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Globalization Perspective

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Ramesh G. Singh^{1*}

Abstract

The historical trajectory of the term "global" spans over 400 years, with the contemporary linear extension of globalization finding its roots in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Initial literary mentions in 1940 gained momentum in the 1980s. Notably, Indian philosophy, as evidenced by Vedic prayers, has long embraced a global perspective, considering the world as a cohesive cultural entity and a unified family. This research contextualizes globalization within the broader historical landscape, emphasizing its deep-seated historical roots in commercial and imperial movements across Asia and India since the 15th century. Post-Cold War, there has been a shift towards examining the economic and informational dimensions of globalization, prompting a wealth of research projects, articles, and databases that predominantly focus on its economic aspects.

Globalization's complexity is reflected in the plethora of definitions offered by scholars. Wallerstein views it as the triumph of a capitalist world economy, emphasizing a global division of labor. Harvey characterizes it as the compression of time and space. Appadurai highlights the mutual contest of sameness and difference in global cultural processes. Albrow defines globalization as the incorporation of peoples into a single world society, emphasizing global connections in communication, environment, economics, politics, and social realms. In conclusion, this research posits globalization as a dynamic and complex force transcending geographical and cultural boundaries, shaping interconnected societies on a global scale. The diverse definitions and perspectives presented underscore the nuanced and transformative nature of this phenomenon, inviting further exploration and discourse within the academic realm.

Keywords: Globalization; Perspective

Introduction

In the wake of the accelerating global integration brought about by the phenomenon of globalization, scholarly attention has turned towards understanding its multifaceted nature and implications. While the term has gained prominence in recent decades (Buchner, et al, 2022: 16), tracing its roots back to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, this research seeks to illuminate the historical evolution and conceptual complexities of globalization. However, within the extensive body of literature, several critical problems and gaps persist, warranting careful examination and scholarly exploration.

One fundamental challenge arises from the broad spectrum of definitions and perspectives surrounding globalization. The diversity of interpretations, ranging from Wallerstein's emphasis on the

triumph of a capitalist world economy to Harvey's focus on the compression of time and space, introduces a conceptual labyrinth (O'Byrne & Hensby, 2020). This diversity raises questions about the coherence and applicability of the term, necessitating a closer examination of its nuanced dimensions.

Moreover, while the economic aspects of globalization have garnered considerable attention, there exists a noticeable gap in the comprehensive understanding of its socio-cultural and socio-historical dimensions. The research landscape tends to be disproportionately focused on economic globalization, leaving unexplored territories in the realms of cultural exchange, historical influences, and the socio-cultural implications of interconnectedness.

The temporal gap in literature is another area of concern. Despite its roots in ancient practices, the bulk of scholarly discourse concentrates on the post-Cold War era, neglecting the rich historical tapestry of globalization's early manifestations. A more comprehensive examination of its historical evolution, particularly during significant commercial and imperial movements in Asia and India since the 15th century, is crucial for a holistic understanding. Furthermore, the existing literature often overlooks the nuanced ways in which different regions, religions, and cultures interact within the global framework (Captari, et al., 2022). The impact of globalization on diverse societies, including its role in shaping communication, environmental dynamics, political landscapes, and social structures, remains insufficiently explored.

In light of these challenges and gaps, this research endeavors to contribute a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of globalization. By addressing these limitations, we aim to provide a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon, offering insights into its historical roots, varied definitions, and the interconnected dynamics shaping the global landscape (Preiser, 2021; Kanger, 2022). Through this exploration, we hope to pave the way for future research that delves deeper into the intricacies of globalization and its transformative effects on societies worldwide.

Objective

The objective of this study is to comprehensively examine and analyze diverse perspectives on globalization presented by renowned scholars and organizations. The research aims to achieve the following specific goals.

