

Topic: Globalization

In today's world, people are able to exchange information almost instantaneously, **regardless of** their location. It is also becoming common practice to transfer goods and services among various nations. This changing era **is referred to as** globalization.

Globalization is the process by which cultural, political, and economic life becomes more uniform across national boundaries. Globalization is produced, to a large extent, by global communication networks and shifts in production practices. Labor has been distributed across the globe, coupled with a "hands off" or noninterference policy toward the regulation of international commerce. **Globalization affects politics, the economy, and culture.**

To see the effects of globalization on political and economic life, let's take the example of transnational trade treaties, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In the context of NAFTA, it is expected that state laws will not impede the flow of commerce between the United States and Canada. **Therefore**, environmental regulations on emissions in California, for example, cannot be **enforced** on freight traveling from Canada if it carries imports protected under NAFTA. Canada has the right to sue the United States for any violation of its NAFTA obligation. If this occurs, the United States would be **compelled to** force California to **either** change its emission laws **or** to create an exception for freight protected by NAFTA. The long-held notion of national sovereignty—the idea that each nation has a right to dictate its own internal affairs—is eroded under globalization. Nations are now **compelled to** change their laws to **accommodate** the demands of other countries.

In the case of cultural life, information and communication technologies allow for the uncontrolled spread of ideas and values across national borders. You can think of culture as water flowing along a two-way pipe. Often the flow of water is stronger from more developed countries **as compared to** the developing ones. This means that developing nations **identify with** many of the cultural images and values of modern nations. Perhaps this is why Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan is one of the most recognized celebrities in the world. **On the other hand**, globalization has increased the variety and amount of international influence on the popular music of the United States. The flow from developing nations to modern nations can be one of the reasons popular music in the United States often has African, Latin, and other national origins.

To conclude, the process of globalization **lessens** the political, cultural, and economic differences among nations. **This is not to suggest that** we are approaching some form of global economic equality. **Rather**, the flow of culture and governance of economics and political life is multinational, with some nations still not receiving equal amounts of power and control.