

Globalization and Resistance

Globalization: Causes and Process

- Globalization increased toward the end of the 20th century, partly due to the entry into world markets of such large nations as China and members of the former Soviet Union. Only a few countries declined to join the global economy. **Internationalism** replaced nationalism as a dominant cultural theme.
- Technological improvements increased, making it easier to maintain contact over long distances. E-mail and the development of the **World Wide Web** have revolutionized communications. Satellite television has made global audiences possible for any one broadcast.
- International investment has increased remarkably, comprising up to 40 percent of U.S. total investments. **Multinational corporations** became a new force. Corporations sought cheap labor and undemanding environmental policies. Raw materials were important, as they had been in the first phases of industrialization. In some cases, multinationals were more powerful than the countries in which they operated. They were also able to transfer their activities from one area to another. **Outsourcing**, the tactic of hiring outside workers, was used to hire cheap labor wherever it could be found. While industrial nations made use of cheap labor in developing countries, they generally offered higher wages than the local prevailing wages. The impact of globalization is difficult to discern. Unemployment rates are high in areas that have not been successful in competing globally. International demands have led to human rights issues, from the sale of body organs to increasing child labor in some areas.
- International patterns of migration established in the 1950s and 1960s continued into the new millennium. Declining birth rates in some countries necessitated immigration. Large numbers of immigrants have led to tensions. Modern travel has made it easier to migrate to and from distant countries, **transforming earlier patterns of immigration**.
- **Cultural exchange** has reached new levels in the age of globalization. Greater scientific collaboration exists, generally with English as the common language. At the same time, fast-food restaurants such as McDonald's have covered the globe. American television shows and movies have also found world audiences. In the same way, cultures around the world either celebrate American holidays, or celebrate their own holidays with greeting cards and presents. Other nations, especially Japan, also exported their popular culture. One of the results of these developments is the great increase in obesity, especially among children. Cultural globalization has been mitigated in those areas where access to high technology is unavailable, and by adaptation of global culture to local tastes and traditions.

Resistance and Alternatives

- Criticism of globalization has increased. Large rallies began in 1999, pointing to the environmental dangers, exploitation of cheap labor, and growing gaps between rich and poor, which critics attribute to globalization. Critics have also claimed that gaps are emerging between rich and poor nations.
- **Nationalism** has remained a vital force in some areas, in spite of growing internationalism. Resistance to foreign cultures has included the French refusal to officially acknowledge the use of some English words. Religious movements have provided some of the most powerful resistance to globalization. Russian Orthodoxy is only one example of a religion that has gained new prominence. **Fundamentalism**, whether Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, or Catholic, is a powerful force, that is often in opposition to globalization. Fundamentalism generally increases intolerance and exclusivity. It has exacerbated, though it has not generally caused, hostility between or within peoples. Terrorism is increasingly motivated by religious causes.

The Global Environment

- **Environmental impacts** changed in degree more than in kind. Efforts at industrialization increased the scale of environmental hazards, for instance in China and the former Soviet Union. Southeast Asia is an area of increasing extraction of natural resources, causing alarm in the world community. Two other areas of concern are that the wealthiest countries consume products out of proportion to their populations, and that the same countries also contribute more pollution compared to developing nations.
- The **greenhouse effect**, an increase of gases that cause overheating of the earth, is now acknowledged by most scientists. Sources of the gases that cause the problem include fossil fuel combustion, rice paddies, and refrigeration. Predicted impacts include rising sea levels and dramatic changes to vegetation patterns. Greenhouse gases are not new, but are produced in much greater quantities. Rainforest destruction is also not new, but is occurring at greater rates, and causes concern because the forests are slow to grow back. International conferences, held to address environmental concerns, have lacked support from the United States and other key nations.
- Epidemics, including **AIDS** and **SARS**, have become global issues.

