

GLOBALIZATION, ITS NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE

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Introduction

Historically unparalleled global change has taken place during the last thirty to forty years. It continues unabated in the present century. Understanding of the nature of this global transformation necessitates a multi-dimensional approach. But, in the main, the problem has to be grappled with in the field of International relations, which has brought the necessity of global perspective to the center of scholarly attention. The central challenge in this field of study today is to identify the nature of the current global change in its totality.

Globalization constitutes one of the most important aspects of this global transformation. Yet there is no unanimity on the part of the academic community on this phenomenon. It signifies the controversial nature of the global changes today and its final destination. The objective of this paper is to identify the nature and the significance of globalization in the context of the current global change.

Research Methodology

In the first place, it will deal with factors, which facilitate globalization.

This study assumes that the world capitalist economy contains an inherent dynamic which leads to globalization. Centerpiece of the world capitalist economy is the assumption that it ought to be worldwide, free from any artificial or any other barrier. The development of capitalism ever since the sixteenth century has been that it is a worldwide phenomenon. By the first decade of the twentieth century it had become a world economy to become fully global by the end of the same century.

Review

Globalization is the development of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its posterity the Internet, are major factors in globalization, generating further interdependence of economic and cultural activities.

Though scholars place the origins of globalisation in modern times, others trace its history long before the European age of discovery and voyages

to the New World. Some even trace the origins to the third millennium BCE. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the connectedness of the world's economies and cultures grew very quickly.

The term globalization has been increasingly used since the mid-1980s and especially since the mid-1990s. In 2000, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) identified four basic aspects of globalization: trade and transactions, capital and investment movements, migration and movement of people, and the dissemination of knowledge. Further, environmental challenges such as climate change, cross-boundary water and air pollution, and over-fishing of the ocean are linked with globalization. Globalizing processes affect and are affected by business and work organization, economics, socio-cultural resources, and the natural environment.

Conclusions

The acceleration of the capitalist growth in the second half of the twentieth century is due to a number of factors, namely, global inter-dependence, technological revolution, the end of the cold war in 1989 and the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991-92. The analysis of these factors

will be followed by an attempt to identify the nature of the globalization. This is carried out in relation to the globalization of capital, production and trade and the institutionalization of the current global process of the world economy. Finally an attempt has been made to identify the disparities in the world economy, particularly the vast gap between the capitalist centers the US, Europe and Japan, and the continuing economic under-development in the Third World.

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