Globalization Definition

The landscape of globalization research is both vast and intricate, reflecting the complex nature of this phenomenon. While the term has gained prominence over the last four decades, its historical roots trace back to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, offering a rich tapestry for exploration. However, as scholars grapple with the multifaceted dimensions of globalization, several critical problems and notable gaps persist within the existing literature, warranting meticulous examination and scholarly attention.

One primary concern arises from the plethora of diverse definitions and perspectives surrounding globalization. Wallerstein's assertion that it represents the triumph of a capitalist world economy and Harvey's characterization of it as the compression of time and space exemplify the conceptual disparities within the field (Austin, 2021). This conceptual diversity raises questions about the coherence and applicability of the term, urging a more nuanced understanding that considers the multiplicity of its dimensions. Moreover, the predominant focus on the economic aspects of globalization has led to a significant gap in understanding its socio-cultural and socio-historical dimensions. The literature tends to disproportionately emphasize economic globalization, leaving

uncharted territories in the exploration of cultural exchange, historical influences, and the socio-cultural implications of interconnectedness (Newell, 2021).

A temporal gap further complicates the narrative, as the bulk of scholarly discourse centers on the post-Cold War era, neglecting the rich historical context of globalization's early manifestations. This gap calls for a more comprehensive examination of its historical evolution, particularly during significant commercial and imperial movements in Asia and India since the 15th century (Hopkins, 2004). Furthermore, the existing literature often overlooks the nuanced ways in which different regions, religions, and cultures interact within the global framework. The impact of globalization on diverse societies, including its role in shaping communication, environmental dynamics, political landscapes, and social structures, remains insufficiently explored (Porath, 2022).

In response to these challenges and gaps, this research endeavors to contribute a nuanced and comprehensive analysis of globalization. By addressing these limitations, we aim to provide a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon, drawing insights from its historical roots, varied definitions, and the interconnected dynamics shaping the global landscape. Through this exploration, we hope to lay the foundation for future research that delves deeper into the intricacies of globalization and its transformative effects on societies worldwide.

Globalization Situation

The myriad definitions and perspectives on globalization provided by influential scholars reveal the complexity and multi-dimensional nature of this phenomenon. Anthony Giddens, for instance, offers a nuanced definition, describing globalization as the "intensification of social relations through the world," highlighting the interconnectedness that transcends geographical boundaries (Giddens, & Pierson, 1998: 64). However, he astutely acknowledges the contradictory nature of globalization, with both solidarities and fragmentations emerging simultaneously (Navarro, 2020). In Giddens' view, globalization extends beyond mere economic interdependence, encompassing a profound transformation of time and space in our lives. This perspective emphasizes the political, technical, and cultural dimensions of globalization, underscoring its revolutionary nature facilitated by advancements in communication technology (Giddens, 1998: 10). It positions globalization as a dynamic process involving the distancing of time and space, ushering in transformations across various societal institutions.

Kenichi Ohmae simplifies the concept by defining globalization as the onset of a "borderless world," envisioning the dissolution of nation-state borders (Ohmae, 1992: 72, 78). Peter Dicken introduces a qualitative distinction between globalization and internationalization, characterizing globalization as a more advanced and complex form, implying functional integration across globally dispersed economic activities (Dicken, 1992: 87). Roland Robertson's definition adds a layer of consciousness to globalization, describing it as an "understanding of the world" and an "increased perception of the world as a whole" (Robertson, et al., 1992: 12). He introduces the concept of "global compression," denoting increased interdependence among nations, and the "intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole," emphasizing a mass awakening to global interdependency (Robertson, 1992: 12).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) offers an economic-centric definition, highlighting the increasing interdependence of markets and production due to trade dynamics, capital flows, and technological exchanges (Bottani, 1993). Robert Cox underscores the characteristics of globalization, including the internationalization of production, new divisions of labor, migratory movements, and the transformative role of states as agents of the globalizing world (Cox,

1994). Kanter (1995) adopts a metaphorical lens, describing the world as a "global shopping mall" where ideas and products are universally accessible. His emphasis lies on the interconnectedness that turns the world into a seamless space for the exchange of ideas and products (Kanter, 1995: 15).

