Chapter 5

Social Dimension of Globalization

The social dimension of globalization highlights the importance of people as one of the critical elements in extending the practice of globalization. It also focuses on how the movement of people strengthen the phenomenon in different parts of the world.

The social dimension of globalization according to Carmelo Rico S. Bihasa (2021) refers to the intensification and expansion of the connections of people through the process of migration as well as the uninterrupted flow of culture in the international community.

Global Demography

As one of the important instruments of globalization, people represent an interesting area in understanding the practice and influence of the phenomenon in the international community. Recent scholars are of the opinion that people provide globalization with a good opportunity of extending its practice and influence beyond the boundaries of several countries in the international community.

The study of human population is known in Sociology as demography. It has continuously endowed the discipline with valuable demographic information explaining how the international community has evolved in recent history. Demography according to Barbara Anderson (2015) refers to "the study of the growth, structure, and composition of human populations. The study on the causes and consequences of growth, structure, and composition of the human populations is also considered as part of demography"
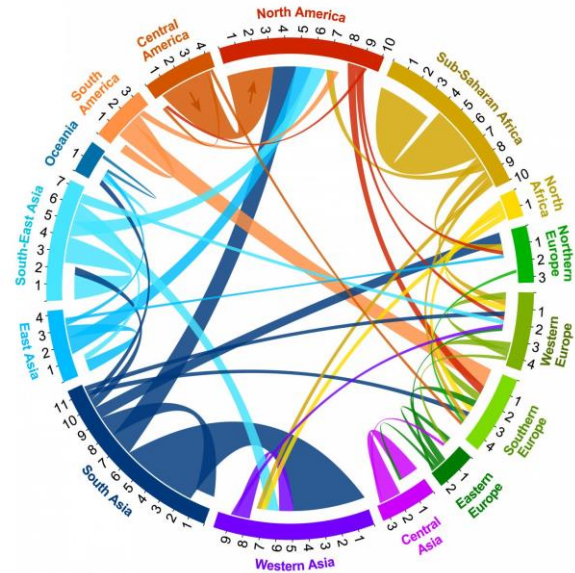
OVERPOPULATION

Shmuel Eisenstadt (1953) defined migration as "the physical transition of an individual or group from one society to another. This transition normally involves abandoning one social setting and entering another and different one" (p. 167). Migration as conceived by Eisenstadt pertains to the process of leaving the social condition of an individual or a group in exchange for another that exists in the succeeding place of destination.
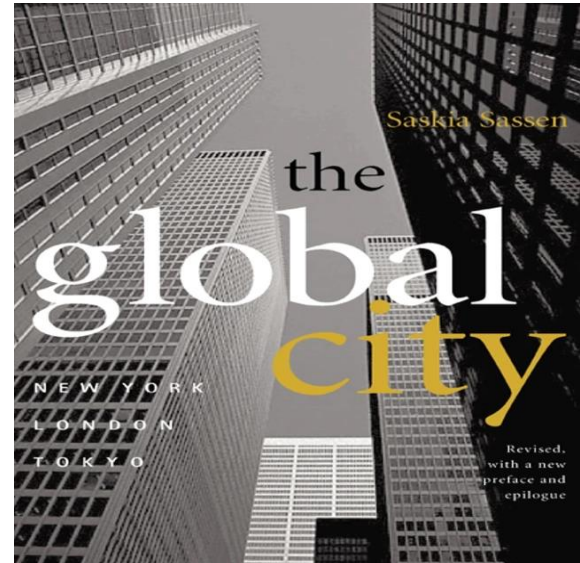
Global Migration

