

THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction. The world we are living in becoming more globalized than ever before thanks to the advance of technology, internet, international relations and recognition of new member states in the global arena. Famous scholar on international relations, Abu-Lughod clearly defined the term of globalization as an ongoing process whereby larger and larger portions of the world become increasingly linked to one another – via material exchanges of resources, commodities, and currencies as well as through a widening of the geographic range over which populations move¹. Undoubtedly, globalization is simultaneously social, cultural, political, and legal phenomenon. In social sphere, globalization leads to more interaction among peoples of different nations, different social backgrounds and races. Culturally, globalization is the main drive of exchange of ideas, theories, values, traditions and artistic expressions amid different cultures. Notably, globalization not only increases the dialogue between the cultures, but also pushes the tendency of one global culture as well. The phenomenon of globalization in legal and political field is interconnected, since one is unable to exist without the other. Regarding the political aspect of this phenomenon, international governmental and intergovernmental organizations play a pivotal role in the development of globalization, the organizations namely the UN, the WTO, Red Cross and Green Peace. Globalization as a legal phenomenon has changed the way international law and its principles are enforced. The advantages gained from globalization is enormous.

- Enhanced opportunities for the exchange and trade of goods and services on a broader scale than before
- Attainment of more affordable consumer prices for individuals
- Favorable outcomes for both domestic firms and overseas labor through outsourcing
- Facilitation of improved living conditions and quality of life.

As this list continues longer, some disadvantages can also be observed in the process since globalization is, without a doubt, a double-edged sword. Some might argue that globalization might lead to the:

- Contribution to the concentration of wealth in wealthier nations²
- Possible marginalization of economically disadvantaged countries

¹ Coleman W.D., Sajed A. Fifty key thinkers on globalization. Page 11. – Routledge, 2013.

² Abu-Lughod Coleman W.D., Sajed A. Fifty key thinkers on globalization.– Routledge, 2013.

- Potential exploitation of labor and depletion of physical and intellectual resources in less economically developed nations(brain drain)
- Homogenization of global cultures and increased consumerism.

As it was mentioned, globalization bears both advantages and disadvantages, one cannot claim that it is exclusively good or bad³. However, the challenges brought by globalization should not be undermined and carefully tackled in order to achieve the sustainable development goals. Therefore, in the proceeding paragraphs, the problems occurred during the globalization process and caused by globalization would be thoroughly analyzed, examined and feasible solutions to achieve SDGs will be proposed.

I. Economic challenges: global economic crises, concentration of wealth in rich countries and exploitation of developing countries.

Due to the increased connection of economy and global trade, nowadays, it can be observed that there is an increase in the sensitivity of one part of the world economy to events originating in other part of the world. Primary examples could be the Great Depression and the Global Financial crisis of 2008. Furthermore, globalization is one of the main culprits of income inequality between countries. While it has benefited the developed countries, cheap workers of developing countries have been exploited through low income and poor working conditions. In their book, *Six faces of Globalization*, Anthea Robert and Nicolas Lamp firmly claims that income inequality is a normal process and it is the law of market economy, employees are paid less or loses its job simply because they are not qualified enough, and the loss of jobs are natural, but essential step of progress in the market economy⁴. However, it cannot be denied that this problem of poor economic system among nations still exists, poor countries are becoming poorer. Major factor for this trend is the increasing mobility of capital and investment, which pushed transnational corporations to move their business to countries with lower labour costs and weaker regulations and this process assists in putting more money into the pockets of transnational corporations. As a consequence, Smaller local industries and businesses may struggle to compete with multinational corporations, leading to their decline or closure. This can negatively impact local economies and livelihoods. Countries with wealthier economies owns a competitive advantage in the global trade with the help of their infrastructure, strong economy and resources. All of these trends add up and lead to the concentration of wealth in rich nations as they are able to dominate and benefit the most from global markets.

With a view to reduce the concentration of wealth in developing countries, a number of steps should be carried out all of which require international cooperation:

³ RICHARD A. FALK (1930–) *Fifty key thinkers on globalization.*– Routledge, 2013.

⁴ Roberts A., Lamp N. *Six Faces of Globalization: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why It Matters.* – Harvard University press, 2021.

- Encourage bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that prioritize development of economically disadvantaged nations.
- Incentivizing and rewarding the projects which foster technology transfer and knowledge sharing to enhance the capacity of labour market in the developing countries.
- To establish international funds to support infrastructure projects, education in marginalized countries.
- Impose higher taxes on transnational corporations with highest revenues and direct these funds to promote economic progress in underdeveloped countries.
- Promote fair trade practices and ensure the equitable distribution of profits between global supply chains.
- Increasing the importance to uphold global labor standards and secure adherence to equitable work practices in order to safeguard worker rights.
- Foster sustainable development and accountable management of resources by actively engaging in international environmental agreements.
- Endorse endeavors aimed at diversifying the economies of less economically developed nations, thus mitigating reliance on the extraction of natural resources.