Toward the Future

- Forecasting the future, while universally desired, has been shown to be problematic at best.
- Trends can be studied to predict their course in the future. Yet, discerning trends can itself be difficult. The existence of contradictory trends makes it hard to predict the ascendancy of one or the other.
- One method for predicting the future exists in comparing past and present, in terms of “revolutions,” to develop scenarios that describe the future.
- Predicting the future is made difficult by the profound changes of the last hundred years. For instance, women’s roles have been transformed, but it is not clear what current trends will predominate.

Multiple-Choice Questions

- Globalization has been accompanied by
 - re-imposition of mercantilist strategies.
 - the entry of all the world's nations into the global market.
 - ending of ethnic hostilities.
 - the spread of English as an international language.
 - greater isolation among competing scientists.
- Resistance to globalization includes all of the following EXCEPT:
 - rising nationalism in some areas.
 - large-scale protests.
 - state support for local traditions.
 - a global ban on outsourcing.
 - religious fundamentalism.
- International communication in the late 20th century has been significantly improved by
 - the advent of computers.
 - digitalization.
 - telephones.
 - e-mail and cell phones.
 - airline travel.
- What best describes new social patterns brought by globalization?
 - Migration between rich and poor countries has increased.
 - International migration has emerged for the first time.
 - Globally, gaps between the rich and poor seem to be closing.
 - Declining birth rates in developing nations have left them at a disadvantage.
 - Low-birth rate countries have encouraged immigration.
- What factors tend to limit cultural globalization?
 - regional variations in taste and regional values
 - increasing isolation of emergent nations
 - poor communication between world areas
 - ecumenical religious movements
 - all of the above
- Religious fundamentalism is always
 - Muslim.
 - accompanied by suppression of opposing religious groups.
 - Christian.
 - Hindu.
 - an attempt to return to primary texts or traditions.
- Global environmental issues include
 - over-exploitation of key resources.
 - air pollution that has reached critical levels.
 - global warming.
 - A and B.
 - all of the above.
- The wealthiest 20% of humans consume what percent of goods and resources?
 - 80%
 - 40%
 - 20%
 - One-fourth
 - One-fifth
- The greenhouse effect is best described as:
 - the devastating reduction of rainforests.
 - rising levels of chlorofluorocarbons.
 - rising global temperatures caused by atmospheric buildup of gases.
 - global shifts in wildlife patterns.
 - extensive spread of industrial pollutants.
- Predictions about the future are complicated by all of the following EXCEPT:
 - the simultaneous existence of contradictory trends.
 - profound changes in the preceding century.
 - the lack of complex models.
 - the widespread tendency in the 21st century to abandon cultural traditions.
 - the vastness of the world economy.

Document-Based Question

Based on the following documents, analyze the benefits and consequences that globalization poses to the global community. Explain what additional type of document(s) would help assess the impact of globalization.

Historical Background: Globalization is the process, originating after World War II, by which nations of the world are being drawn into a global economic system based on free trade.

DOCUMENT 1 Source: “Trade Policy Analysis no. 26: Trading Tyranny for Freedom: How Open Markets Till the Soil for Democracy,” published 2004. Daniel Griswold, associate director of Cato Institute, a nonprofit public policy institute for the promotion of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace.

In the aftermath of September 11, the foreign policy dimension of trade has reasserted itself. Expanding trade, especially with and among less developed countries, is once again being recognized as a tool for encouraging democracy and respect for human rights in regions and countries of the world where those commodities have been the exception rather than the rule.

Political scientists have long noted the connection between economic development, political reform, and democracy. Increased trade and economic integration promote civil and political freedoms directly by opening a society to new technology, communications, and democratic ideas. Economic liberalization provides a counterweight to governmental power and creates space for civil society. And by promoting faster growth, trade promotes political freedom indirectly by creating an economically independent and political aware middle class.

