



What is globalisation?

Lecture course on Globalisation from global and local perspectives by Ritva Kivikkokangas-Sandgren, Spring 2005

1. Does globalisation create new winners and losers in North-South relations?
2. How have developing countries and the poorest peoples responded to globalisation?
3. Can globalisation be tamed?




Globalisation, global space, place and regional identity; the perspective of geography

- Globalisation as a concept refers to the ways in which developments in one region can rapidly come to have significant consequences for the security and well-being of communities in quite distant regions of the globe.
- Interregional flows and networks of interaction within all realms of social activity from cultural to the criminal on different regional levels from global to local.



Four dimensions of globalisation: four types of change (McGraw 2000)

- 1. It involves a stretching of social, political and economic activities across political frontiers, regions and continents.
- 2. It suggests the intensification, or the growing magnitude, of interconnectedness i.e. flows of trade, investment, finance, migration, culture etc.
- 3. The growing extensity and intensity of global interconnectedness can be linked to a speeding up of global interactions and processes, as the evolution of world-wide systems of transport, and communication increases the velocity of the diffusion of ideas, goods, information, capital and people.
- 4. The growing extensity, intensity and velocity of global interactions is associated with their deepening impact such that the effects of distant events can be highly significant elsewhere and even the most local developments may come to have enormous global consequences. In this sense, the boundaries between domestic matters and global affairs become increasingly blurred.



From the Cold War in the East and West to the postmodernity of the IT-world and globalisation (Castells 1997)

- The postmodern world of fragment change and complexity started at the end of 1990's. It is characterised as cultural difference, global risks, the rise of regional unevenness, uncontrolled financial markets, unlimited connectivity, the end of the limiting authority of a state over personal freedom as a consumer, producer and an actor in the world. Globalisation is more than simply interconnectedness of the world (Castells 1997).
- Poverty, economic crisis, distribution of income, unemployment and lack of education are real obstacles for liberating the global finance, which should create positive development.
- **Allahwerdi** (2001): Five different dimensions of global development are: Global economy, good governance by people's participation, ecological sustainability and multicultural society




What is driving globalisation?

- **Old globalisation** was the medium of global empires to enlarge their power as superpowers.
- **New globalisation** is shrinking the world by internet and IT, global corporations and social movements (NGO's). Globalisation today is driven by a confluence of forces: Economic shifts, technological, political and cultural shifts.



...Five dimensions of globalisation

- **Economic:** global finance and market of economy, multinationals, networking, international trade and business, new labour markets, new development cooperation.
- **Political:** Human rights, international terrorism, war and new security problems.
- **Democracy:** good governance by people's participation, Human rights.
- **Ecological:** sustainable globalisation: use of common resources and legislation (biosphere; water, forest, earth, air, atmosphere)
- **Cultural:** Multicultural society of different identities: local, political, gender, family, religious, national, individual and social. Multicultural education for intercultural literacy. (cit. Allahwerdi 2001.)




Globalisation, inequality and world order. Is this the end of the Third World or the globalisation of poverty?

- Three schools and driving forces:
- 1. **Neoliberal**: Global market, world cities and capitalism and technology. The erosion of North-South differences. A shrinking world.
- 2. **Radical**: G7 states and transnational capital, erosion of solidarity at diff. levels. A more unequal world.
- 3. **Transformationalist**: Development as shared concern, modernity, erosion of North-South hierarchy and new forms of transnational solidarity.



History of economic globalisation

- **Colonial powers** created the basis for economic globalisation during 500 years. Throughout the collapse of colonialisation the nation state era was born with its different organisations (IMF, WTO).
- The state doesn't still guarantee the basic needs and security for the most people, who live in poverty and hunger. Family and relatives give more social security than the nation state.
Globalisation tends to be ill defined. There can be no "islands of prosperity". It means that developments in one region can rapidly come to have significant consequences for the security and well-being of communities in quite distant regions of the globe which have been linked to each other by the networks of interaction.



Is the homogenisation of the world a problem or a solution? The digital ~~olr/and culture question?~~

- IT-society: the digital divide and an unequal world. 80 % lack access to most basic communication technology.
- Countries characterised as having low levels of development (HDI) are typified by noticeably few telephone connections. Most www-connections are in EU and USA (Fig. 4.7 s.141).
- Preconditions for the digital development of the world (human and economic capit.)



A fair globalisation: creating opportunities for all

- Globalisation critics as was recently presented as the Global Agenda, in the ILO's report on **A Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities for All**, by the Presidents of Tanzania and Finland in 2004.