The analysis of these definitions and perspectives on globalization reveals a rich tapestry of scholarly thought, capturing the complexity and multidimensional nature of this transformative phenomenon. Anthony Giddens' definition stands out for its emphasis on the intensification of social relations across the globe. By highlighting the interconnection of distant localities, Giddens recognizes the intricate web of global interactions that shape local events. Additionally, his acknowledgment of the contradictory nature of globalization, with both solidarities and fragmentations coexisting, adds nuance to the understanding of this complex process.

Giddens goes beyond a purely economic lens, conceptualizing globalization as a transformation of time and space in our lives. This holistic perspective incorporates political, technical, and cultural dimensions, positioning globalization as a revolutionary force driven by advancements in communication technology. This view aligns with the evolving nature of our interconnected world. Kenichi Ohmae's (1992: 77) portrayal of globalization as the onset of a "borderless world" is succinct but powerful, encapsulating the idea of eroding national borders and the emergence of a more interconnected global landscape. Peter Dicken's qualitative differentiation between globalization and internationalization adds depth to the discourse, emphasizing the intricate and complex nature of globalization as a more advanced form of internationalization.

Roland Robertson introduces the crucial dimension of consciousness in his definition of globalization. His concept of "global compression" and the "intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole" underscores the subjective and objective aspects of globalization. This dual perspective acknowledges not only the tangible interdependence among nations but also the growing awareness and perception of global interconnectedness. The economic-centric definition from the OECD provides a specific lens, focusing on the interdependence of markets, production, and the dynamics of trade, capital flows, and technology. This definition aligns with the economic aspects of globalization and serves as a valuable perspective within the broader discourse. Robert Cox's characterization of globalization's characteristics (Robertson, 1992: 12), including the internationalization of production, new divisions of labor, and the role of states as agents of the globalizing world, adds a layer of political and structural analysis. It acknowledges the systemic changes occurring at various levels, from economic activities to the role of nation-states in the globalizing process.

Finally, Rosabeth Moss Kanter's metaphorical depiction of the world as a "global shopping mall" captures the essence of interconnectedness and accessibility in the global exchange of ideas and products. This image reinforces the idea of a seamless and interconnected world, where information and goods flow without traditional barriers.

In conclusion, the diverse perspectives on globalization offer a comprehensive view of this multifaceted phenomenon. The varying definitions contribute to a nuanced understanding, emphasizing not only the economic aspects but also the political, cultural, and subjective dimensions. This analysis underscores the importance of adopting an interdisciplinary approach to fully grasp the complexities and implications of globalization in our contemporary world. The diversity of definitions reflects the intricate nature of globalization, encompassing economic, political, cultural, and technological dimensions, while also acknowledging its contradictory and multifaceted character. The varying perspectives underscore the need for a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to understand the profound impact of globalization on societies worldwide.

Diversity of Globalization

Manuel Castells describes the global economy as one that operates as a unit in real-time on a planetary scale, emphasizing the network society as a form of capitalism with distinctive features: globality and a significant reliance on financial flows (Castells, 2000). Castells' broad definition underscores the transformative nature of globalization, particularly in the realm of economic structures and global connectivity. Manuel Castells describes the global economy as one that operates as a unit in real-time on a planetary scale. He emphasizes the network society, portraying it as a form of capitalism with distinct features: globality and a significant reliance on financial flows. Castells' broad definition underscores the transformative nature of globalization, particularly in the realm of economic structures and global connectivity.

Jan Aart Scholte contributes to the discourse by defining globalization as a series of developments that make the world a single place, challenging the traditional notions of distance and national identity (Scholte, 1996). Scholte's definition captures the comprehensive nature of globalization, extending beyond economic considerations to encompass broader shifts in world affairs. Jan Aart Scholte contributes to the discourse by defining globalization as a series of developments that make the world a single place, challenging the traditional notions of distance and national identity. Scholte's definition captures the comprehensive nature of globalization, extending beyond economic considerations to encompass broader shifts in world affairs.

