

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
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Reading Questions for Session 2

David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton, "Globalization"

1. *Note* the four major changes brought about by what the authors call globalization.
2. In short, what is their definition of globalization? Are the phenomena at the centre of the definition specific enough to warrant use of what was at the time of writing still a relatively new term?
3. Are the phenomena identified by the authors "new"? If not, how do they justify the focus on recent history?
4. When did international mass migration really take off?
5. Nationalism and globalization are frequently spoken of as being opposed to each other. How do the authors link globalization with nationalism?
6. If you had to boil this article down to its keywords, what would those words be?
7. Do the authors assume globalization to be permanent and irreversible?
8. In which cases do the authors defend the benefits of globalization?
9. Of what significance to globalization is something like the EU?
10. *Note* how the authors speak of "imperialism," when it is mentioned.
11. How has the weapons manufacturing industry fared under globalization, and what can you infer from that?
12. *Pay close attention to the section dealing with trade.*
13. What do the authors acknowledge is a major social consequence of freer global trade?
14. *Note* the figures on the role of multinational corporations in global production and trade.
15. Which is greater in value in the contemporary world economy, trade or finance?
16. Is the strongest argument *for* globalization in policy-making the one that deals with environmental issues? Or, is there a contrary argument to be made: has economic globalization itself widened and accelerated environmental degradation?
17. Do the authors sustain belief in the idea that globalization spells the end of state power?
18. Are the authors being overly optimistic when it comes to the subject of "rethinking politics" in the light of transnational forces?

Marco Caselli, "Globalization: In Search of Definition of a Controversial Concept"

1. Why has the very act of defining globalization been beset with problems?
2. *Note* the "three waves" of globalization studies.
3. What are the "six fundamental questions" at the centre of debates about globalization? Thus far, with which of those questions does this course seem to be primarily concerned?
4. *Note* the criticisms around using the term "globalization," the reasons for those criticisms, and the author's response to those criticisms.
5. What is the difference between "globalization" and "internationalization"?

6. What appears to be the most plausible explanation of the relationship between the state and globalization, as presented in this chapter?
7. What does the author posit is a major, indisputable, difference between the Victorian era and the current period of globalization?
8. What arguments exist that support the thesis that globalization is real and irreversible?
9. *Note* the discussion of the multidimensional nature of globalization and what that means.
10. In the discussion of the seven major features of globalization, *note* “complex connectivity,” “time-space compression,” the local-global continuum, class stratification, “planetary consciousness”.
11. Though the author does not use the phrase, see if you can spot the discussion of the “transnational capitalist class”.
12. Finally, note how the author reconciles a number of contending propositions and produces a synthesized definition of globalization. Despite its attempt to synthesize, does the definition still favour certain factors or features more than others?

Axel Dreher, Noel Gaston, Pim Martens, “Towards an Understanding of the Concept of Globalisation”

1. The authors present what they see as the constituent forms of globalization: political, economic, technological, cultural, and environmental. After reading the article, ask yourself whether what the authors really described are variations on a single theme: economic globalization.
2. *Note* the following: the three major camps debating globalization (Caselli has a similar list), and the diverse timelines used to measure the history of globalization.
3. In terms of the relationship between capitalism and globalization, what is the authors’ basic argument? In terms of their own timeline, to which of the three main camps does their argument come closest?
4. In historical terms, which were the major developments that served as foundations for what we now call globalization? A simple list could be helpful here.
5. What is especially significant about the 1970s in terms of the development of globalization?
6. Like Caselli, these authors also outline the role of “internationalization” in globalization. Make a note of the major historical landmarks.
7. How do the processes of globalization themselves create the environmental degradation that allegedly only more globalization can/should solve?
8. What conclusions (and definitions) do the authors draw from their (somewhat crude) timeline of globalization? What other conclusions might you have derived?
9. Feel free to skip reading the remainder of the chapter under the heading of “Digression:...sustainable development” (from the chapter’s p. 15 onwards, or PDF p. 11 onwards).