



International School

Globalisation

5.3 Globalisation, power and politics



The spread of liberal democracy and human rights

- End of Cold War period and spread of [liberal democracy](#)
- 60% of the world's governments of countries that have populations of at least half a million are now democracies - an increase from 24% in 1976.
- Political systems and elections - 'free and fair' - Condition of receiving aid
 - Observed by international monitors
- The Universal Declaration of [Human Rights](#) - UN in 1948
 - National laws and international agreements - [International Criminal Court](#)
- Cross-cultural contacts - people are more exposed to ideas about [democracy and human rights](#)
- Pressure from international organisations
- The spread of capitalism?!





Global social movements and attempts to oppose globalisation

- Interview with Professor Goldin of Oxford University on globalisation
 - What does he suggest are the benefits of globalisation?
 - Why does he suggest there is a rise in anti-globalisation sentiment?
- Traditional pressure groups and New Social Movements (NSMs)
 - The environmental movement,
 - feminism,
 - peace and anti-nuclear movement,
 - gay and lesbian liberation movement,
 - the animal rights movement,
 - cancelling debt,
 - anti-globalisation movement,
 - the Occupy movement





Global social movements and attempts to oppose globalisation

- NSMs are response to:
 - New global risk
 - People having a growing sense of being unable to control their lives
- The role of internet and access to media
- Protests against neo-liberal globalisation in Genoa in 2001
 - Global economic system controlled by TNCs and IGOs, keeps people in developing countries in poverty.
 - Failure of structural adjustment programmes to reduce poverty
 - China
- Tariffs would stop the growth
- Lack of effective organisation





Debates about the role of the nation state in tackling global social and environmental problems

- Nation states lose power and authority especially with regard to their economics:
 - Employment
 - Taxation policies relating to businesses
 - Investment
- Ohmae (1995): Political globalisation marks the end of 'the modern nation-state itself'.
 - TNCs are increasingly powerful
- Intergovernmental organisations
 - The global drugs trade
 - The global illegal trade in endangered species and their body parts
 - Carbon emissions and climate change
 - Pollution





Debates about the role of the nation state in tackling global social and environmental problems

- [The Paris Climate Accord 2016](#)
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) 1975
- Beck (1992): we now live in a global **risk society**, in which we - individuals, groups, governments and corporations - have to confront problems that earlier generations could not imagine and which are very different from natural disasters and plagues in the past which were beyond human control.
- Beck (1992): we need to think in terms of the universal or cosmopolitan, rather than nation states. Nation states will act in their own interest.

Risk society: modern societies have created many new hazards or risks unknown in the past and requiring global response.





Debates about the role of the nation state in tackling global social and environmental problems

- Devolution of powers from central governments to local level
- John Gray (2002)
- Hirst and Thompson (1996): nation states are key to creating the stable political conditions under which trade and international development can continue.





Assignment

1. Research Brexit and nationalism:
 - a. How is this an example of anti-globalisation movement?
 - b. Why do you think it gathered such support?
 - c. What will be the impact on Britain?
2. Investigate opposition to globalisation in Serbia. Consider why it is occurring?

