
Memorandum

TO: *POSC 3300 International Security Studies*
FROM: *Allexus Bain*
SUBJECT: *Mearscheimer: Bound to Fail*
DATE: *October 17th, 2022*

Executive Summary:

The effect of hyper-globalization has, and continues, to weaken the international community. The shared global economy has been fracturing over the decades, due to private-regional economic affairs eventually growing into global crises. It is in the best interest of international institutions, as well as the global community, to identify what does not work in globalization to confront the rising threat of a crippled world economy. However, finding a fix to hyper-globalization becomes a contradicting issue since, for many states, globalization is also key to economic prosperity.

The Downside of Hyper-globalization

Hyper-globalization has negatively affected the global community. International institutions are presumed to be capable of solving the troubles in this growing world crisis, but *Mearscheimer* mentioned that “the liberal international order was destined to fail, because it was fatally flawed.” (*Mearscheimer, pp. 42*) Due to the anarchical structure of the international society, policy-makers are unable to implement standards of controlling the effects caused by hyper-globalization. Even if a government was able to implement policy changes to manage hyper-globalization, the impacted community, and organizations, had already faltered beyond repair.

The flow of capital between borders is a constant threat to the global network. With states relying on each other for trade, industrial production, labour, and other responsibilities, the interconnected network becomes more fragile in the process. *Mearscheimer* pointed out a few crises that could have ruined the state of world capital. These were the “Asian financial crisis of 1997–98” and the Western “2007–08 global financial crisis.” (*Mearscheimer, pp. 41*) Both crises had a toll on the world economy, damaging what was the status quo.

There is also a divide between upper and lower class income levels. *Mearscheimer* spoke of how the ‘liberal west’ does little to increase the wealth of the lower-income class, even though the higher-income class continually earns a pay increase. This issue has gone on to the point where

citizens find it difficult to ‘make ends meet.’ Pertaining to those that are underpaid, the direness of the situation grows when these much needed jobs become more scarce. “For starters, many jobs in particular sectors of a country’s economy disappear quickly as a result of outsourcing, throwing large numbers of people out of work.” (*Mearscheimer, pp.39*) Nonetheless, the international community depends on immigration to continue expanding the economy and to solve skill shortages. With a contradictory matter like this, there is only so much room for compromise. Policy-makers can only do so much to manage what international institutions have fell-short on. Ultimately, if compromise is found, the issue may still persist, because as *Mearscheimer* mentioned “it [the liberal international order] was fatally flawed.” (*Mearscheimer, pp. 42*) In other words, this is how the system was designed to function initially.

Analysis

Hyper-globalization is an interesting, yet perilous matter. International institutions, as well as the global community, are tasked with solving an issue that is contradictory in every aspect. *Mearscheimer* views that the flaws, built into globalization, are what has the world on such a destructive-economic path. But the world has relied on this system for quite some time, so whether the solution is minor tweaking to these standards, or a complete overhaul, there will be dissent among the populous. One thing that remains true is that no matter the outcome, every nation-state will be impacted by it. “Change occurs at warp speed, and major developments in one country invariably have significant effects in other countries.” (*Mearscheimer, pp. 38*)

Reference

Mearsheimer, John J. 2019. "Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order." *International Security* 2019; 43 (4): 7–50.