The Globalization of International Relations

UNICOLLEGE MANTOVA A.A. 2017/2018
STORIA DEI TRATTATI E DELLE RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI
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17 May 2018
A usefull introduction:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oTLyPPrZE4
Globalization

Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies, and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology. This process has effects on the environment, on culture, on political systems, on economic development and prosperity, and on human physical well-being in societies around the world.
Other definitions

The process of increasing interconnectedness between societies such the events in one part of the world more and more have effects on peoples and societies far away.

Extensively, intensively, deeply, speeding up; the world seems to be ‘shrinking’
What makes globalization?

- Economic factors
- Transnational corporations
- Transnational groups of interest
- Integrated financial markets
- Global flow of information and communication
- Rise of capitalist markets
- Rise of IGOs and INGOs
- Rising importance of international coalitions (the European Union, United Nations, etc.)
From international relations to international politics

• international relations vs. international politics

• international politics → world politics → global politics

• nation states vs. nation states + NGOs + more…
Realism and international politics

- Idealism vs. Realism
- Main actors → states
- Framework → inter-state relations
- Human nature → selfish
- International nature → anarchy
- Sovereignty, power, national interests
- Mechanism → balance of power (diplomacy)
- World politics is a self-help system
Liberalism and world politics

- Idealism tradition
- Many variants of liberalism (pluralism, transnationalism, integration…)
- Human being are perfectible
- Democracy is necessary
- Transnational actors in issue-areas of world politics
- Possibilities for cooperation among states
- National interests are much more than military terms (economic, technological…)
- Order in world politics → laws, norms, international regimes & rules.
- Interdependence (vs. sovereignty)
The two approaches and globalization

Realism:
• Globalization does not transcend the international political system of states. (Territory, sovereignty, balance of power)
• It does not render obsolete the struggle for political power between states.

Liberalism:
• States are no longer such central actors as they once were. (numerous actors of differing importance according to the issues-area concerned)
• Increased interconnectedness between societies, and as result the world looks more like a cobweb of relations.
Arguments in favor of globalization

1. Great pace of economic transformation;
2. Communication have revolutionized the way we deal with the rest of world.
3. There is now a global culture.
4. The world is becoming more homogeneous
5. Time and space seem to be collapsing.
6. There is emerging a global polity.
   (state → sub-state, transnational, international bodies)
7. A cosmopolitan culture is developing.
   (think globally and act locally)
8. A risk culture is emerging. (example: pollution & AIDS)
Others observe that....

1. The world-economy is not global (different blocs)
2. Globalization is very uneven in its effects.
3. Globalization may well be simply the latest stage of Western imperialism
4. Not all globalized forces are necessarily ‘good’ ones
5. Global governance – to whom are the transnational social movements responsible and democratically accountable?
Concerns about Globalization

• Loss of unique cultures, replaced by homogeneity
• Short term gains over positive long-term consequences
• Corporate profits before environment & rights.
• Loss of jobs because of economic globalization
• Environmental concerns over demands put on Earth’s resources.
Global inequality

• Wealth concentrated in the developed world
• Poorest 40 percent of global population—5 percent of global income
• Richest 10 percent—54 percent of global income
• Global markets have exacerbated this problem: The gap between rich and poor is growing.
8 types of Globalization
1. Financial Globalization

- World’s financial systems have become intimately interconnected
- Stock market trading in New York stock exchange can affect Tokyo and Hong Kong
- Wave continues in European markets then back to American markets
- Important to note: reflects interconnectivity of network of world cities, not nations
- Concept of GLOBAL CITY
2. Economic Globalization

- In past, most corporations were linked/identified with a country, but today corporations are now transnational.
- Companies move their production and capital to any market that will benefit the company.
- **Supporters:** increased global wealth means increase in standard of living.
- **Detractors** (opponent)- economic globalization tends to increase the difference between the “haves and have not” and leads to the corporation having **more power than countries.**
3. Technological Globalization

- Technological revolution has meant the “Global Village” has expanded to everything corner of the globe with growth in travel communication and computer technology, and mobile (smart) phones communications.

