Anthropology 452: Globalization

Final Essay Assignment – 2021

The notion that globalization is ending is very interesting. It makes sense that this is the early reaction of some people especially after what has happened lately, but globalization is not an issue that can be viewed in a 5- or 10-year span. You can’t look at the progress of something that has been alive for hundreds of years in that short of a time span. Seeing something from that small of a perspective not only blocks all the progress that has been made but also limits you to only seeing the most recent and close to home issues.

Perspective seems to be the knowledge that is in very limited supply as of late. The overall exponential growth rate in all things whether that be technology, social justice, etc. has warped the minds of so many so that they expect to see progress in such short amounts of time. Personally, I blame the lack of paying attention in history class but who can say what has actually caused this. One thing is definitely apparent though, people don’t always see the full picture.

As shown in this class the evolution of globalization has expanded and grown and changed over these hundreds of years. Coming from the age where globalization was just considered travel to another country and experiencing what they had to offer. All the way to where we are now where almost every aspect of life, albeit terrible diseases, is being transported from place to place. Very few looks at that entire growth and change lifecycle when they are talking about burning it all down now just when we are close to having something so great. Instead, they just discuss the most recent problems.

There are a couple main issue floating around in the three authors papers that were given for this paper. First and foremost is the overreaction to the most recent supply chain stops that could cause a complete change in globalization policy. And overaction is a justified word because it’s not necessary to rethinking all of globalization when one thing falls apart. There is no doubt that our current exchange system is broken but that’s also thanks to our current economic climate so much like everything else in the world its not just one issue, it’s a collection.

Secondly is that because of the main negatives of globalization and the recent social change globalization will be reduced to the collection of major superpowers like the U.S. China, and Russia. This is due impart to the differences between different nations. Whether that be simple price disputes or the more potent social issues that have been shown to cause divides among everyone. These negatives are starting to create a globalization that forms more closely to internationalization where all countries are divided by their beliefs, and this is what separates their exchange. In the papers this divide is what seems to be creating the distance between a liberalization type of world that we were getting closer too.

This point of view really isn’t that surprising to me at all. For most people on the opposite side of a viewpoint their typical solution is to just do the complete opposite that they agree with the most and their opponent disagrees with the most. For example, gun laws and safety in the U.S., or really any other issue in the U.S. There are two viewpoints and very view people in between. On one side they want lots of guns and on the other they want no guns. No reasonable person would say, “hey let’s meet in the middle” and implement better licensing and tracking. But no, it’s either all or nothing for some reason. So, it seems almost natural that this type of logic would carry over to the issue of globalization.

All of these points made in the papers strike me as a reformist approach to globalization which makes sense since there seems to have been so many problems with it lately. The main ideas of all the authors suggest ways in which to restrict and control globalization more so that it can’t cause problems. Reliance on other countries being one of the main problems as of late that many of the papers discuss. This issue is especially potent at the moment and people are starting to realize that current reliance on other countries has created vulnerabilities in the largest economies. So, despite the seemingly “in the middle” approach that the authors give there is still an overwhelming amount of information that leans toward more drastic measures.

The opinion that globalization is now bad is becoming more and more popular because of these vulnerabilities and has opened up discussion about how other possible changes could cause problems. For one a common mistake that is identified in one of the papers is that large countries will start to internalize their trade to only other countries located close to them in which they have solid relations. This will then open up a whole other mind field where trade wars will become larger and more centralized. So, if disagreements happen, they could stop a larger amount of global trade then we currently have.

This over correction is common in the discussion in the papers and is also seen to be a policy position rather than a result of the failure of technological advancement. There should be no doubt that if globalization were to continue and grow that technology related to it would advance as it does with everything else. The problem is whether or not people can see past the setbacks and negatives in order to continue the growth and improve what has already been built.

This discussion should not be one of “should there be globalization at all”. Instead, it should be how can we improve what we currently have to fit the scenario better. Large countries are currently so reliant on globalization that their entire infrastructure would fall apart if globalization were to diminish by a huge percent. These positions should no longer be seen as an option. Self-reliance should be a more important part of many countries’ exploration into globalization at least for areas that are dependent on, but more growth and efficiency is the key to saving globalization.

If these conditions are met and we continue on a path where nothing every improves and we stick with the same system, then globalization will certainly decline and end. You can never build a system that will last time when the system is supply an ever-changing environment. It needs to grow and change to fit the needs of the users.