Mark Ritchie takes a critical stance, characterizing globalization as a process driven by corporations seeking cheaper resources while often sidestepping ethical or moral considerations (Ritchie, 1996). His definition highlights the darker side of globalization, emphasizing its impact on labor, the environment, and consumer protection laws. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides an economic-centric perspective, describing globalization as the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide (De Masi, 1997: 45). The emphasis on cross-border transactions, international capital flows, and technological diffusion reflects the interconnected nature of the global economic landscape.

George Modelski introduces a multidimensional view, identifying economic globalization, the formation of world opinion, democratization, and political globalization as key dimensions (Modelski, 1998). This perspective acknowledges the interplay between different facets of globalization, illustrating the interconnectedness of various global processes. Majid Tehranian's definition stands out for its historical perspective, suggesting that globalization has been an ongoing process for the past 5000 years but has accelerated significantly since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 (Tehranian, 1998). He identifies transnational corporations, media organizations, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations as the engines driving globalization. Tehranian's view highlights both positive and negative consequences, emphasizing the complexities and dualities inherent in the process.

Thomas Friedman offers a symbolic perspective, contrasting the Cold War's division with globalization's integration (Friedman, 1999). The metaphor of a wall dividing everyone in the Cold War era is replaced by the World Wide Web, symbolizing unity in the globalization system. Friedman emphasizes the shift from treaties to deals, capturing the evolving nature of global interactions. Greenpeace's quote emphasizes the need for a global framework of law, policy, and institutions to create a more balanced global economy with sustainable impacts on the environment and natural resources (Greenpeace, 1999). This perspective adds an environmental and ethical dimension to the discourse on globalization.

David Held's definition provides a comprehensive framework, addressing spatial-temporal processes of change that constitute the fundamentals of human transformation (Held et al., 1999: 15). Held emphasizes key dimensions of globalization, including extensity, intensity, velocity, and impact, offering a holistic approach to understanding this multifaceted phenomenon.

Table 1 Globalization Definition Analysis

	Conceptual Theme	Analysis
1	Manuel Castells' Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castells emphasizes the global economy's real-time operation on a planetary scale, defining globalization as a transformative force with distinctive features like globality and reliance on financial flows. • His focus on the network society as a form of capitalism underscores the interconnectedness of economic structures and the global nature of connectivity.
2	Jan Aart Scholte's Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholte introduces the idea that globalization makes the world a single place, challenging traditional notions of distance and national identity. • His definition goes beyond mere economic considerations, capturing the broader implications and shifts in world affairs brought about by globalization.
3	Mark Ritchie's Critical Stance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritchie takes a critical stance, characterizing globalization as a process driven by corporations seeking cost advantages, often neglecting ethical considerations. • His perspective sheds light on the darker side of globalization, pointing to its potential negative impacts on labor, the environment, and consumer protection.
4	International Monetary Fund's Economic-Centric View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IMF provides an economic-centric perspective, emphasizing the growing economic interdependence of countries through cross-border transactions, capital flows, and technological diffusion. • This definition aligns with the organization's focus on the economic dimensions of globalization.
5	George Modelski's Multidimensional View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modelski introduces a multidimensional view, identifying economic globalization, the formation of world opinion, democratization, and political globalization as key dimensions. • This approach acknowledges the interconnectedness of various aspects of globalization, presenting it as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon.
6	Majid Tehranian's Historical Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tehranian's historical perspective suggests that globalization has been ongoing for centuries but significantly accelerated post the Soviet Union's demise. • He highlights the role of transnational entities as engines driving globalization, acknowledging both positive and negative consequences.

