

CHAPTER FOUR

GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALISM



4.1. DEFINING GLOBALIZATION

- Globalization is often understood as a phenomena, or a process characterized by increasing **interconnectedness or interdependence**.
- Refers to the increased flow of trade, people, investment, technology, culture, ideas among countries and creates a more integrated and interdependent world
- The driving forces of globalization are- economy, politics, and technology.
- Attributions of globalization mentioned by Steger (2003) are;
 - Globalization as a multidimensional process
 - Globalization as de-territorialization
 - Globalization as social interconnectedness
 - Globalization defined in terms of time and space
- It is a contentious issue in international relations

Dimensions of Globalizations

1. **Economic Globalization**-the intensification and stretching of economic interrelation across the globe.
 - the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide through the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in technology, goods and services (IMF, 2002).
2. **Political Globalization** - new ordering of relations of domination and subordination among all regions of the world.
 - globalization has its own defining structure of power
3. **Cultural Globalization** - rapid diffusion of ideas, attitudes, meanings, values and cultural products across national borders.
 - Harmonization of worlds cultures at the **expense** of distinctly different local cultures .
 - Loss of worlds cultural diversity, replaced by primarily Americanized world cultures.

4.2. THE GLOBALIZATION DEBATES

There are three perspectives to the questions of:

- what is new about globalization? and
- what are its political consequences for sovereign statehood?

4.2.1. The Hyper-globalists:

- Sees globalization as a new epoch in human history.
- chxsd by the declining relevance and authority of nation-states, largely through the economic logic of a global market.
- privileges the economic over the political, the market over the state, and prefigures the decline of states.
- Economies are becoming “**denationalized.**”
- So, economic globalization is generating a **new pattern of losers as well as winners** in the international economy.
- Globalization is imparting new liberal ideas and implant culture of modernization replacing the traditional culture.

4.2.2. THE SKEPTICS

- Rejected the view of super- globalist as a myth.
- The force of globalization very much dependent on the regulatory power of the state to ensure the continuation of economic liberalism.
- States are central actors and agents of globalization.
- undermine the view that the world is interconnected and moving into a village .

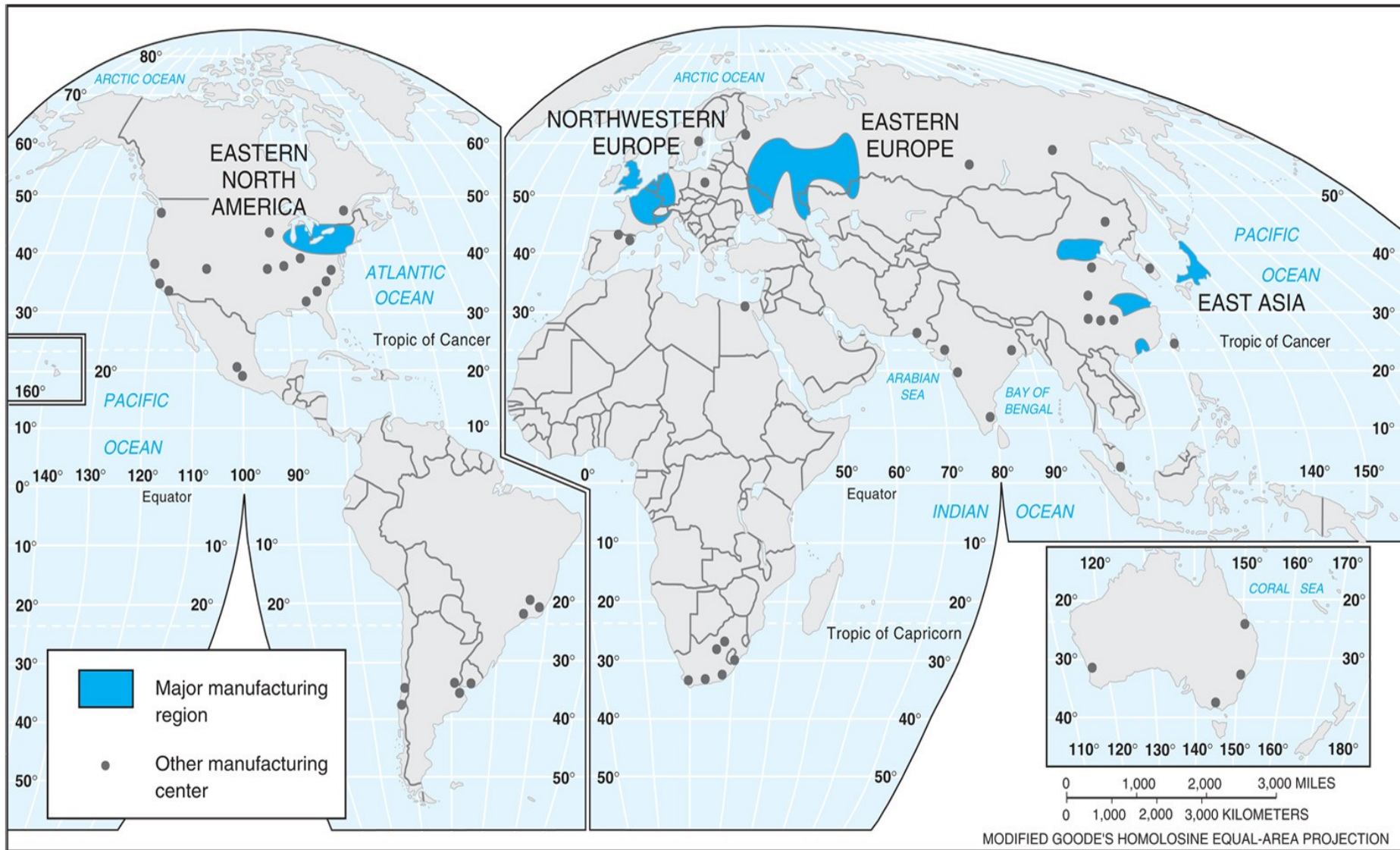
Globalization is not more than regionalization.