The reality of the world today broadly reflects those theoretical links between trade, free markets, and political and civil freedom. As trade and globalization have spread to more and more countries in the past 30 years, so too have democracy and political and civil freedoms. In particular, the most economically open countries today are more than three times as likely to enjoy full political and civil freedoms as those that are relatively closed. Those that are closed are nine times more likely to completely suppress civil and political freedoms as those that are open. Nations that have followed a path of trade reform in recent decades by progressively opening themselves to the global economy are significantly more likely to have expanded their citizens’ political and civil freedoms.

DOCUMENT 2 Source: Excerpt from *Eyes of the Heart: Seeking a Path for the Poor in the Age of Globalization*, published 2000. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, former president of Haiti.

In today’s global marketplace, trillions of dollars are traded each day via a vast network of computers. In this market no one talks, no one touches—only numbers count. And yet today this faceless economy is already five times larger than the real, or productive, economy. We know other marketplaces. On a plain that’s high in the mountains of Haiti, thousands of people still gather one day a week. This is the marketplace of my childhood, in the mountains above Port Salut. The sights and the smells and the noise and the colors over-

whelm you. Everyone comes. If you don't come you will miss everything... [People] share trade and laughter, gossip, politics, and medical and child-rearing tips. A market exchange, and a human exchange. We are not against trade, we are not against free trade, but our fear is that the global market intends to [destroy] our [Haitian] markets. We will be pushed to the cities, to eat food grown on factory farms in distant cities, to eat food grown on factory farms in distant countries, food whose price depends on the daily numbers game of the first market. "This is more efficient," the economists say. "Your market, your way of life is not efficient," they say. But we ask, "What is left when you reduce trade to numbers, when you erase all that is human?"

DOCUMENT 3 Source: "The Benefits of Globalization," published 2004. Peter Geddes, Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment, sponsored by the Montana State University.

Globalization has rapidly improved the social and economic status of women in the developing world. The explanation is straightforward: In a competitive, globalized world, the role of women becomes ever more valuable. Cultures that exclude women from full participation (e.g., Saudi Arabia) fall ever further behind. Societies that embrace education for women enjoy dramatic social progress. Educated women tend to have fewer children. When they enter the workforce their contributions dramatically improve their country's economic prospects. Concurrently, economic independence increases their stature both at home and in the community. Importantly, women spend their income very differently than men do, focusing on key areas for social progress: the education, health, and nutrition of their families. Globalization helps break the regressive taboos responsible for discriminating against people on the basis of gender, race, or religious beliefs. It is an antidote to the intolerant fundamentalism that oppresses millions of the world's poorest. When these people see how their counterparts in the West are treated, they see a better future and begin to demand it. Globalization offers hope for the world's poorest, hope that one day they may enjoy the fruits of the West's liberal traditions.

DOCUMENT 4 Source: Excerpt from *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, published 2000. Thomas L. Friedman, *New York Times* columnist.

To begin with, the globalization system, unlike the Cold War system, is not static, but a dynamic ongoing process: globalization involves the inexorable integration of markets, nation-states, and technologies to a degree never witnessed before—in a way that enables individuals, corporations, and nation-states to reach around the world farther, faster, deeper, and cheaper than ever before, and also in a way that produces a powerful backlash from those brutalized or left behind by this new system. The driving idea behind globalization is free-market capitalism: the more you let market forces rule and the more you open your economy to free trade and competition, the more efficient your economy will be and the more it will flourish. Globalization means the spread of free-market capitalism to virtually every country in the world. Globalization also has its own set of economic rules—rules that revolve around opening, deregulating and privatizing your economy.