- I can be around the world live, in 1 second by internet or smart phone or 12 hours by plane.
4. Political Globalization

- As countries become more economically and technologically interdependent, there is pressure to adopt **uniform policies**.
- NAFTA: Free trade between US, Canada & Mexico is example of free trade and economics replacing.
- TTIP: Economic treaty between the EU and the US accused of lowering EU standards on food, health, labor and environment.
- The emergence of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).
- E.g. UN (UNESCO, WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunications Union (ITU).
5. Cultural Globalization

- Harmonization of worlds cultures at the expense of distinctly different local cultures
- Loss of worlds cultural diversity,
- Major issue for cultures where religion is directly connected to their culture, “western” values can often come into conflict with tradition religious beliefs
“EUROPEANIZATION”? 

Will we eventually all listen to the same music, watch same TV, eat same food, have the same values?
6. Sociological Globalization

- Idea that a single “world” society has evolved, replacing distinct national societies that previously existed.
7. Ecological Globalization

The planet must be treated as a single ecological system (ecosystem) rather than a collection of separate ecological systems.

Ozone depletion, global warming impacts the world not just nation that did original damage

- Remember Kyoto Protocol that allowed the “trading” of “carbon Emissions”.
8. Geographical Globalization

• Geographers don’t see world in terms of relationships between countries anymore (ie: trade, geopolitics, terrorism)

• Now see a borderless world, dominated by worldwide concerns about: ecological concerns, politics, culture, economics and other relationships existing; all influenced by networks of world cities.
International Organizations and globalization
International Organizations

• An international organization is an association of States, established by a treaty between two or more States. Its functions transcend national boundaries.

• International organizations are subjects of International Law BUT their international legal personality is limited to possessing specific rights and duties. Their status is determined be treaties among States and, therefore, the recognition of the international personality of an international organization is limited to signatory States.

• Generally, the treaty creating a public international organization indicates its nature, purposes and powers. The international legal personality of the United Nations, for example, is derived from the United Nations Charter, and the 1946 Convention on the Principles and Immunities of the United Nations.

• The attribution of an international legal personality involves the capacity to perform legal acts, to have rights and duties and to enter into relations on the international level.

• In reality, international organizations have exercised their legal capacity in a great variety of ways also beyond the founding treaty. They have concluded treaties, created military forces, convened international conferences, and brought claims against States.
International organizations

Global
- aimed to cover all of the states
Example:
- United Nations
- World Trade Organization

Local
- aimed to cover some states
Example:
- regional: European Union
- functional: NATO
International organizations in globalization

Two major points of view:

1. Organizations take over the role of the states and become most important drivers of globalization

2. Organizations support the states and must refrain from «invading» their sovereignty
United Nations

Is a legal person in international relations
Common membership: today 192 members

Membership in the United Nations is open to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations of the Charter and, in the judgement of the Organization, are willing and able to carry out these obligations.
(art. 4 of the UN Charter)
UN in globalization – reform discussion

«If the UN is to be a useful instrument for its Member States and for the world’s peoples... it must be fully adapted to the needs and circumstances of the 21st century»
Kofi Annan «In Larger Freedom» 2005

to make the United Nations leaner, more efficient and more effective, more responsive to the wishes and needs of its Members and more realistic in its goals and commitments.
Kofi Annan, 2006
UN Reform

The pace of today's globalized world means that change is a constant, and this is no different for the United Nations.

The demands by Member States of the UN and its Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes have grown enormously.

The UN is expected to deliver more services in more places than ever before to the world's people who are most in need.
UN Reform

1. **Counter-terrorism strategy** - a unique global instrument that will enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

2. **Peacebuilding Commission** - established “to marshal resources at the disposal of the international community to advise and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery, focusing attention on reconstruction, institution-building and sustainable development, in countries emerging from conflict.”
UN Reform – Recent Developments

Human Rights Council - designed to allow for a more rigorous implementation and monitoring of human rights, replacing the Human Rights Commission.

Ethics Office - responsible for managing and overseeing the new Whistleblower protection and revised financial disclosure policies, as well as the development of Ethics training programmes for staff.
Transnational groups of interest & globalization

• Otherwise called Non – Governmental Organizations
Non – Governmental Organizations

• Very active in globalization movement
• Play important role in globalization discussions
• Support international conferences
• Serve as experts to United Nations work
• Some have «Observer status» by United Nations
NGOs in globalization

Human Rights NGOs:
Amnesty International
International Red Cross
Human Rights Watch

Anti-globalization / Alter -globalization NGOs:
International Forum on Globalization
Corporate Watch
Friends of the Earth