Anthropology 452 – Globalization

Essay Topic: What is globalization and what drives its development?

*Globalization is all about technology, transportation, and cooperation across borders. The definition should not be about the borders that should or should not separate people. It should not contain information about how globalization should occur. Instead, it should summarize what happens when globalization occurs.*

*As shown below when a definition becomes swayed in a certain direction not only does it become unclear, but it also sometimes moves away from the original meaning of the word. Instead of focusing on only a single issue the definition needs to encompasses all of the issues that globalization would deal with. Some of these definitions even go so far as to sway from the term globalization all together.*

***Transplanetary*** *being that fifth definitions that should be considered its own word outside of globalization entirely. After all, transplanetary refers to off this world an onto another. So why on earth could it be a definition for a word that only refers to a single globe? This is just a single problem with one of the definitions but believe me there are plenty more.*

*The problem with the other four definitions is that they are redundant. They lack any new understanding from each other and instead just build on what has already been stated in other definitions. For example,* ***Internationalization*** *has many similarities between the original definition of globalization. Nothing is different besides perhaps a larger area in which it applies. There is also the problem that it implies the world is only broken down by its borders. All categories are defined by countries borders and fail to see the differences in those borders that should count as separate entities.*

*Similar problems exist with* ***Liberalization*** *where there is little to no creation of new ideology from liberalization. The definition refers to a process of removing all restrictions and boarders that are currently imposing on the economies and encourages free trade. Yet much of globalization has already dealt with a free and open type of trade that liberalization states to be the solution for the world economy. If any thing this is not a definition but a new theory on how globalization could be used in the world. This approach also has been none to create negative feelings because it suggests getting rid of the boarders that identify cultures and people.*

*This same problem is in* ***universalization*** *where the use of this definition could cause unnecessary assumptions of how globalization will cause a single culture and result cultural destruction. It offers no innovation to the definition of globalization and in fact can cause opposition of globalization for no proven reason.*

*Much like universalization,* ***westernization*** *creates a negative aspect to globalization with no proven results that suggest that it would be true. This again can cause strong opposition. The term is also unfounded since it assumes that western cultures would become dominate in the world when it could be any other culture that spreads across the world through globalization.*

*Unlike the 5 definitions that Scholte associates with globalization I found that the theoretical approaches did a much better job at summarizing the different thinking that can happen from the broad idea of globalization.*

*The first,* ***liberalism****, attempts to explain the notion of globalization in terms of the open market economy. The theory confirms that the starting free trade within the international financial system connects people all over the world with the purpose of exercising their economic liberties. This theory ultimately works to support the idea that without barriers free trade can strengthen different economies and help improve the international ecosystem. Which although one-sided does help to show the economic side of globalization and its ways of working.*

*Next was the theory of* ***Political realism*** *which suggests that the notion of globalization is strengthen and corrected by competitive and conflictual influence in the world. In other words, globalization is truly only when there is conflict and stress on different countries, nations, and cultures. This is in complete contrast to liberalism, which believes the opposite essentially, and therefore helps to strength the idea of what globalization. After all the best way to form an opinion of something is to look at both of the opposing views.*

*After this we have* ***Marxism*** *theory which explains the context of globalization in terms of international economics development and growth through equitable distribution of resource. This is a similar thought process of liberalism where equal ability to trade is reinforced but there is also a strict structure that needs to be in place to allow for equitable distribution. This suggests that the Marxism theory does desire free trade but only if a regulatory body is making sure that it isn’t so free that one can be better off then another. This would mean that Marxism is against the* ***Capitalism*** *approach where no regulatory body can control the better market practices that award someone or something more resources. Instead, it would lean more towards the* ***governance/regulation*** *element that involves supremacy processes which help the functionality of globalization.*

***Constructivism*** *theory came next, which is understood on the basis of social relationship between various human populations across the international borders. This rationale encompasses aspects of language and social cultural perspective. Then* ***postmodernism*** *theory looks at how structural power of significant social constructions such as culture and language of different nations across the world work to form the boundaries and limits. Finally,* ***feminism*** *theory which explains globalization by addressing the issues of masculinity and femininity that are upheld by a large population of the world.* ***Identity*** *force is common in all of these theories which recognize humanity as having common traits regardless of racial identity or ethnicity, and therefore suggests, most nations would be stimulated to develop themselves for the fulfilment of a common objective.*

*As much as I disagree with the points that are made by the definitions, I do think that they do a good job of showing what the different understandings entail and what the main definitions of globalization should and should not contain. The theories also do this but in a way that doesn’t just limit globalization like the definitions do. Instead, they can be thought of as the ways in which globalization can occur in different circumstances which again helps to shape the definitions of globalization.*

*Globalization is not driven by the different understandings and definitions that people create about it. Instead, it is brought on by the need for information, resources, and connections in other locations around the globe. There is no perfect way to globalization. There is no control that you can put in place that makes everyone equal. Going as far to put restrictions on how globalization can occur so that it only forms to your ideals effects the basic principles that it is an exchange between people of different locations and understanding.*