II. Political challenges: social tensions, loss of national sovereignty and terrorism.

The process of globalization has resulted in a diminishing capacity for individual nations to exercise self-determination in enacting policies and regulations that are deemed essential for the welfare of their citizens. As interconnectedness between nations grows, the autonomy of national decision-making is frequently subject to the influence of transnational agreements and organizations. The augmented mobility of individuals across international boundaries and the integration of a diverse array of cultural backgrounds within societies have engendered social tensions and cultural conflicts. Consequently, a host of intricate issues have arisen concerning immigration policies, the assimilation of newcomers into existing communities, the establishment of multicultural systems, and the preservation of distinct national identities. This trend of social tensions can be vividly seen in the US recent years, named as Woke(awaken, conscious) culture where especially youngsters were the main members of it. This type of culture promoted the idea of being against to everything and everyone even if what they are doing was wrong. In particular, modern activists have weaponized destructive emotions like anger, fear, guilt and shame and use them indiscriminately. I argue in this article that this is counterproductive and, in some cases, unethical. By seeping themselves in an environment of emotional negativity, activists are wasting their own energy and poisoning the

minds of anybody that reaches to them⁵. Another issue stem from globalization is terrorism. Terrorism is characterized, first and foremost, by the use of violence. This tactic of violence takes many forms and often indiscriminately targets non-combatants. The relationship between terrorism and globalization is difficult to describe accurately. Each phenomenon is complicated and defies simple characterization. It is inaccurate to suggest that globalization is responsible for terrorism, but technologies associated with globalization have been exploited by terrorists. In particular, technologies have increased the ability of terrorist groups to work together, share information, and reach out to previously unavailable audiences⁶. When these all components combined which all stem from globalization phenomenon, create a dangerous political instability. This issue can be mitigated by exploiting following suggestions: Globalization has indeed brought about political challenges such as social tensions, loss of national sovereignty, and terrorism. To address these challenges, it is important to consider a multi-faceted approach.

- Firstly, in order to mitigate social tensions and cultural conflicts arising from globalization, it is crucial to promote dialogue, understanding, and inclusivity. Encouraging open and respectful discussions among diverse communities can help foster a sense of unity and shared values. Additionally, implementing effective immigration policies that balance the needs of both newcomers and existing communities can contribute to social cohesion.

- Secondly, to address the loss of national sovereignty, nations can strive to strike a balance between participating in transnational agreements and organizations while safeguarding their own interests and autonomy. This can be achieved through active participation in international negotiations and ensuring that national policies align with the welfare of their citizens.

- Lastly, in combating terrorism, it is important to enhance international cooperation and intelligence sharing. Strengthening security measures, both domestically and internationally, can help prevent terrorist activities. Additionally, addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as socio-economic disparities and political grievances, can contribute to long-term solutions.

It is important to note that these challenges are complex and require ongoing efforts from governments, international organizations, and civil society. By addressing these issues with a comprehensive and collaborative approach, we can strive towards a more stable and secure global political landscape.

III. Environmental challenges: climate change, consumerism and biodiversity loss.

⁵ <https://medium.com/science-meaning/the-toxicity-of-woke-culture-25ebeda81>, The Toxicity of Woke Culture When political activism is based on destructive emotions, we all lose

⁶ Chapter 23 The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations/ Edited by J. Baylis, S. Smith – Oxford, New York: Oxford University press, 2001. Chapter 22, Climate change

Environmental issues have become increasingly prominent on the international agenda over the last fifty years, assisted by the effects of globalization. Globalization has stimulated the relocation of industry, population movement away from the land, and ever-rising levels of consumption, along with associated emissions of effluents and waste gases, deforestation, and depletion of natural resources. While often generating greater income for poorer countries exporting basic goods to developed country markets, ever-freer trade can also have adverse environmental consequences, by disrupting local ecologies and livelihoods. Global problems may need global solutions and pose a fundamental requirement for global environmental governance, yet local or regional action remains a vital aspect of responses to many problems; one of the defining characteristics of environmental politics is the awareness of such interconnections and of the need to 'think globally-act locally'. Habitual negligence of environmental problems can be observed in the traditional theories of International relations, great example would be Hans J. Morgenthau's text on Politics among nations, which states that natural environment is the fixed constituent of national power⁷. Nevertheless, these problems can be reduced to a certain level through global cooperation, carrying out proposed actions below:

- To promote the construction of smart cities with automated transportation, intelligent lighting, smart-ride sharing systems by emphasizing the importance of integrating smart technologies into urban planning and infrastructure development, ensuring energy-efficient buildings, sustainable transportation systems, and effective waste management.

- To establish Environmental Actions Assessment system worldwide with the branches in all states. This system should keep under surveillance and collect data on forest, waste and water management in different countries ensure the best practice among those of which need better management in those areas.

- Fostering International Collaboration should be emphasized once again Promote international collaboration in sharing best practices, research, and technological advancements related to smart city development and environmental sustainability. Increasing technology transfer, knowledge sharing and funding among nations to accelerate the global transition to environmentally-friendly smart cities.

- To promote public awareness regarding the environmental problems and establish projects and toolkits which educate the citizens how to be more environmentally-friendly. Inclusion of local and international NGOs in the decision-making process related to resource management and environmental preservation,

IV. Conclusion

⁷ Politics Among Nations. Morgenthau H, 2005, The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations/ Edited by J. Baylis, S. Smith – Oxford, New York: Oxford University press, 2001. Chapter 22, Climate change

To conclude, globalization is a process which benefits and harms the progress of countries. Thus, rather than dwelling on the fact that globalization is 'evil' and should be avoided, states should take an effort minimize its drawbacks and accentuate on the benefits that can be gained from this process.

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