The World Economic Forum (2017) identified a number of favorable and unfavorable factors that induce people to leave their countries and settle in other distant territories. The favorable factors ordinarily exist in the place of destination while the unfavorable factors live in the place of origin. The place of destination, therefore, provides the "pull factors" and the place of origin serves as the "push factors" in the migration of people to other territories.
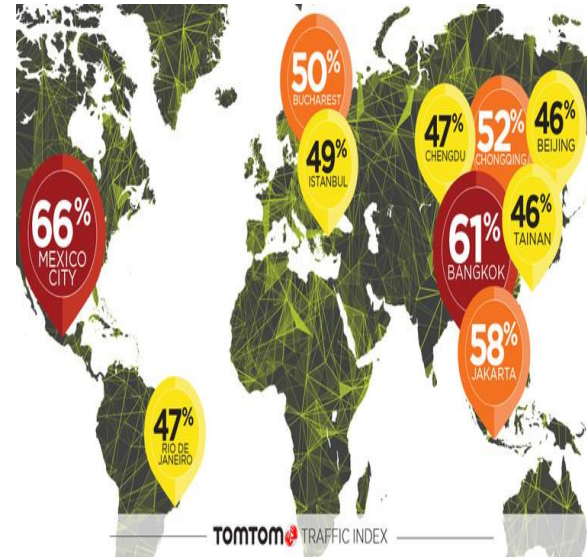
Global city was articulated in the 1990s by Saskia Sassen who believed that the process of globalization can also be discussed through another spatial structure other than the nation-state. Sassen defined the global city as "the terrain where a multiplicity of globalization processes assume concrete, localized forms. The large cities of today have emerged as strategic sites for a whole range of new types of operations. They serve as nexus where the formation of new claims materializes and assumes concrete forms".

Global City

Sassen argued that the new conceptual architecture – the global city - is anchored on the continuous flow of capital, information, and people through a network of national cities in different parts of the world. In the broader context, Sassen explained that the global city is a spatial unit or scale that possesses the following characteristics: financial center, seat of political power, center for higher learning, and melting pot of different cultures.
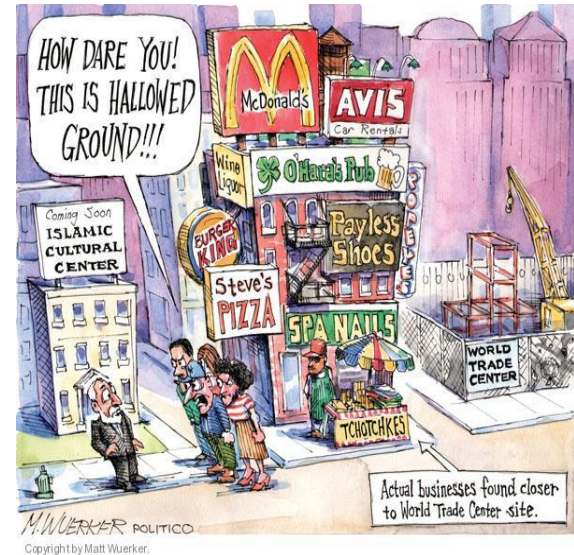
Recent scholars maintained that culture is one of the areas where globalization is rapidly taking place. As such, a number of scholars used the term "cultural globalization" to explain the expanding flow of culture that transpires across international boundaries. Currently, the flow of culture occurs on a high-speed and involves not only the physical movement of people but also the use of different technologies.

George Ritzer (2011), a contemporary scholar of globalization, described the flow of culture in three different forms that include differentialism, hybridization, and convergence. These forms explain how culture retains its identity or transforms when paired with other cultures. They also explain how one culture – also known as the "hybrid" – emerges from its interaction with other several cultures.

HOW DARE YOU! THIS IS HALLOWED GROUND!!!

Coming Soon
ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER

McDonald's

AVIS
Car Rentals

Wine Liquor

O'Hara's Pub

BURGER KING

Payless Shoes

Steve's PIZZA

SPA NAILS

TCHOTCHKES

WORLD TRADE CENTER

Actual businesses found closer to World Trade Center site.

M. WUERKER POLITICO

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Religion is one of the essential elements of a society that differentiate its people from the other members of the international community. The concept according to John Macionis (2004) relates to "a social institution that involves beliefs and practices anchored on a conception of the sacred". Religion draws a number of followers that exhibits similar beliefs and practices directed to things considered as sacred.