current international processes as more fragmented and regionalized than globalized.

There is no free flow of goods, resources, technology and finance at the global level; but regional based globalization.

Globalization would not help to narrow the economic and technological gap between the Global North and the Global South.

80% OF GLOBAL OUTPUT IN THREE REGIONS



CONT'D

- The third world is becoming increasingly **marginalized**.

Globalization brings nothing new, rather it is just the crystallization the already existing realities of the world .

4.2.3. The Transformationalist:

- Attempts to find a middle ground between the hyper-globalist and skeptical views.
- Globalization is a critical driving force behind the rapid social, political and economic changes.
- Globalization is a contested arena where there is no teleological certainty.
- Describe the erosion of old patterns of stratification.
 - The nature of national governments is changing
 - A new world order “architecture” is developing
 - national economic space no more coincides with state boundary.

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- Authority has become increasingly diffused amongst public and private agencies.
- new sovereignty regime is displacing traditional conception of state power.
- Globalization is reconstituting or reengineering the power, function and the authority of the state.
- but a description of this change as merely growing or waning is oversimplified.

4.3. PROS AND CONS OF GLOBALIZATION

Pro-

- ◆ Lower prices for goods and services
- ◆ Economic growth
- ◆ Increase in consumer income
- ◆ Creates jobs (for many)
- ◆ improvement of quality of life
- ◆ Countries specialize in production of goods and services that are produced most efficiently

◆ **Con-**

- ◆ Destroys manufacturing jobs in wealthy nations
- ◆ Wage rates of unskilled in advanced countries decline
- ◆ Outsourcing
- ◆ Companies move to countries with fewer labor and environment regulations
- ◆ Loss of sovereignty
- ◆ Homogenized cultures

4.4. GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON AFRICA

Considerably weakened Africa's position in the IS due to:

- loss in the race for economic development and human development.
- The cold war impacts

Thus, characteristics of postcolonial Africa:

- political and social instability
- the rise of authoritarian regimes
- weaken national consciousness and cohesion

Specific positive impacts of globalization on Africa:

- promoted greater respect for human rights
- the development of an African press.
- available information on how other countries are governed and rights are enjoyed....etc.

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Mostly. globalization have had a negative impact on the growth and consolidation of democratic governance in Africa. Among these are the following:

- The rise or reinforcement of authoritarian regimes.
- Support for the fundamental principles of democracy is undermined.
- Creates a favourable environment for the emergence of non-representative governments.
- The erosion of sovereignty (in political sphere).
- the sense of a common destiny is frustrated
- limits the ability of African governments to take proactive and conscious measures to support an indigenous innovations
- Substantial **brain drain** due to Economic and social stagnation....etc.

4.6. DEFINING REGIONALISM AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Region a limited number of states linked together by a geographical relationship and by a degree of mutual interdependence (Nye, 1968).

Regionalism- is intensifying political and economic processes of cooperation among states and other actors in particular geographic regions, developed either 'from below' or 'from above' or from both approaches.

Acco. to Buzan et al (1998), two types of region based on its contexts.

- **societal context**-region is the set of adjacent nations.
- **political context**-region means a spatially coherent territory composed of two or more states.

Regional awareness a key driving force to regionalize with intimate neighbouring countries.

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4.6.1. The Old Regionalism

- Roots in the devastating experience of **inter-war nationalism and WW II**.
- linked to the discussion about '**regional integration**' in Europe, i. e. the formation of the **European Communities**.
- The purpose was to achieve and consolidate peace and stability which **nation-state** fail to achieve.
- Regional integration in **developing world** was associated with development, state promoted industrialization and nation-building, through **protectionism and import-substitution**.

4.6.2. New Regionalism :

- In early 1990's-experienced the **end of cold war** and witnessed the emergence '**new regionalism**' on a global scale.
- **The new regionalism** referred to a number of new trends and developments.

The new wave of regionalism is related to the multitude of inter-related structural changes in the global system in the post-Cold War era, such as:

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- the end of bipolarity
- the intensification of globalization
- the restructuring of the nation-state..etc.

