Globalization vs. protectionism

In 2013, President Xi Jinping originally announced the Belt and Road Initiative which involves economic development and cooperation of the neighboring countries of China. And large numbers of countries have gained economical and cultural benefit from this initiative since it was officially announced. It is obvious that China has always advocated globalization and has built cooperation relationships with many countries all over the world. However, there are some countries whose leaders do not advocate globalization at all for they are afraid of their resources and culture being invaded. But actually, it is globalization that can only promote the prosperity of the world.

First, the most apparent benefit of globalization is the development of economy. With globalization, we can attract investment from other countries, promoting our development of productivity and producing goods of high quality. We can also expand our customer groups and sell our native productions to foreigners and make a large fortune. We can also have access to superior productions of other countries and make purchase easily. For example, China has been trading with other countries for a long time under the Reform and Opening Policy. Until 2017, the total import and export value in China has reached $4 trillion, and the GDP of China has reached $12 trillion. It is no doubt that globalization has expanded China’s market and brings a large fortune for us.

What’s more, the benefit of globalization is far beyond economy. It promotes the communication and fusion among different cultures and brings people together. We can experience different cultures and show our splendid culture to our foreign friends as well, building good relationships with others. For instance, Chinese people start to celebrate Christmas and Valentine’s Day, which are originally celebrated in Western countries. Also, our traditional Chinese festivals, such as Spring Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival, spread abroad to Western countries and get a lot of credits, as well as the tasty traditional Chinese food. Indeed, globalization brings us together, making our world more peaceful.

Nevertheless, protectionism, which is in opposition to globalization, does great harm to a country’s development. Not only does it retard the development of economy, but also protectionism will lead wars and bring serious catastrophe. For example, in ancient China, the emperors of Qing Dynasty advocated protectionism and restricted trades with other countries strictly. When the diplomatic envoy of the UK visited China and asked for friendly trades with China, the emperor refused firmly. During this period, China’s productivity ability hardly improved. And when the war started in 1840, the catastrophe really arrived.

In conclusion, globalization brings us lots of benefit both economically and culturally, whereas protectionism gives us nothing but disasters. Obviously, globalization is the trend of our world, and all the countries need to advocate it in order to make our world more prosperous and peaceful.