

IDEAS 57

**International Online Teachers Society
Debate
Educational Materials For
Advance and Upper Intermediate
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



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THE 57th INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

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WHAT SAY YOU ABOUT GLOBALISM?

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

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?



GLOBALISM AT A NON-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

I am a non-economist. Being such, I have next-to-nothing on the concept of globalism, save for a little reading here and there. Otherwise, I admit to being a nincompoop on things about globalism.

If I were to be given a chance to give my two-cents' worth on the subject, I would have to refer to more expert opinions and writings. Based on my understanding of the various online sources that I have gone over, globalism is a continuous journey that faces uncertainty at different fronts. Its study also encompasses the various world movements that have happened in scattered parts of the globe that have still created influences and created changes in the entire world at large.

We have had two World Wars, and God forbid that we or our children or their children's children witness a third one. The eruption of a Third World War would hypothetically cause more massive destruction and even the destruction of the entire planet. What with the powerful and ever precise weapons that man has designed and continues to conceptualize, World War III would put the entire planet in an irreversibly damaged state. Which is why I, as a mother and one who professes to be a global citizen (wink! wink!), can never for one minute understand why man had to progress (or decline, as I prefer to look at it) from the dynamite to bioterrorism and nuclear weaponry. Have we no fear for our children's future? It's logical to state that such things are only created to provide security to nations. Security to what against what, exactly?

Anyway, Gian Piero de Bellis, in his work "Polyarchy: essays on statism" (<http://www.polyarchy.org/essays/english/globalism.html#end>) states that globalism faced a decline sometime at the beginning of the 20th century, when the rise of five phenomena gave way to the enforcement of nationalism. These five were protectionism, militarism, financialism, monopolism and imperialism. That sure was a lot of -isms, if you ask me.

The First World War marked the decline of globalism, giving way to statism. Statism espoused anti-liberal, anti-capitalistic and anti-humanistic stances, which in turn stamped out liberty and dignity and replaced them with internal protection and national security. Nations closed themselves to one another, giving way to more localized distribution instead of global-scale transfer.

Enter the era of the modern world. Now, we already have such concepts as outsourcing and telecommuting and remote party jobs. We have first world countries having their work done by third world country citizens because costs are definitely cheaper and the possible risks too inconsequential to even consider.

The advances in technology have been exchanged from nation to nation, effectively bridging the gaps that had existed many years ago. Yet, can we ever really understand each other completely? Can we become true global citizens to the very essence of the word?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do you consider yourself a global citizen? Why or why not?
2. How has globalism affected you as an individual?
3. Do you consider your country completely global or entirely nationalistic? Why or why not?
4. Is there one country in the world that, to you, has consistently been globalistic? Justify your answer.
5. What are the inherent risks of nationalism? Of globalism? Be as specific as needed.



RANTING ABOUT BEING THIRD WORLD

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

According to conservapedia.com, globalism is an advocacy that structures or defines commercial or external schemes in accordance to what occurs or what circumstances develop all over the planet. In contrast to statism, globalism supports the steady growth and development of factors such as the economy, based on a uniform policy that all nations around the world subscribe to. Globalism advocates “one world”, or the concept that less-developed countries should grow and reap rewards in parallel manner to first world ones. The example cited at conservadia.com is of a farmer in Ghana who is able to demand the same market price for whatever he produces, in the same trade figures accepted in Chicago. If we look at globalism on this scale, then it seems that it would be a much better option than the set-up we have always been exposed to and accepted. Currently, capitalists, corporate-oriented countries and first world countries are the only ones who can rise to superpower status. This is why we have elite groups such as the G8, G5, G8+5, G20, OPEC. There could be more, but those will suffice for the purpose of this essay.

My country belongs to the UN and ASEAN, and I guess that’s still a blessing. At least, although my country does not belong to any specific powerful economic group in existence today, it still is a member of recognized multinational organizations.

Call me a bit envious, if you must. But being from a third world country can sometimes have its disadvantages. Citizens from my country have a hard time getting visas to enter first world countries. Everything is scrutinized, from the properties that a visa applicant owns to his source of income and on to the number of children he has. We have to show proof that we do not intend to enter a foreign country and become undocumented aliens. Sad to say, but this specific stringent screening that citizens from my country have to undergo happens because of the foolish acts of many. Sadly, many have proven time and again that citizens from our country just cannot be trusted enough to not overstay their welcome and disappear into goodness-knows-where once they reach their destinations.

How many of our countrymen have attempted (and succeeded) at entering countries through backdoor channels, braving the seas and risking being caught? Many of us have believed in shortcuts to attaining the dreams we so desperately reach for, only to find out in the end that those dreams shatter readily into nightmares.

Yes, the Filipino is resilient and thrives on challenging environments. But for how long should we continue risking everything, including our attaining leadership status hopefully, just to be able to enjoy the good life? Does becoming a global citizen have no attraction any longer?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Would you enter a highly-developed country under false pretenses and illegal documentation? Why or why not?
2. What is your opinion of economic groupings like the G8 and others? Who do they benefit, eventually?
3. Why do third world countries fail to reach the status of first world ones? What are most likely the contributing factors?
4. Can third world countries ever become globalists? How?
5. If you could give advice to the leader of a less developed country, what country would that be? What advice would you give?



