

POLI 212

Introduction to International Politics

Session 13 – GLOBALIZATION

Lecturer: Dr. Bossman E. Asare

Contact Information: bossasare@gmail.com/beasare@ug.edu.gh



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

College of Education

School of Continuing and Distance Education

2014/2015 – 2016/2017

Session Overview

- **Overview**

- This session introduces students to Globalization. Globalization has been defined severally by several scholars. However, the various definitions point to Globalization as the integration of the economies of the world.
- Students will understand why the world has been described as a global village. The discussion will focus on the meaning of Globalization, the factors promoting Globalization and the different types of Globalization.

Session Outline

The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- Topic One: The Meaning and the Factors Promoting Globalization
- Topic Two: Types of Globalization

Reading List

- Bossman E. Asare, 2016. *International Politics: The Beginner's Guide*- Updated and Expanded, Digibooks, Ghana. chapter 9
- Charles W. Kegley Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton, 2010. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 12
- Payne, Richard (2007) *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. Pearson Longman: New York

Topic One

THE MEANING AND THE FACTORS PROMOTING GLOBALIZATION



Meaning of Globalization

- Globalization has been defined in several ways by various scholars. Nonetheless, all the definitions seem to suggest that globalization is the integration of the economies of the world.
- With globalization, people are aware of most if not all of the political, economic and social developments in other countries.
- As a result of this, no country can claim to be doing things in secret. The world is to some extent aware of most of the human rights abuses going on in some countries in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere.
- Globalization has made it possible for those living in Ghana to be aware of some of the political, economic, cultural, and social developments in many parts of the world. When terrorists attacked the United States in 2001, it took some few seconds and the news spread around the world.



Meaning of Globalization (contd.)

- Moreover, with globalization or the global economy “*neither distance nor national borders impede economic transactions*” (Wolf 2001:1). What globalization does is that the distance from one country to another cannot prevent economic transactions or discussions between business partners living in different countries.
- Globalization has made it possible for Ghanaians to transact business or hold discussions with their counterparts in the United Kingdom. In six hours you can get to London from Accra because of the use of airplanes, and one can also use the telephone system to discuss certain things with business partners elsewhere.
- Theoretically and largely practically, globalization allows free movement of goods and services from one country to another. Intergovernmental organizations and other nongovernmental organizations have put policies in place to ensure that countries do not close their borders to goods coming from other countries. This is one of the main reasons why there are influxes of goods in many African countries from the global north.

