

The Issue of Globalization in the Modern World

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Globalization refers to the idea of interaction among the world's nations economically as well as culturally. One of the major proponents of globalization is the United States of America. The United States is interested in sharing ideas with other nations involving climate control, human rights, and other humanitarian considerations. It is also interested in promoting world trade. Therefore, the effects of globalization are felt world-wide, but perhaps even more so by the most powerful nation in the world. Globalization is seen by some as a positive movement, and by others – as negative, in reference to its effects on various countries economically, politically, and socially. Because globalization involves the interaction of countries worldwide, it is considered to transcend national boundaries, affecting a number of countries differently, and is dependent largely on what a country has to offer to other countries. For this reason, viewing globalization as desirable is debatable.

Globalization does effect positive change in certain respects. For example, many feel that underdeveloped countries benefit from globalization economically and socially. They are able to participate in trade with other countries, allowing their countries to profit. In addition, the world becomes aware of the human condition in those countries, sometimes resulting in a form of intervention by other governments in addressing human rights. By the same token, wealthier countries, such as the United States and France, England, Germany and others benefit through trading with other countries and interacting politically, as well as through cultural exchanges. In effect, globalization offers the opportunity for economic expanse and success for every market in existence worldwide (Bertho, Crawford, & Fogarty, 2008).

Although globalization is often thought of in positive terms, some consider it to be detrimental to certain countries. For example, the United States willingly relinquishes its

dominant stance in the world to some degree to gain in other areas. When American corporations or the government chooses globalization over self-interests, popular opinion often expresses a lack of understanding. The general population is left with questions and concerns, but has no recourse but to accept these decisions. This seems at odds with the philosophy of the American people, based on national pride and competition and, at the same time, a reputation for melting different nationalities into one.

Because of concerns with globalization, the United States does not enjoy the ability in decision-making it once experienced. It can no longer consider simply what is right for its own people or government. It must consider how it interacts with other countries to effect a positive outcome. Countries work collaboratively to advance in many fields and to problem-solve issues that affect everyone world-wide, not simply to make money. Some feel that this focus on promoting globalization is detrimental to a sense of national pride (Cohen, 2001). They fear that the United States will suffer in its efforts to set itself apart from other countries, to continue to strive as a world leader in the areas of technology advancement, space exploration, and other areas of interest.

Despite these concerns about lost focus on nationalism, the general consensus is that globalization helps all, poor countries and rich countries, alike. First, poor countries have benefited economically. Second, environmental issues continue to be addressed in a collaborative manner among nations. Finally, attention is brought world-wide to the human condition and to individual rights. Globalization has benefited countries economically through trade agreements, investments, and technology advancements. Arguments against globalization continue, though because the United States is perceived as sacrificing its dominant position in the world in its efforts to help poor countries advance economically. For example, the United

States has continuously outsourced its labor to other countries, causing its own people to go jobless. One reason is because other countries do not have the stringent rules to which American based businesses must adhere, including safety rules, benefits, and minimum wages.

References

- Bertho, M., Crawford, B., & Fogarty, E. A. (2008). *The Impact of Globalization on the United States: Culture and society*. New York, NY: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Cohen, E. S. (2001). *The politics of globalization in the United States*. New York, NY: Georgetown University Press.