

# When was globalisation?

## From its history to Seattle

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## Discovering the world regions

- Alexander the Great (300 B.C.) was one of the first rulers who discovered the ancient world in a global sense. Later on the Romans attained a worldwide sovereignty.
- Development of science and the voyages of exploration (1400-1500; obs. the Vikings in 1000) made the new continent reknown in a new sense: Colonialism, religion, trade, migration, cultural change were the mode of connectivity between the old and new world.

## Globalisation in the 1970's

- Western colonialism in Latin America, Africa and Asia during 1700-1800 and their people's struggle for independence in the 1900's (in Africa 1960's), were deeply realized by new social groups and organizations and later on in science called as **development studies**.
- Globalisation in **geography** was perceived through the eyes of the Third World problems: poverty, inequality, lack of human rights, unfair trade, neocolonialism, conflicts and wars – and environmental problems at the same time. The urgent problems of the Blue Planet were perceived in a global context, linked to each other between the rich North and poor South as cores and peripheries or metropolises and their satellites.
- **"Think globally act locally"** was the scarlet thread of political choices in a person's daily life.
- Global actors as multinational corporations (IBM, NOKIA etc.) and organisations (UN, IMF, WB etc.) were incorporated in the modern infrastructure of global spaces as a strict contrary of traditional local spaces in the Third World. Globalisation is a worldwide process which is used to produce regional imbalance and social, cultural, economic and even ecological inequalities between the regions (Paul Claval 1970)

## Globalisation in the 2000's

- The term "**globalisation**" was again actively practiced by tens of thousands of demonstrators in Seattle against the WTO meeting, five years ago.

**The network of www** is the first true medium for a globalised world to communicate interactively and **multinationals and international organisations work as global forces**: corporations, IT, UN, trade unions, WTO (as a core of neoliberal economy), WB, IMF, NGOs, states etc., use energy (raw materials), labour and cultural power both in the North and South. Still the world economy has collapsed!

**The South** has to create a suitable infrastructure to these global forces to incorporate. Information, people, material, goods, knowledge and culture change places in space and "the place" is nowhere.

If global forces create regional imbalance and increasing inequality between people as Castells claims (Castells 2003) in the world, what would be the possible remedies to suggest to the illness?

## Worldwide labour space

- Globalisation controls through its forces every sector of political, cultural and social life. Labour, trade and economy live more and more in a global space.
- **The global agenda** was born by the ILO group: Tarja Halonen & Benjamin Mkapa with 26 members from different countries and fields. 20 discussions in different countries were organised by the group. The main point of the report is: Nation states and international organisations should make a commitment to universal values of democracy, human rights, security and human equality, good governance, and the decrease of poverty to be able to govern the negative impacts of globalisation forces. In practice, such moral is needed e.g. to govern the distribution and ownership of labour and its profits.