



Forum: ECOSOC

Issue: Mitigating the Impacts of Anti-Globalism

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Overview

Globalization essentially promotes the idea of forming the world and different regions as an entity, interconnect the economies, cultures, politics, environmental policies, and military capabilities. The movements are thrived by the wide use of technology which increased the speed of spreading information from all aspects around the globe, it has changed human life. The easy access to any information and freedom of speech has shrunk the size of our world. Another factor comes from immigrations. People come from different cultures that carries different opinions tend to influence on other regions they step into. Globalization created opportunities for exchange between cultures. While national borders seem to fade away, it is crucial to recognize both the positive and negative results attributed from globalization in order to understand the view of Anti Globalists.

Political Globalization

Establishment of political cooperation between different countries. This trend also redefined a lot of matters such as political systems, states, and democracy. Globalization brings a worldwide political system into growth. It takes national governments, their governmental and intergovernmental organizations which include international non-governmental organizations and social movement organizations into account. Significant examples such as World Trade Organization, United Nations, and regional organizations such as the EU helped to point out the importance of political globalization. However, a lot of people believe that these corporations are not doing what they have claimed to achieve for.

Take the World Trade Organization as an example. Their goal of “ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.” was never implemented fully. Practical issues such as the poor labor and environment were never solved or got enough attentions by them. Tariffs and other forms of protection are allowed in the system. Thus, the organization is often accused for widening the gap between the poor and the rich. Many anti globalists also concern the political power controlled by the multinational corporations. The fact that those companies have the ability to exploit tax havens in other countries to avoid paying taxes.



Economic Globalization

This aspect of globalization emphasizes on the exchange and connection of resources across multiple countries through trade. Therefore, free trade is considered as the biggest advantage because this means that countries can produce goods with relatively low cost. But this can damage the economies of developing countries because they need to face greater competitions against the developed countries.

Secondly, a large amount of lower class citizens have lost their jobs contributed to the replacement by automation, robotics, informational technology, and other productivity boosters; or transferred to lower cost countries. The employees in the United States and Europe are motivated to work harder because of the greater competition in the labor market. Still, some workers are in fears of cutting down wages. Poverty remains as a major issue for more than 1 billion people who live by less than 1 dollar per day. More than 800 million people have too little to eat. Large multinational corporations take advantage of the market trends by offering poor working conditions and lack of concern for the working conditions. Again, the benefits for the rich far exceed on the level of poor.

Anti globalization Movement

Anti globalization is mostly centered on the Internet which is so called cyber protest. Protesters often use chat rooms, social medias, mailing lists, and other access to discuss strategies for future uses or major political events around the globe. The internet provides a transparent platform for the protestors to express their feelings freely.

However, the antiglobalization movement shows contradictory. It can not be centralized or controlled and dominated by any individuals in any extent. The movement itself is formed by a variety groups of people which includes traditional and autonomous labor unions, art groups, landless peasants' groups, indigenous groups, socialists, communists, anarchists, autonomous groups, Trotskyists, parts of the ecology movement and the feminist movement, Third World initiatives, civil rights groups, students, religious groups, human rights groups, groups from the unemployment movement, traditional left-wing parties, critical intellectuals, and so on.

Undoubtedly, so far it can be considered as a universal protest movement which aims at a common good for all levels of people instead of the interest of global corporations and financial markets. A difference still seem to appear is that a group of them want to strengthen the regulation of capitalism at a national level, yet another group want to push global democracy into national sovereignty.



Major Anti-Globalization Movement Time Line

October 1993 India	farmers' movement vs. WTO
January 1994 Mexico	<i>Zapatistas Movement</i>
May 1998 UK	<i>Protest at G-8 summit</i> <i>first Global Street Party</i>
October 1998 France	ATTAC formed 'Another world is possible'
December 1999 Seattle USA	<i>Battle of Seattle</i> <i>Huge anti-WTO protest</i>
January 2000 Switzerland	Protest at World Economic Forum
September 2000 Czech Rep	Anti-IMF / World Bank protest
January 2001 Brazil	<i>First World Social Forum</i>
July 2001 Italy	Protest at G8 summit
July 2005 UK	Protest at G8 summit – Make Poverty History campaign
June 2007 Germany	Protest at G8 summit
December 2009 Denmark	Protest at climate summit
September 2011 USA	<i>Occupy Wall Street</i>
September 2014 Worldwide Planet Earth	People's Climate March

Zapatistas Movement

“Zapatistas” refers to anti globalists who struggle for democracy and land reform in Chiapas, Mexico. The original factors include “a combination of ecological crisis, lack of available productive land, the drying up of nonagricultural sources of income, the political and religious reorganization of indigenous communities since the 1960s, and the re-articulation of ethnic identities with emancipatory political discourses” (Harvey, 1998). The rebellion started in San Cristobal de las Casa with the essential goal of creating the “democratization of democracy”. A lot of indigenous people in Mexico did not have a chance to express their concerns or often ignored by the government. They suffered through intolerable working conditions with poor resources.