Asep Muhamad Iqbal (2016) noted that globalization has produced a mixed impact on religion that led to the opposing views of secularization and revitalization of the institution. Secularization for Iqbal is causing the decline of religion that started with the rise of the modern society. Revitalization on the other hand is giving religion with new means of coping with the strenuous challenges of the modern times. It has endowed religion with fresh roles and identities to continue engaging the forces of globalization.

Globalization and Gender

Gender is another essential component that underscores the study of the social dimension of globalization. The concept according to John Macionis (2004) relates to "the personal traits and social positions that members of a society attach to being male and female". Gender is often synonymously used with the word, "sex" that biologically partitions the human population between the males and females. Unfortunately, this leads some people to think of gender as simply the difference between the opposite sexes.
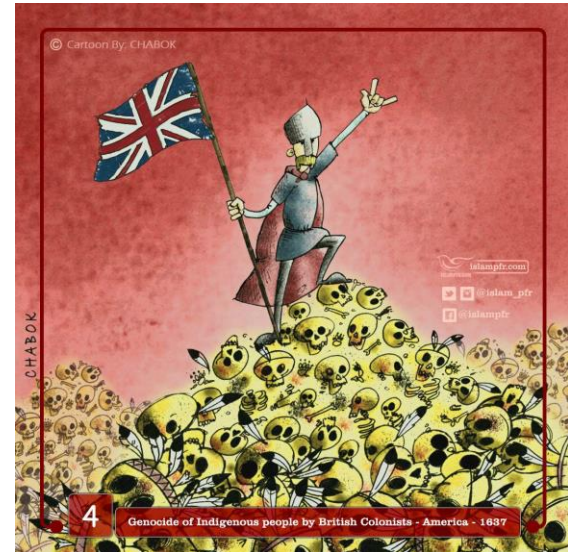
Globalization and Gender

The discussion of gender over the years has centered primarily on the growing inequality between men and women in the international community. Most of the discussions unfortunately have not been favorable to a considerable number of women who remained marginalized until the present time. The World Economic Forum (2018) – in its Global Gender Gap Report - argued that women appeared to be lagging behind men in the field of political empowerment.

Indigenous people according to the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs refer to the "disadvantaged descendants of those peoples that inhabited a territory prior to the creation of a state. They include a characteristic that relates the identity of a group of people to a particular area and distinguishes them culturally from all other people".

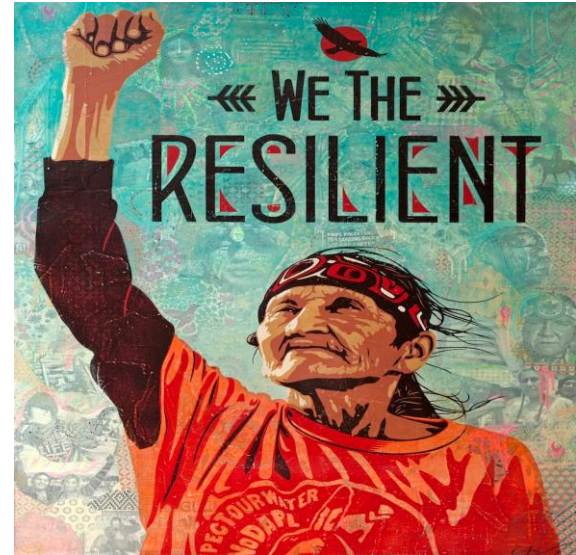Genocide of Indigenous people by British Colonists - America - 1637

As the process of globalization intensifies, indigenous people take advantage of the opportunity in leveraging the positive effects of the phenomenon. Indigenous people obviously stand to benefit from the improvements that globalization may bring to their existing social practices. The advent of technologies, faster communication, and new modes of travel are expected to affect the manner on how indigenous people conduct their day-to-day affairs.