	Conceptual Theme	Analysis
7	Thomas Friedman's Symbolic Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friedman contrasts the Cold War's division with globalization's integration, using symbols like a wall and the World Wide Web. • His perspective underscores the shift from treaties to deals, emphasizing the evolving nature of global interactions.
8	Greenpeace's Environmental and Ethical Dimension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenpeace's quote emphasizes the need for a global framework to create a balanced global economy with sustainable impacts on the environment and natural resources. • This adds an environmental and ethical dimension to the discourse on globalization, highlighting the importance of responsible global practices.
9	David Held's Comprehensive Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held's definition provides a comprehensive framework addressing spatial-temporal processes that constitute the fundamentals of human transformation. • His focus on extensity, intensity, velocity, and impact offers a holistic approach to understanding globalization in its multifaceted nature.

Conclusion

This research explores the diverse perspectives on globalization from eminent scholars and organizations, revealing the multifaceted nature of this complex phenomenon. From spatial-temporal transformations to economic integration and the erosion of state sovereignty, the definitions highlight globalization as a profound force reshaping human societies globally. Deterritorialization emerges as a crucial concept, representing a departure from traditional notions and emphasizing the need for a new term to capture the unique features of globalization. The holistic understanding presented in the study recognizes globalization as a transformative process with interconnected economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions. Economic forces play a central role, influencing global dynamics and erasing traditional boundaries, while historical contexts and cultural replication underscore the evolution of globalization over time. The research concludes that a nuanced comprehension of globalization is essential for navigating its complexities and addressing the challenges and opportunities it presents to societies worldwide. The diverse perspectives on globalization provided by these scholars and organizations highlight the complexity and multidimensionality of this phenomenon. From economic-centric views to historical perspectives and symbolic representations, each definition contributes to a richer understanding of globalization. The analysis reveals that globalization is not a monolithic concept; rather, it encompasses economic, political, social, and ethical dimensions. A comprehensive understanding of globalization requires considering its transformative impact on societies, the interconnectedness of various global processes, and the ethical responsibilities associated with global practices.

Suggestions

Suggestions for Implementation

1. Policy Development with a Multidimensional Approach Governments and international organizations should design policies that address not only economic integration but also social equity, cultural preservation, and political stability.

2. Strengthening Global Governance Mechanism International institutions should enhance cooperative frameworks to manage cross-border challenges such as economic inequality, climate change, and digital transformation.

3. Promoting Ethical Global Practices Corporations and transnational actors should adopt ethical standards that prioritize social responsibility, fair labor practices, and environmental sustainability.

Suggestions for Future Research

1. Future research could examine how globalization affects different regions unevenly, particularly developing and marginalized societies.

2. Further studies should explore the role of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and virtual networks in accelerating deterritorialization.

3. More empirical research is needed to assess the relationship between globalization and socio-economic inequality within and between nations.

4. Researchers could investigate how local identities adapt, resist, or transform under global cultural flows.

Declaration of Interests

As the researcher, Rameses G. S., involved in the study on the globalization perspective, I declare that there are no personal, financial, or professional interests that may influence the conduct or outcomes of this research. The objective is to maintain the integrity and impartiality of the study, ensuring that the findings are based solely on the analysis of relevant literature and scholarly perspectives on globalization.

Ethical Considerations

This research adheres to ethical standards and principles, respecting the intellectual property rights of cited authors and ensuring accurate representation of their views. All sources are appropriately credited, and the research process is guided by a commitment to honesty, transparency, and academic integrity. The findings are presented objectively, without the intent to favor any particular perspective or bias the interpretation of data.

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academic community for fostering an environment conducive to scholarly exploration and the pursuit of knowledge.

Definition of Conflicts of Interest

In the context of this research, conflicts of interest refer to any circumstances that could compromise the impartiality or objectivity of the study. I affirm that there are no conflicts of interest, be they personal, financial, or professional, that could unduly influence the outcomes or interpretations presented in this research. The focus remains on contributing to the academic discourse surrounding globalization with integrity and fairness.

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