4.7. MAJOR THEORIES OF REGIONAL INTEGRATIONS

1. Functionalism:

- regionalism is a functional response by states to the problems derived from regional interdependence.
- Seen as the most effective means of solving common problems.
- has started from technical and non-controversial issues
- has spilled over into the high politics and redefinition of group identity around the regional unit.
- the task of policy makers is to encourage the states to peacefully work together.
- 'spill-over' is the key explanation of functionalist regionalism: **two sorts of spill over** (Fiurrell, 1995);
 - ❖ **Functional spill over**-cooperation in one area would broaden and deepen further areas.

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- ❖ political spill over-the existence of supranational institutions would set in motion a self-reinforcing process of institution building.
- The end-result is a shift in loyalties from nationalism towards regionalism.
- Spill over effect leads finally to the formation of supranational institutions and to the diminishing role of the nation-state.

2. NEO-FUNCTIONALISM

Defined integration as a process.

Political integration is the process whereby political actors in several distinct national settings are persuaded to shift their loyalties, expectations and political activities towards a new centre.

The end result is a new political community, superimposed over the pre-existing ones.

One principle of neo-functionalism is the emphasis on political agency in integration process (Rosamond, 2002).

special focus is on the process of political integration.

The preconditions for the success of an integration process:

- Central institutions and central policies.
- tasks and capacity to implement those tasks.
- Their tasks should be inherently expansive.
- Some link between the interests of member states and the process of integration.

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- **Spill over referees to the process of integration from the political sphere into other aspects of life.**
- **Spill over in regional integration deepens the process of integration.**

A theory focus on the state for integration to succeed.

Considers the state mainly as an actor in the IS and the integration process -from the perspective of traditional IR.

Integration can be considered as part of the rational choice of state actors.

Rationalist framework disaggregates the process of integration into three stages:

- **National preference formation**-degree of integration depends on the interests of influential domestic constituents
- **Interstate bargaining**
- **Institutional choice**

4. SUPRA-NATIONALISM

Root in neo-functionalism assumptions

Neo-functionalism emphasizes on:

1st, positive spill-over effects-occurs when integration between states in a particular sector incentivizes integration in other sectors too.

2nd, a transfer of allegiances from the national to the supranational political arena-domestic interest groups shift their activities from the domestic to the international realm.

3rd, a technocratic automaticity-an increasingly autonomous role of supranational institutions in promoting further integration.

It sees integration as a process led by elitist groups, with shared interest at the domestic level and then push national governments to transfer policy competence to a supranational body.

The nature of interaction among the regionalization, globalization and the state interaction on issues of economics and security greatly differ.

The regionalization of security is not a universal trend like the formation of economic regions.

Three possible options of relations between regionalization and globalization in the economic dimension:

A. Regionalization as a Component of Globalization:

Convergence - **Regionalism** is emerging today as a potent force in the processes of globalization and one component of it.

B. Regionalization as a Challenge or Response to Globalization.

- **Divergence**- the impetus toward regionalization might stem from a reaction and challenge to the economic rules of globalization.

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C. Regionalization and Globalization as Parallel Processes:

- **Overlap**-Regionalization and globalization might act as parallel or overlapping processes in the **two issue-areas of economics and security**.

4.10. REGIONALIZATION, GLOBALIZATION AND THE STATE

The forces of nationalism and the possible roles of the nation-state creates the following seven possible linkages.

A. Nation-States and Nationalism as Rival Processes of Globalization.

- nation-states oppose globalization-divergent trends.
- Processes of disintegration, fragmentation, autarky, and localization diverge from the overall trend of globalization.

B. Globalization as a Force of Nationalism and the Formation of New States:

- Through a process of technological dissemination, globalization might actually promote nationalism and the formation of new states- **convergent trends**.
- globalization creates a new revolution of 'rising expectations with new strategies and roles for the nation-state.

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Nation-States as Rival Forces of Regionalization:

- Nation-states oppose forces of regionalization that attempt to transcend the power and authority of the state in a supranational direction by setting limits and constraints to the development of a regional identity and supranational institutions.

D. Regionalism as a Force of Nationalism and the Nation-States:

- nationalism and the nation-states can be strengthened through regionalism-**convergent trends**.
- Regionalization might result from **nationalistic tendencies** of the member states-**regional integration** as a means to pool and increase their **national power resources**.

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Coexistence between Regionalism, Nationalism and Globalization:

- Neither convergence nor divergence but rather **coexistence**-the **three processes** are taking place simultaneously.
- parallel processes of globalization and continuing trends of fragmentation and disintegration.

F. Nation-States as Mediators between Regionalism and Globalization:

- nation-states mediate between trends of regionalization and globalization -**overlapping trends**.
- The stronger the states, the more capable they are in coping with the intricacies of the economic, political, social, technological, and cultural dimensions of globalization.
- The weaker they are, the more 'penetrated' or exposed to the vulnerabilities of the world economy and a shallow world culture and ideology.

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Nation-States Opposing Globalization through Regionalism:

- Nationalism and globalization are linked dialectically- divergent trends.
- Globalization does not imply necessarily the erosion of the nation-state's authority but rather a needed change in state strategies and redirection of state energies.
- Conversely, state strategies and state actions can determine the future directions of globalization.

The END!!!