GLOBAL TRENDS

CHAPTER SIX:

GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALISM

Globalization and Regionalism

- Globalization and Regionalism influence the global trend and re-organize inter-state relations
- The influence is in the form of integration and differentiation.
- Both developments shape the nature of global politics, peace and security.

What is Globalization?

- A phenomena or a process characterized by increasing interconnectedness or interdependence.
- The driving forces are economy, politics and technology
- A supra regional process bringing the world into one global village.
- It is a process of *integration to* the *world* and *differentiation* to the *local*.

Globalization (continued)

- Globalization as multi-dimensional is characterized by
  - Social and political activities across state frontiers, so that events, decisions and activities (such as conflicts, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants …) in one part of the world come to have significance for individuals and communities in other parts of the world
  - Growing magnitude of inter-connectedness (economic, ecological, spread of HIV/AIDS …)
- Globalization embodies a process of de-territorialization (against defined territory)

Globalization (continued)

- Under globalization, national economic space is no longer coterminous (inside same boundary) with national territorial space. For example, many USA companies base their head quarters in Europe.

Debates on the Direction, Nature and Effect of Globalization

There are three perspectives.

(1) The Hyper Globalists. They argue that

- Nation-states are obsolete (outdated). It prefigures (anticipates) the decline of the states.
- Privileges the economic (the market) over the political (the state)

Debates (continued)

(2) The Skeptics

- Reject the view of hyper globalists as myth, flawed idea
- Internationalization depends on the regulatory power of the state.
- States are central actors and agents of globalization
- Advocates regional based globalization (such as European Union (EU), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the likes.

(3) The Transformationalists

- No clear distinction between the domestic and international affairs.
- Globalization is re-engineering or reconstructing the power, function and the authority of the state.

Pros and Cons of Globalization

- It discusses the merits and demerits of globalization

Merits

- Expansion of democratic culture, human rights …
- Innovation in science, medicine, technology, ICT
- Free movement of people, goods, services, ideas
- Brought about new sense of global society and the perspective of global citizenship

Demerits

- Gnawing (persistent and troubling) gap between the rich and poor
- Erodes national sovereignty and local values
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) are global capital and international financial institutions. They make in-roads into countries of the South, influencing the politics and economy negatively
- Affect non-Western age-old traditions, way of life, cultural values
- Creates risk, threats and vulnerabilities to global terrorism, religious fundamentalism, proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs), arms and human trafficking

Continued

Actors of Globalization

- States
- Multi-National Corporations
- Trans-National Corporations
- Individuals

Regionalism and Regional Integration

- Region is a limited number of states linked together by a geographical relationship and by a degree of mutual interdependence.
- Regionalism is intensifying political and / or economic processes of cooperation among states and other actors in particular geographic regions

Theories of Regionalism

(1) Functionalism --- It is functional response to problems that are result of regional interdependence

- Solving common problems
- Encourage states to peacefully work together

(2) Neo-Functionalism

- Believes integration as a process
- Mainly focuses on political integration

(3) Inter-governmentalism

- Focuses on the state for integration to succeed
- State is the main actor in the process

Theories (continued)

(4) Supra-Nationalism

- Integration as a process led by elitist groups, who identify lack of opportunities to pursue shared interest at domestic level push national governments to supra-national body
- There is shift of loyalty from national institutions to international institutions

Cases of Regional Integration

- **European Union**
  - Goes through the process from European Economic Community (EEC), then creates common market, common currency, then further creates institutional and policy harmonization and finally European Union

Continued

- **African Union**
  - Originally Organization of African Unity (OAU) was formed, then changed to African Union (AU), then moves to intensification of African markets
  - Forwards political unification
  - Plans to open African free trade, issuance of arrival VISA, strengthening regional organizations like, Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) …
- **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, began in creating Preferential Area , then goes to establish Asian Free Trade …

Regionalization vs. Globalization

There are three possible options (from economic dimensions)

A. Regionalization as component of globalization (Convergent Trends)

B. Regionalization as a challenge to globalization (Divergent Trends)

C. Regionalization and Globalization as parallel processes (Overlapping Trends)

Ethiopia in the Globalized World

- Ethiopia is marginally integrated to the capitalist system during post-cold war era.
- In post -1991 there challenges of democratization and reconstructing post-conflict society interfaced with the advent of globalization.

Positive Side (less)

- Transfer of technology and knowledge
- Free movements of ideas, people, finance ...

Continued

Negative Side (more)

- New religions and secular values affected the religiosity and social solidarity of people, brings about religious radicalism
- Socio-cultural impacts of western values, such as dressing, hair style, way of celebrating ...