Global influence brought opportunities to small strategic hubs and might induce competition to large kingdoms. However, these impacts might be adverse depending on the interests of external forces. The argument looks convincing because it could be seen from the rise of small strategic hubs like Palembang due to monopolistic trade and Melaka and the fall of existed kingdoms like Srivijaya due to competition arisen as global forces came in.

On the other hand, such situations might not be always happening. Small strategic hubs sometimes were harmed by monopolistic power in trade from global powers. Temasek only rose after the fall of Srivijaya because Palembang dominated the trade in the region with the military force and monopolistic powers provided by Tang China which restricted the growth of other trading hubs. Small hubs might even suffer though they had received benefits from global forces due to the interest of them. Portuguese brought trade to Melaka but its discriminative policies against Muslim traders after their conquest of Melaka resulted in loss of trade to Aceh while others followed their Sultan to Johor. Undoubtedly, the fortunes of global powers were not distributed equally to all small trading hubs. Dutch entered Malay World but only benefitted Dutch Batavia and deliberately left Temasek undeveloped. Besides that, large kingdoms sometimes looked for the military support from global forces to fight against their competitors in the region. The Johor Sultanate built alliance with Dutch to repel Portuguese and retake Melaka. In the end Portuguese was driven out of the Spice islands.

Large global forces with solid military or economic capabilities often broke the balance of power in the region but the attitudes of small strategic hubs and large kingdoms towards them were undetermined since the impacts of global forces were changing depending on the global trends and their interests. Whether to maintain status-quo or to welcome the change brought by global forces might vary as different entities in Malay world had different visions on their development.