THE ROAD TO GLOBALISM—NOT AN EASY ONE

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Many of our countrymen who have succeeded at accomplishing spectacular feats have uttered time and again: This puts our country on the map. Sometimes, in a spirit of jest, I often ask them, “Why, where was our country located before? You mean it wasn’t on the map before?” (One-sided conversation, I know.)

Becoming a global Filipino is a huge challenge, but many of my countrymen have succeeded at making that a little possible. We have one of the world’s greatest boxers of all time, artists who have risen to fame with international labels, and people who have carved their own niche in international organizations. Citizens from my country have been known to be hardworking and industrious, quick to learn and easy to teach. Yes, we have managed to stand alongside others in the worldwide arena. But have we become true global citizens?

I am clueless as to what we can possibly do to attain lofty status in the world economy. Neither an economist nor a political scientist, I do not understand complex financial and political issues. When globalism was introduced to me back in high school, the terms were simpler and in my language. It was, to my young mind, a concept that one nation’s progress and development are ultimately beneficial when they are in accordance to existing worldwide policies. My country has had leaders who advocated patriotism and Filipino First policies. Well and good, because all their efforts brought about significant changes. However, the present day has shown little, if any, proof that staying strictly nationalistic can bring about total development and progress.

Currently, our country’s leadership has made great efforts to breathe life into an otherwise ailing economy. Analysts have been of mixed opinions. Some say the efforts are genuinely helpful while others have said that the changes are too small to be measured, much less noticed. But hope springs eternal. We have to admit that the process is not that easy, considering what an odd mixture of leaders we have already had. But one thing is certain: as long as our country’s citizens continue to stay positive, to always have a fresh perspective on life at large, we may yet attain the enviable status that our more developed neighbors have succeeded at earning.

Becoming a global citizen is a slow, challenging process. It is the will to become one that must be kept alive. We might have teeny-tiny successes along the way, but what counts is how hard we work and how far we try to reach, through legally-accepted means, of course. And besides, being able to hold our ground alongside our more developed neighbors is already a feat in itself. Globalism may not be too far behind.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define globalism. Differentiate it from globalization.
2. What is statism?
3. Is becoming a global citizen possible? How?
4. What sets globalist economies apart?
5. Does globalism benefit many? Why or why not?



GLOBALIZATION – UNSTOPPABLE

Marian Baltazar
Class of 1980, University of the Philippines College of Manila
AB Political Science

Globalization is unstoppable for it is fast spreading like wild fire and its outcome can be seen all over the world. It has made its way for free trade and business. Likewise, it has also improved communication around the globe. It has...

changed the scenario of the whole political world. The native cultures were modernized and westernized too. There has been a significant de-localization, making face-to-face interaction no longer available.

Globalization is like a giant economic tidal wave that is sweeping the world off its feet! It's pretty obvious that people around the globe are so much connected with each other ever than before. That is, information and money flow more quickly than ever with trade fast arising and making it facile through globalization in all parts of the world. What with the goods and services that are available and produced in a particular part of the world, are now made available in all parts of the world in just a click of a hand! International communication is now a commonplace and is very much prevalent!

As it is, globalization has paved the way to exploitation of labor. Safety standards are now compromised and have been ignored just so that they can produce cheap labor. It even led to human trafficking too. These and all other reasons make the anti-globalist claim that in reality globalization is not working in the majority of the world. On the other hand, supporters of globalization believe that to some extent, it can actually solve the problem on unemployment and poverty and that this serves to be the potential of making the world a better place to live in.

To date we cannot really do anything much about stopping the tidal wave of globalization. Its primary impact is not only limited on the economy of a country alone. But the real meaning of what globalization is in its truest sense is actually referring to every aspect of life-like cultural, social, psychological and definitely the political aspect. Whether we like it or not, globalization has a great impact on us and we cannot discount that fact. Apparently this said impact is not really visible and this is what affects the politics and economy of the world largely. But what is truly noticeable is its gradual effect on the mindset and culture of the way people think and act.

In fairness, globalization has made the life of the third world citizen a completely different story. It has created a worldwide market for the companies, thus creating a better access to the products from different countries. This then creates a better option too for investments for different companies. All of these things and many more can be attributed to globalization which is unstoppable in every manner.

Questions for discussion:

1. Has globalization bridged the gap of inequality? How?
2. Are you a supporter of globalization? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think globalization is unstoppable? Justify your answer.
4. Has globalization swept your country off its feet too? How?
5. Do you think globalization can address the demands of a country? Explain your answer.



International Online Teachers Society(IOTS) is an independent non profit international organization committed to improving the state of online and offline education in the world by engaging all kinds of language teachers with fluent English speaking skill in the world to shape global, regional and education agendas.
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