



WHAT SAY YOU ABOUT GLOBALISM?

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The concept of globalism is quite different from that of globalization. While globalization connotes either an upward or downward movement in globalism, globalism itself is the concept defined by placing the whole world's welfare as being a much larger consideration than the concerns of particular countries or nations. In other words, globalism seeks to present comprehension on the interactions that connect nations together in order to obtain clarification or data on established patterns and their relevance to the events of the world.

In his work *The Globalist: How the World Really Hangs Together*, Joseph Nye proposes that "Globalism seeks to explain nothing more than a world which is characterized by networks of connections that span multi-continental distances." Mr. Nye also places that globalism can be "thin" or "thick", depending on the interconnections and interdependences that act at given areas. He has also suggested that globalism has four dimensions by which it can be perceived. Aside from the predominantly economic aspect that we normally associate globalism with, the concept is also seen at three other angles namely military, environmental and social. (<http://www.theglobalist.com/StoryId.aspx?StoryId=2392>)

The economic aspect refers to how nations generally allow the exchange of economic goods and services. It also tackles how capital and other economic factors such as manpower costs affect this exchange. Information plays a huge part in enabling capitalists to accurately track where their efforts are going and how their business affects the world at large.

The military dimension refers to how military might in certain countries is considered truly influential in the world's forward movement. Escalations of specific military events have a somewhat huge effect of the entire world, much like how the Cold War and the Arms Race had created landmark changes to the entire world's evolving concepts on weaponry. Several years ago until now, bio-terrorism has been a serious threat that has affected the way we view such everyday activities as opening anonymous letters or even breathing in unidentified fumes. Okay, so those are not so every day.

The environmental dimension of globalism refers to how people perceive the long haul movement of unnatural elements that create interferences with human well-being. In my own country alone, the Red Tide phenomenon has never really left. In fact, it has periodically presented itself as a menace, proving detrimental not only to people like me who prefer to partake of shell fish than eat meat. Planktons have often been blamed for this regular menace, but if you ask me, most of the problem is to be attributed to our continuous disregard for garbage disposal laws, if there were ever such things—or laws.

The socio-cultural dimension is defined as the exchange of social and cultural ideas or concepts, as facilitated by information or data exchange and of course, human interactions. The music scene, for instance, has been hugely influenced by non-traditional factors. For instance, after the 2010 FIFA World Cup held in South Africa, the song *Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)* sung by Shakira became a worldwide hit. Its music video became the third most watched video of all time. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waka_Waka_\(This_Time_for_Africa\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waka_Waka_(This_Time_for_Africa))). It also received critical response from some quarters.

All in all, globalism is a much more complex concept that requires more in-depth study.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How is globalism different from globalization?
2. How has the issue of nuclear weaponry affected your own country?
3. If you were the president or leader of your own country, would you reveal having nuclear weapons? Would you even develop nuclear arms?
4. What has made many powerful nations estranged from others?
5. Do you think we will ever find solutions to our present environmental problems? Why or why not?