

**Introduction to Global Studies
Summary Paper**

Introduction

Barriers play a large role in the development of countries. Weather barriers are being created or destroyed, they affect civilization in every way (social, economic, political, etc).

Real World Globalization: Introduction - Defining Globalization

- **Globalization**: Interaction and integration of people, goods, services, ideas across the world.
- Globalization can refer to a process, a system, an era, or a condition.
- Four main characteristics of contemporary globalization:
 1. Increasing social networks and activities that are able to overcome political, economic, cultural and geographical boundaries.
 2. Increasing access and speed of communications has increased the spread of cultural and social exchanges.
 3. Expansion and stretching of international institutions.
 4. General global consciousness due to the compression of space and time (1-3 = 4)
- **Transnational**: A social phenomenon that grew from heightened interconnectivity between people and the receding economic and social impact of boundaries among nation states.
- The predominant motor of globalization is the capitalist mode of production. This system expands relentlessly, spreading its **ethos**(the characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community as manifested in its beliefs and aspirations) of individualism and competition. This disrupts the traditional beliefs and ways of economic production of regions with devastating consequences.
- Globalization has brought new technological conveniences and life-saving medical advances. With that, it has also resulted in a growing gap of inequality within and between nations. The distribution of resources and money leaving the poor to be taken advantage of.
- The richest 8% of the world population has one half of the world's income leaving the other 92% with the other half.
- Polarisation between countries is accompanied moreover by increasing inequality within countries. High-income countries are experiencing a widespread rise of income inequality.
- **Neoliberalism**: "free market" or "hands off" economics. Drives for elimination of any restrictions on the mobility of capital or its penetration of local economies.
- **Old-style regulation**: smaller, less developed nations used to promote local industries.
- Competition causes those competing to allocate resources as efficiently as possible. This results in the commodity (materialization) of all aspects of human relations.
- This book focuses on the negative and disruptive aspects of globalization with the aim of eliminating poverty and hunger, extreme social and economic inequality, environmental destruction, and violence.

Like everything, globalization has both positive and negative aspects. Depending on who you ask, globalization could instill completely different ideas or attitudes. Growing interaction has brought down social, economic, and physical barriers but it has also created new ones with near impossible gaps to jump. A world where the rich get even richer at the expense and exploitation of the poor.

Different Ways of Looking at the World's Borders

- **"Borders"**: The features that most strongly define the various parts of any given system.
- Every academic discipline has a different way of studying the world and focuses on a particular aspect as its unit of analysis. You look at the world through different lenses that guide your educational experience.
- We cross physical and intellectual borders every day.
- **Five major borders:**
 1. **Geographic**: physical borders that affect how and where humans have settled and the degree to which they interact with one another. Altered by the environmental impact of melting polar ice caps, retreating wetlands, and expanding deserts.
 2. **Political**: borders that delineate the governing entities of the world that are distinguished on the basis of territory, population, governments, and recognition by others. New political borders sit on top of and often divide very old cultures.
 3. **Economic**: borders that delineate the markets that promote the exchange of goods and services across the world.
 4. **Social**: borders that delineate the class divisions of the world that are formed by inequality of opportunity.
 5. **Cultural**: borders that delineate the nations of the world that form identities in terms of language, religion, ethnicity, or a common historical experience.
- **Citizenship**: the duties, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of individuals to and in the community in which they reside.
- There are 54 African States and more than 300 distinct nations on the sub-Saharan African continent. Many of the problems surrounding the violence, leadership, and economic stagnation in that region must begin with the recognition that there are many new states that split very old nations.
- **Globalization**: the political, economic, social, and cultural flow across the international system; the term includes a broad range of integrated communication networks that have developed to facilitate those connections.
- **Hyperglobalization**: the view that emphasizes the progressive erosion of the borders that have differentiated national economies and sustained the centrality of nation-states.
- Does the nation state system have the resilience and capacity to continue to regulate the global economy.
- Some argue that the expansion of trade and investment across the world is occurring within prevailing structures and shaped by existing borders.
- Nationalism and other restrictions of identity shapes relationships and may suggest potential limits to the cooperative spirit required to nurture and maintain global connections.

- Because of the growing global network of trade, what will happen if those connections are strained or severed due to emerging conflicts. We have all grown dependent on each other.
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**: value of all goods/services produced within a country.
- **Gross National Product (GNP)**: the value of all the goods and services produced by a country's citizens, regardless of where they may be living.
- The lines between what is domestic and what is international have become increasingly blurred.
- Everything produced in today's world are hard to find the origins of given the multiple sources of inputs or assembly.
- While there are considerable and mutual stakes in sustaining ties and relationships, the strength will be affected by the behaviors and policy choices of international actors.
- Consumers have become more vulnerable to political and economic fluctuations abroad.
- **"Golden Straitjacket"**: A term used to describe what states must do to participate competitively in the global market.
- It is difficult to protect what is unique about different cultures as the world becomes more homogenized.
- Does the focus on competition and efficiency dehumanize those working across the world for international businesses?
- Technological innovation, the integration of markets, and overlapping financial networks **preclude** (prevent or make impossible) effective isolation.
- **Global issues**: global not simply because they are happening or all over the world but because they transcend state boundaries and require a collective response; no single entity possesses the ability to deal with or solve these issues by itself.
- **Global citizens**: individuals who perceive themselves as members of a global community; such people are aware of the wider world, respect and value diversity, and are willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place.

A variety of global barriers are being broken down with advances in communications and improved opportunities of travel. With these advancements comes power as businesses are able to create goods at lower costs and sell to a larger market. This comes from the exploitation of individuals. However, these advancements have heightened people's awareness of the issues facing the world.

Conclusion

Both readings discuss social, economic, and political borders/barriers and how they affect us in different ways. Some negatively and some positively. Both mention the impact of technological innovation that has transformed everything we know today. Technology has bridged geographic, political, economic, social, and cultural barriers we once had, but has built new barriers that bring new challenges to the world. Both also mention how globalization has aided in the growing divide between the rich and poor. The rich seem to be benefitting from cheaper goods while those at the lower end of the economic ladder are exploited and working below acceptable conditions with poor sanitation, inadequate housing, overcrowding, and serious healthcare issues.