

Obama's speech on Globalization – Campaign 2008



[...] In other words we can't simply return to the strategies of the past. For we're living through an age of fundamental Economic transformation: technology has changed the way we live, and the way the world does business; the collapse of the Soviet Union, the advance of capitalism

have vanquished old challenges to America's global leadership. But new challenges have emerged, from China, and India, and Eastern Europe, even countries like Brazil. Jobs and industries can move to any country with an internet connection and willing workers. And Michigan children will grow up facing competition not just from kids in California or South Carolina but also from young people in Beijing and Bangalore.

A few years ago I saw a picture of this new reality during a visit to a Google's headquarters in California. Towards the end of the tour I was brought into a room where there was a three-dimensional image of the earth that rotated on a large flat panel monitor. And across this image there were countless lights in different colours all around this globe. And I asked what those lights signified and the young engineer explained that the lights represented all of the internet searches taking place all around the world. Each colour represented a different language. And the image was mesmerizing: a picture of a world where old boundaries are disappearing, a world where communication, connection and competition can come from anywhere.

Now there are some who believe that we must try to turn back the clock on this new world, that the only chance to maintain our living standard is to build a fortress around America, so stop trading with other countries, to shut down immigration, rely on old industries. I disagree. Not only is it impossible to turn back the tide of globalization, but efforts to do so could actually make us worse-off. So rather than fear the future we have to embrace it.