its concepts did not permeate popular consciousness until the later half of the 1980-s. Various social scientists have tried to demonstrate continuity between contemporary trends of globalization and earlier periods.

Liberalization in the 19-th century is often called „The First Era of Globalization” a period characterized by rapid growth in international trade and investment.

Globalization in the era since World War II has been driven by advances in technology which have reduced the costs of trade, and trade negotiations rounds, originally under the auspices of GATT, which led to a series of agreements to remove restrictions on free trade.

The world increasingly is confronted by problems that can not be solved by individual nation-states acting alone. Examples include cross boundary air and water pollution, over-fishing of the oceans and other degradations of the natural environment, regulation of outer space, global warming, free trade and finance, and so on.

Solutions to these problems necessitate new forms of cooperation and the creation of new global institution.

Since the end of World War II, following the advent of the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions, there has been an explosion in the reach and power of multinational corporations and the rapid growth of global civil society.

In the economics, globalization is the convergence of prices, products, wages, rates of interests and profits towards developed country norms. Globalization of the economy depends on the role of human migration, international trade, movement of capital, and integration of financial markets.

The International Monetary Fund notes the growing economic interdependences of countries worldwide through increasing volume and variety of cross border trans-actions, free international capital flows and more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology.

Theodore Levitt is usually credited with globalization first use in an economic context.

Globalization has various aspects which affect the world in several different ways such as:

- industrial-emergence of worldwide production markets and broader access to a range of goods for consumers and companies
- financial-emergence of worldwide financial markets and better access to external financing for corporate, national and sub national borrowers
- economic-realization of a global common market, based on the freedom of exchange of goods and capital
- political-is the creation of a world government which regulates the relationship among
- nations and guarantees the rights arising from social and economic globalization
- informational-increase in information flows between geographically remote locations
- cultural-growth of cross-cultural contacts
- ecological-the advent of global environmental challenges that can be solved without international cooperation, such as climate change and air pollution
- -ocial-the achievement of free circulation by people and all nations
- -greater international cultural exchange
 - spreading of multiculturalism, and better individual access to cultural diversity
 - greater international travel and tourism
 - greater immigration including illegal immigration
 - spread of local consumer products to other countries, often adapted to their culture
 - formation or development of a set of universal values
- development of a global telecommunications infrastructure
- increase in the number of standards applied globally; e.g. copyright laws, patents and world trade agreements.

Since World War II, barriers to international trade have been considerably lowered through international agreements (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade – GATT and World Trade Organization – WTO).

-promotion of free trade:

- reduction or elimination of tariffs
- reduced transportation costs, especially from development of containerization for ocean shipping
- reduction or elimination of capital controls
- intellectual property restrictions harmonization of intellectual property laws across the majority of nations

Pro-globalization (globalism)

Supporters of free trade point out that economic theories of comparative advantage suggest that free trade leads to a more efficient allocation of resources, with all countries involved in the trade benefiting. In general, this leads to lower prices, more employment and higher output.

Libertarians and other proponents of laissez-faire capitalism, say higher degrees of political and economic freedom in the form of democracy and capitalism in the development world produce higher levels of material wealth.

Supporters of democratic globalization are sometimes called pro-globalists.

They consider that the first phase of globalization which was market-oriented, should be completed by a phase of building global political institutions.

Whereas worldwide statistics strongly supports globalization.

Some pro-capitalists are also critical of the World Bank, arguing that they are corrupt bureaucracies controlled and financed by states, not corporations.

Supporters of globalization are highly critical of some current policies, in particular the very high subsidies and protective tariffs for agriculture in the developed world. For example, almost half of the budget of the European Union goes to agricultural subsidies, mainly to large farmers and agribusinesses, which form a powerful lobby. This drains the taxed money and increases the prices for the consumers in development world and decreases competition and efficiency.

Anti globalization

Critics of the economic aspects of globalization contend that it is not a inexorable process which flows naturally from the economic needs of everyone, as its proponents typically argue.

The critics typically emphasize that globalization is a process that is mediated according to corporate interests, and typically raise the possibility of alternative global institutions and policies, which they believe address the moral claims of poor and working classes throughout the globe, as well as environmental concerns in a more equitable way.

The movement is very broad, including church groups, national liberation factions, left-wing parties, environmentalists, peasant unionists, antiracism groups, protectionists.

Some are reformist (arguing for a more human form of capitalism) while others are more revolutionary (arguing for what they believe is a more humane system than capitalism) and others are reactionary, believing globalization destroy national industry and jobs.

In terms of controversial global migration issue, disputes revolve around both its causes, whether and to what extend it is voluntary or involuntary, necessary or unnecessary; and its effects, whether beneficial, or socially and environmentally costly.

Proponents tend to see migration simply as a process whereby workers may go from one country to another to provide their services, while critics tend to emphasize negative causes such as economic, political and environmental insecurity and cite as one notable effects, the link between migration and enormous growth of urban slums in developing countries.

The cyclical nature of capitalism, increased demand for skilled versus unskilled labour and the negative effects of globalization- in particular, global economy booms and busts that ratchet up inequality and distribute new wealth unevenly- contribute to the enormous growth of slums.

This movement has no unified name. Anti-globalization is the media's preferred term; it can lead to some confusion, as activists typically oppose certain aspects or forms of globalization, not globalization.

There are a wide variety of kinds of „anti-globalization”.

In general, critics claim that the result of globalization have not been what was predicted when the attempt to increase free trade began, and that many institutions involved in the system of globalization have not taken the interests of poorer nations, the working class, and the natural environment into account. Their solution is to raise the prices consumers must pay via protectionism.

Some opponents of globalization see the phenomenon as the promotion of corporatist interests. They also claim that the increasing autonomy and strength of corporate entities shapes the political policy of countries.

Some-antiglobalization groups argue that globalization is necessarily imperialistic.

It can therefore be said that „globalization” is another term for Americanization as it is believed by some observers that the United States could be one of the few countries (if not the only one) to truly profit from globalization.

Some argue that globalization imposes credit-basis economics, resulting in unsustainable growth of debt and debt crises.

The financial crises in Southeast Asia that began in 1997 in the relatively small, debt ridden economy of Thailand but quickly spread to the economies of South-Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong-Kong, the Philippines and eventually were felt all around the world, demonstrated the new risks and volatility in rapidly changing globalized markets.

Many global institutions that have a strong international influence are not democratically ruled. Therefore they are considered by some as supranational undemocratic powers.

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