Factors promoting globalization

- **Communication** -advances in communication have promoted the integration of countries around the world. With communication, the Internet, for instance, allows people living in almost all parts of the world to read the news in other countries. Also, through the e-mail system, some people in certain parts of the world that have Internet accessibility can instantly send information to you. Some organizations even do electronic recruiting whenever they are hiring new employees. This means that people in all parts of the world can apply for the vacancies in the organization online (Internet).
- At times, organizations have their application forms online for people to fill and submit. Job-seekers can also attach relevant information such as their curriculum vitae and cover letters.
- Because of this device people apply for jobs in countries they have not even visited before. The Internet also allows people to buy and sell their products through popular websites like www.ebay.com, www.amazon.com, www.walmart.com, and www.bestbuy.com. Finally, people undertake various transactions and several activities in other countries with the aid of the Internet.
- There are many people living in the developing world who have bank accounts in the developed world. These people are able to transfer money from their accounts to other people's accounts without any hassling.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **Transportation-** efficient transportation systems have made travelling from one country to another simpler and easier. Airplanes and helicopters have brought the whole world together. People can simply travel from their countries or continents to other countries and be back within some few hours.
- Some years ago, this travel could take you a number of days to even get to your destination, and coming back was another form of difficulty. There are a number of airplanes leaving Ghana to some African, European, and North American countries almost on a daily basis. We have noted that with globalization there is nothing like distance that will impede economic and business transactions.
- The distance from Accra, Ghana to London, United Kingdom is about 3000 miles but one can make this trip in about six hours because of airplanes. Similarly, Accra to New York City in the United States is more than 5000 miles yet this can be done in 10 hours.
- The implication is that affluent Ghanaians can decide to go and shop in the United Kingdom and be back in less than 24 hours. Some can even afford to attend meetings in other countries and return in some few hours.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **Democracy**-democracy is a government controlled by the people of a country. In essence, with democracy, leaders in the country are limited in the performance of their functions. There are rules and regulations guiding leaders in the performance of their duties. As a variable promoting globalization, countries that are democratic usually see other democracies as friends to the extent that they can pursue common objectives.
- Democracies generally cherish freedoms for people and this allows democratic countries to see themselves as one people. In the contemporary global system, many countries are embracing democracy and this has brought them together to promote human rights and peaceful means of resolving disputes. Moreover, democratic countries often have friendly and diplomatic relations with other democracies.
- When democratic countries meet at conferences, they make the effort to push for policies that will bring the world together. For example, almost all democratic countries see protecting the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups in their countries as central in their efforts to enhance human development.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **Sports**-sporting activities around the world have been instrumental in bringing the world together. Almost every year there is a sporting event that brings a number of countries together. Perhaps the most important sporting activity in the world is the Olympics Games.
- These games, which are held every four years, bring a lot of countries together in a number of sporting disciplines (soccer/football, track events, swimming, tennis, basketball, boxing, volleyball, and etc.). During such events, people living in different countries rally to support the event. The soccer world cups for the various age groups are other avenues that bring countries together. Recently Egypt hosted the Under-20 World Cup, which brought many countries together. The World Cup for the senior soccer teams in South Africa in 2010 brought 32 countries from different continents together.
- Many countries that did not take part in the event saw the games on television. During events like these, the institutions that regulate sports in the world (like the International Olympic Committee-IOC and the Federation of International Football Association-FIFA) promote certain values and they also require all countries that want to be part of these activities to follow certain procedures. In other words, these institutions ensure that all countries share certain common values and objectives when it comes to sports.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **Intergovernmental Organizations-** Intergovernmental Organizations are organizations whose members are countries and they make collective decisions on behalf of such countries. These organizations bring various countries together to harmonize their actions on global issues. Once a country becomes a member of an intergovernmental organization, the country must agree to abide by certain policies.
- When they meet for discussions, you see what is known as political globalization fully at work. Organizations like the UN, ECOWAS, WTO, EU, the World Bank, IMF, and several others work to promote understanding among their member countries. The UN, for instance, promotes certain values among her 193 member countries. Because of these organizations, countries around the world appear to have common understanding of human rights, trade liberalization, peacekeeping, international law, FDIs, among others.
- With the SDGs being championed by the UN, there is a clear indication that the UN and her member countries want to see a world where the major challenges to human development are addressed in the shortest possible time.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **The Electronic Media**-the global media have equally been responsible for the rapid integration of global economies. Generally, there is the electronic media and the print media. The print media are the newspapers and the magazines. In Ghana, examples are the Daily Graphic, Daily Guide and the Chronicle. Internationally, one can cite the New York Times, USA Today, and The Guardian in the United Kingdom. Some of the print media have online versions, which allow people to read the news in other countries.
- However, this section is more concerned with the electronic media, which are the television and the radio (Internet is part of this family). Some of the popular TV and radio stations in the world are the CNN (Cable News Network), BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Aljazeera, and DW TV. People watch these networks in almost all parts of the world and the networks make it possible for people to know what is going on in other parts of the world.
- CNN and BBC, for example, have become synonymous with the international media. In the 2008 US presidential elections, which Barrack Obama won, the international media kept the world informed from the beginning of the primary elections in the two parties, Republicans and Democrats, to the end of the presidential elections between the two main contending candidates.

Factors promoting globalization (contd.)

- **Multinational Corporations**-MNCs have also been one of the reasons why the world has become integrated. MNCs set up branches of their companies in many countries. Because they have home countries and host countries, MNCs do everything possible to promote friendly relations between their home country governments and the host country governments.
- MNCs can have difficulties investing in certain countries without the cooperation between the host country and the home country. By setting up branches in many countries, MNCs promote standards or benchmarks in business, such as advertising, management and leadership, product branding, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, performance enhancement techniques, performance evaluation, customer relations/services, and how to deal with conflict of interest. Largely because of MNCs, some of these standards have been embraced by both governments and other private entities.
- When MNCs set up branches in other countries, they make the effort to promote their organizations' culture in the new environment.

Sample questions

- What is globalization in your own words?
- How are multinational corporations promoting the integration of global economies?
- Describe the role of IGOs in the promotion of globalization.

Topic Two

TYPES OF GLOBALIZATION



TYPES OF GLOBALIZATION

- **Economic Globalization**-this is free trade in the global system. It emphasizes open markets that lead to the free movement of goods and services across national borders without any impediments.
- Economic globalization also ensures that there is competition between producers of goods in different countries. This is why producers in Ghana and elsewhere face competition for the selling of their products in their countries. This ensures that producers, who are not able to meet certain quality standards and pricing (in terms of low prices), whether in Ghana or abroad, are driven out of the market by consumers.
- In Ghana, because we have embraced economic globalization, manufacturers of textiles are facing severe challenges from the textiles and other products coming from China (this is basically because we cannot compete in terms of prices). The movements of MNCs from the global north to the global south and regional trade agreements are all examples of economic globalization.
- MNCs are engaged in economic activities in several countries. Similarly, regional trade agreements have made it possible for countries in certain regions of the world to integrate their economies in particular areas.



Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Financial Globalization-** financial globalization is the movement of money from one country to another country. Money moves from the global north to the global south and vice versa.
- By financial globalization, financial problems in one country usually affect other countries in the global system. Recently, the credit crunch and the economic recession that affected almost all global north countries also affected most global south countries.
- With economic crises like the credit crunch and the apparent economic recession of 2008, which many countries are yet to prevail over, the movement of capital especially to the global south will be limited.
- This is because once there are financial crises in the rich countries, these countries and their business organizations usually focus on how to address the problems in their countries, indicating that capital flows to the global south will reduce.
- International financial institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the European Central Bank are some of the organizations that regulate financial globalization.

Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Political Globalization**-according to Payne (2007:22), political globalization is *“the proliferation of international and regional organizations composed of states and the spread of non-state political actors.”*Hence, political globalization is the coming together of countries under the banner of intergovernmental organizations.
- Once countries come together, their actions are harmonized or coordinated by intergovernmental organizations. Institutions like the UN, the World Bank, the African Union, the EU, and the ECOWAS are some of the organizations promoting political globalization.
- These institutions ensure that member countries are on the same page on important global and national issues, such as human and people’s rights, democratization and democratic governance, freedom of the media, independent judiciary, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping.
- Essentially, the coming together of countries at the political level is political globalization because the representatives of countries are often political actors and they meet to discuss issues that have global or regional implications.



Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Cultural Globalization**-cultural globalization is the spread of some cultures across national borders. With cultural globalization, you see one culture or some ways of life becoming dominant around the world. In many Asian and African countries, we see Western/European/North American way of life as the norm.
- There are many restaurants in the global south serving foods exclusively from the global north. In the same way, there are restaurants in the global north serving foods exclusively from the global south. Cultural globalization can also be seen in the transfer of ideas from one country to another.
- This is where one country applies ideas that have been used to solve problems in other countries. How people dress in different countries has been shaped by cultural globalization. In Ghana and Kenya, for example, people dress to work like Europeans/North Americans. This way of dressing has even been institutionalized by most governments in the developing world. Average Ghanaian men, young adults, and women tend to dress like their counterparts in the western world
- A visit to the universities and the other tertiary institutions in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria would reveal that more than 60% (probably more than 80%) of the students dress like Europeans and North Americans (US and Canada). One can argue that cultural globalization has led to the domination of certain cultures.

Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Military Globalization-** military globalization is a network of military forces that operate internationally (Payne 2007:24). This indicates that military forces from different countries come together to defend the world against the threats posed by civil wars, terrorism, and other criminal activities. Currently, there are military and police forces in Sudan, Lebanon, the D.R. Congo, Afghanistan, and other places.
- What makes this military globalization is that the soldiers and police who make up the network are from different countries. There are African Union military and police forces in Sudan, including soldiers and police personnel from Ghana and Nigeria. Military globalization is facilitated by both global and regional IGOs.
- The UN through the Security Council usually dispatches soldiers from around the world to certain countries. Correspondingly, regional groupings like the ECOWAS and the African Union send soldiers to conflict areas in Africa.

Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Reverse Globalization** -reverse globalization is the movement of people from the global south to the global north for greener pastures. This movement is premised on the assumption that European powers came to their countries to colonize them so those who are emigrating to the global north are reversing the trend. Many African and other developing economies have a sizeable number of their citizens living and working in the global north. More specifically, citizens of developing countries have relocated in droves to the global north.
- These people generally send money to their families in the developing world. Although there are many people from the global north living in the global south, this pales in comparison to the number of people from the south living in the north. The number of Africans living and working in the global north may be in the millions. Even Ghanaians living and working in the global north could reach a million.

Types of Globalization (contd.)

- **Environmental Globalization** - Environmental globalization is “*the interdependence of countries to work together to solve environmental problems*” (Payne 2007:27). The international community has come to the conclusion that environmental problems, such as climate change/global warming, the spread of infectious diseases, air and water pollution, and deforestation, should be the concern of all countries, whether rich or poor.
- Because environmental problems in the global north negatively affect human and economic development in the global south and vice versa, countries around the world work together to address these concerns. Through a number of meetings and agreements, the UN and other regional bodies have come up with policies and programs to help countries protect the environment. There was a meeting recently at Copenhagen in Denmark which saw many world leaders coming up with solutions to protect the environment.

Sample questions

- How is economic globalization different from financial globalization?
- Is the phenomenon of globalization taking place in Ghana?
- What is cultural globalization?

Conclusion of Session 13

- In this session, you have been introduced to the meaning, types of globalization and the factors promoting globalization.
- I guess you are now ready to respond to why some observe that the world is a global village.
- I am sure you are now familiar with the topics we have covered in the course.
- I urge you to continue to do the readings even after the final exams.



References

- Payne, Richard (2007) *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. Pearson Longman: New York.
- Wolf, Martin (2001) Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization? *Foreign Affairs*, 80(1): 178-190.
- Bossman E. Asare, 2016. *International Politics: The Beginner's Guide*- Updated and Expanded, Digibooks, Ghana.
- Charles W. Kegley Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton, 2010. *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.