Unlike the Cold War system, globalization has its own dominant culture, which is why it tends to be homogenizing. In previous eras this sort of cultural homogenization happened on a regional scale—the Hellenization of the Near East and the Mediterranean world under the Greeks, the Turkification of Central Asia, North Africa, Europe and the Middle East by the Ottomans, or the Russification of Eastern and Central Europe and parts of Eurasia under the Soviets. Culturally speaking, globalization is largely, though not entirely, the spread of Americanization—from Big Macs to iMacs to Mickey Mouse—on a global scale. Globalization has its own defining technologies: computerization, miniaturization, digitization, satellite communications, fiber optics and the Internet. And these technologies helped to create the defining perspective of globalization. If the defining perspective of the Cold War world was “division,” the defining perspective of globalization is “integration.” The symbol of the Cold War system was a wall, which divided everyone. The symbol of the globalization system is the World Wide Web, which unites everyone. The defining document of the Cold War system was “The Treaty.” The defining document of the globalization system is “The Deal.”

DOCUMENT 5 “Globalization: Preserving the Benefits,” published 2003. Anne O. Krueger, first deputy managing director, International Monetary Fund.

In some circles, these days, it is fashionable to blame globalization for all manner of ills. Critics hold it responsible for everything from poverty and inequality to environmental pollution. But it is also important to remember how substantial recent economic progress has been—and how widespread. Just as it has been for thousands of years, trade has been the main driving force behind this unprecedented economic expansion. Rapidly falling transport and communication costs have helped, of course. But the dismantling of trade barriers that took place after 1945 fueled economic growth. The multilateral trade system, set up first under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and now overseen by the World Trade Organization, helped all participating countries reap the benefits of free, or freer trade. We must not lose sight of the role that trade liberalization has played in creating the gains in economic welfare from which so many people have benefited. The industrial countries have done well in the postwar world. But so, too, have many people in the developing world. A large proportion of the world’s population has become better off at a faster pace than ever before. Infant mortality has declined sharply; literacy rates have risen, to more than 70 percent. World poverty has declined—in the 5 years after 1993, for example, the number of people living on less than \$1 a day fell by more than 100 million. Life expectancy in developing countries is now around 65 years, only 10 years or so less than in the industrial countries. Economic growth has also raised the demand for democracy and representation. A large part of the world’s population now lives under elected governments.

DOCUMENT 6 Source: “Definition: Global Justice Movement,” published 2002. John Cavanaugh and Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies, a think tank with a focus on putting ideas into action for peace, justice, and the environment.

What is the Global Justice Movement?

The growing movement to oppose corporate-led globalization is sometimes called the “citizen backlash to globalization” or the “global justice movement.” It is a movement unlike any other in the breadth of its composition and its demands and in its many cross-border linkages. It is widely misunderstood despite its major impact on policy and on the main institutions of corporate globalization.

What Does It Want?

The people in movements across borders are united in what they oppose and, increasingly, in what they propose.

What Do Members Oppose?

The citizen backlash everywhere decries the growth of political and economic power of large global corporations. They also believe that the three main public international economic bodies—the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization—favor narrow private interests over the common public good and that these institutions should be drastically reformed or eliminated. The current system of corporate globalization, rooted in what George Soros has called “market fundamentalism” is, they believe, not inevitable and can be changed.

What They Propose

Groups advocate replacing market fundamentalism with the principles of living democracy, universal rights, ecological sustainability, and fairness. They favor stronger checks on corporate power at the local, national, and global levels. They believe that certain goods and services should not be subject to global market forces or agreements, such as water and other parts of the global commons. They feel that other parts of the global economy should be slowed down, such as speculative capital flows. And, they advocate changing rules and institutions so that economic exchanges support healthy communities, dignified work, and a clean environment.

Who is in It?

The citizen backlash is particularly strong and diverse in the United States, Canada, most European countries, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico. It is strong in certain sectors, be it labor or religious or peasant, in dozens of other African, Asian, and Latin American nations.

Free-Response Question

What is the place of nationalism in today’s global culture?