65% OF NATIVE YOUTH ARE HIGHLY OFFENDED AND ARE OPPOSED TO NATIVE MASCOTS
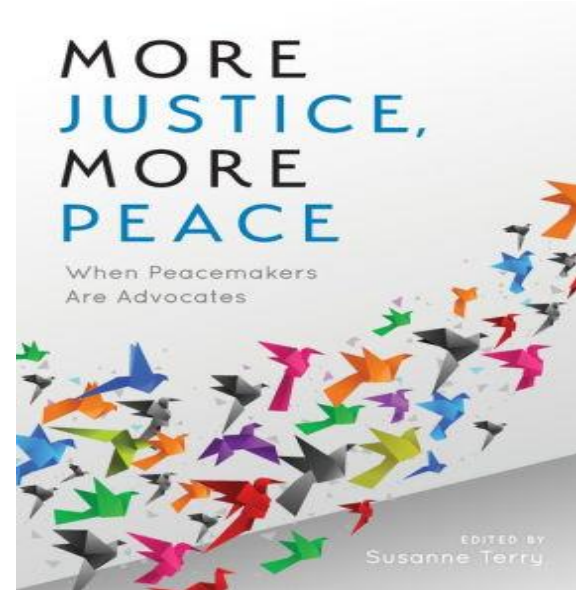
Indigenous people on the other hand have also been marginalized by governments in the delivery of basic services. Their population comprises the least healthy and educated among the world's extreme poor. Most of the indigenous people have also lost their autonomy and control over their ancestral territories to the point that their lands are now owned by several private corporations. Indigenous people likewise have suffered from an impending cultural decline.

The concept of peace studies is another essential component that emphasizes the need to understand the social dimension of globalization. For the past 60 years, peace studies has contributed tremendously to the preservation of international peace in spite of a number of civil wars that occurred in recent history. Peace studies according to Peter Lawler (2008) pertains to "the reduction and eventual eradication of war as well as the control and resolution of violent conflict by peaceful means".
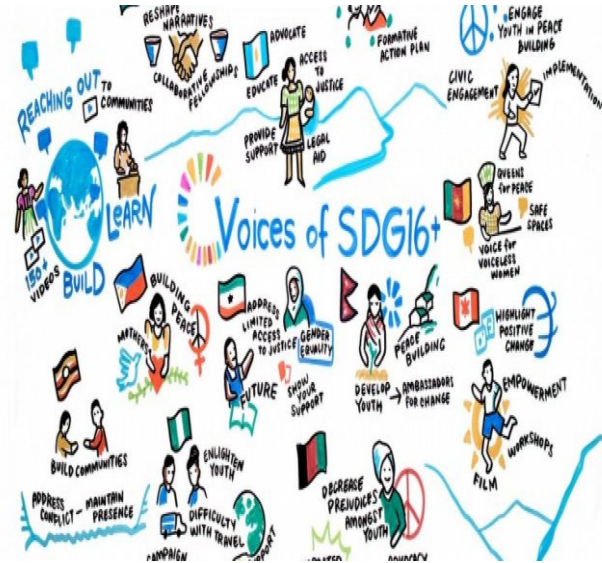
Peace studies is relatively a new field of interest orchestrated by the scholars of various academic disciplines. It began in the middle of the 1950s behind the shadow of peace research that gave peace studies its necessary foundations. One of its leading intellectual figures is Johan Galtung who initiated the creation of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) in 1959. Galtung was a Norwegian sociologist who received an exhaustive training and exposure from the United States of America.

Today, peace studies remains a vital field of inquiry that has generated a number of useful researches for the society. Its interdisciplinary origin has given peace studies the necessary foundation to initiate a discipline that is grounded on scientific principles. To this end, Lawler (2008) noted that peace studies has provided a valuable site for researchers - with backgrounds in political science, economics, psychology, anthropology, education, and sociology – to come together in the study of peace.

Thank You!