Protest to G8

Almost 50,000 people called for attention in Birmingham targeted on the G8 to cancel the Third World debt. The protesters formed a human chain throughout Birmingham to disturb the G8 meeting. Members included from different denominations, trade unions, and other organizations campaigning for debt relief. The riot was out of control, more than 30 people were arrested. However, Catholic bishops of England and Wales said they will dedicate themselves into the support of “Make Poverty History” campaign and urge Catholics in England and Wales to play their part in it.

Battle of Seattle

The meeting was intended for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. On November 30, 1999, an estimated 40,000 protesters were gathered together in Seattle after communicating through the internet before they arrive. Countless protest signs and slogans were widely spread throughout the street. The main purpose of the march was to act against the increase of globalization of capitalism and calls attention for the poor working conditions and the unequal labor welfare policy. Protesters destroyed multinational corporation stores, such as Starbucks, Mc Donald, and Bank of America which made the whole city under the danger of violence. The conference eventually had to be canceled. “Battle of Seattle” is considered as the most influential movement which symbols the rise of anti-globalization. Protests never stopped to interfere nearly during every single major international conference in the future.

First World Social Forum

WSF is a forum rooted from the idea “Another world is possible”, particularly made for anti-globalization. The forum since then spread to other nations such as Mumbai and India. Providing an open space for social movements and citizens from all around the world. An alternative to neoliberal globalization begin to step into the public’s attention.

Occupy Wall Street

A protest movement located in New York City’s Wall Street financial district, in the purpose of against the economic and income inequality. After the major financial crisis, a majority of big companies were facing bankruptcy which resulted not only the United State economy to hit the rock bottom but also influenced other countries, and made the unemployment rate increasingly



high. The march was proposed by a Canadian organization “Adbusters” in the aim of revolting the American political leaders for not doing enough in the financial crisis. Even though the idea was proposed by the Adbusters, there was no identified actual leader of the movement; instead, the expansion was encouraged by a large amount of anonymous activists.

Major Organizations

The World Trade Organization (WTO)

The only global international organization which in charge of establishing rules and rights involve with any trades between nations. It offers opportunities for governments to discuss mutual trade terms.

Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions and Aid to Citizens (ATTAC)

An International organization which believes in the equal development from social, ecological, and democratic aspects for all. Specifically dedicated to fight for the regulation of financial markets, the closure of tax havens, and the introduction of global taxes to finance global public goods.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

An organization formed by 189 member countries to maintain financial stability, strengthen international trade, increase employment rate, and sustainable economic growth. The U.S. is the largest shareholder in the Fund.

The United Nations Actions

Effects

The establishment of the United Nations and the European Union reduced the negative impact of anti-globalization on the society. The formation of these coalitions has increased the opportunity for countries to listen and help each nation, and to hear the voices of their people more effectively. But it is worth noting out the fact that we still have lack of practice to make future plans more realistic. Even though the 2030 Agenda has been proposed, every nation should learn from the past and get rid of the negative influence by some of organizations’ inside which has been casting doubts by the citizens. Working on the practical details and steps within the big Agenda which will lead to the final success is what we should be working on. The United



Nations plays the role in delivering the message of promoting globalization's benefits in an influential way, while minimizing the negative impacts brought to the society.

Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

"A sustainable global economy – one that preserves the planet and improves lives everywhere – is also a huge opportunity to create new jobs and market opportunities worth trillions of dollars." says the UN. The United Nations undoubtedly recognize the source of the protest largely come from the loss of jobs, therefore, large investments to create more jobs in order to make up the loss is necessary.

17 Sustainable Development Goals

UN chief has called for a fair globalization most recently. "We need more investment, more political action, more priority for a fair globalization", said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterre about his expectations for the first Sustainable Development Goals Summit. He urged world leaders to "take the decisions necessary, in order to come together more effectively to make sure that the 2030 Agenda is successfully implemented." It is crucial to recognize how these goals can reduce globalization's negative impact caused around the globe. Each of these terms can effectively decrease the anti globalists concerns and solve the root of the problems. However, how to implement these ideal goals into reality still needs time and down to earth measures.

Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water



15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships

Key Terms

National State

A sovereign state of which most of its subjects are united also by factors which defined a nation such as language or common descent.

Neoliberal Globalization

An ideology which values the idea of free market competition. The essential goal is to minimize the state's intervene by increasing individualism. It claims that the economy should be independent from society and the market should be suited for all. Everyone in the market should be conscientious and able to regulate themselves without social security.

Multinational Corporations

Business that manages the production of goods or delivers services between different countries.

Cultural Imperialism

A sociology, the political or economic occupation from a dominant community to another nondominant community through culture influence. Aspects including customs, traditions, religion, language, social and moral norms. It can be understand as another form of imperialism in that the dominant community extends its way of life through force act on the other nondominant community's culture.

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