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Multiple-Choice Questions

- **1. (D) is correct.** While English was well on its way to becoming an international language as a result of British imperialism, it has gained even greater prominence in the era of globalization.
- **2. (D) is correct.** Outsourcing is protested by some, but is still a common business strategy.
- **3. (B) is correct.** All of the answers are important, except digitalization, which has had little impact on communication.
- **4. (A) is correct.** While movement between countries is not new, it is increasing, and now often includes a return to home countries, turning emigration to migration. While low birth rates are a problem in many countries, the immigration that resolves the problem is nevertheless often resisted.
- **5. (A) is correct.** The impact of globalization is often mitigated by local adaptations of global culture.
- **6. (E) is correct.** Religious fundamentalism may be violent and may occur in many world religions, but is always an attempt to purify or simplify a religion in accordance with a perceived earlier form.
- **7. (E) is correct.** The first two impacts are undeniable. While the greenhouse effect is denied by some, it is nevertheless a global issue.
- **8. (A) is correct.** The figure is four-fifths, or 80 percent.
- **9. (C) is correct.** The other answers are either causes of the effect or its predicted results.
- **10. (D) is correct.** While cultural traditions have been impacted, they continue vigorously around the world.

Document-Based Question Sample Response

Based on the following documents, analyze the benefits and consequences that globalization poses to the global community. Explain what additional type of document(s) would help assess the impact of globalization.

Globalization is the process of joining all nations of the world into one global economic system through free trade. At first, the idea of free trade for all seems to be an enormous challenge that would be worthwhile. But globalization is also linked to poverty, environmental destruction, and the suppression of human rights, and its impact on the global community has yet to be entirely determined.

There are many benefits to the globalization of the world's nations and markets. Daniel Griswald, a writer for the Cato Institute, claims that globalization not only encourages democracy and human rights but it promotes political freedoms and democratic ideas in developed and developing nations (**DOCUMENT 1**). Globalization creates an economically independent and aware middle class that will replace the wide gap between "the rich and the poor" (**DOCUMENT 1**). Peter Geddes, of the Foundation of Research on Economics and

the Environment, goes further and suggests that the global economy is responsible for the improved economic and social status of women in developing countries. He also credits less discrimination and a want for a better future to the economic trend of globalization (**DOCUMENT 3**). According to Anne Krueger, first deputy manager of the International Monetary Fund, globalization has increased literacy and decreased poverty in developing nations (**DOCUMENT 5**). But the problem associated with these previous sources is their perspective. Each source wants to either maintain economic liberty and/or increase economic expansion. Thus they will not weigh the various non-economic problems associated with globalization with as much relevance.

But for all the advantages of globalization, there are some distinctive consequences. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, former president of Haiti, believed that the smaller industries of developing nations across the world would get “swept under the rug” (**DOCUMENT 2**). Furthermore, as Thomas Friedman writes in *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, globalization requires far too much and the integration of the world economy allows too many to get left behind (**DOCUMENT 4**). Also, as the Global Justice Movement states, the three main public international economic bodies that promote globalization—the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization—all favor narrow private interests over the common public good (**DOCUMENT 6**). The problem is that these perspectives represent a minority voice, which does not see the larger benefits that globalization provides to the majority of the world’s population.

Thus, in conclusion, there appear to be benefits and consequences to globalization. While many feel its benefits are unmatched, others have cited some unwanted and unforeseen consequences. To fully understand the impact of globalization sources that document gross domestic product per year would be useful. Also income trends in the past twenty years in developed and developing nations could help demonstrate whether or not people are continuing to benefit under globalization. Finally poverty rates from the past twenty years could indicate whether or not globalization was truly helpful to the developing global community.

Free-Response Essay Sample Response

What is the place of nationalism in today’s global culture?

Nationalism continues to be an important force in the period of globalization, yet has been mitigated by competing trends. Internationalism, including global tastes and global cultures, has largely replaced national ties. People on different sides of the world can make contact in ways that could not be conceived previously. Yet international trends have not replaced the loyalties and feelings of unity that nationalism provided. In some cases, that vacuum has been replaced by religious movements, even international religious movements. Nevertheless, nationalism is on the rise in some countries.

