

Globalization and History or A History of Globalization?



Views of globalization

- *economic / political*
 - *no globalization at all*
 - *advocacy*
 - *criticism*

- *cultural / sociological*
 - *homogenizers*
 - *heterogenizers*

What is 'globalization'?

- The Americanization of the world: is the world 'going American' in culture, economy, politics, religion?
- Commercialization of transculturality by multinational firms
- The development of a world culture stemming from quasi-universal consensual commitment to the values of contractualism, reciprocity, human rights, scientific expertise

Three views of globality:

- ***Hyperglobalists***
 - The end of the nation-state
 - The triumph of the market
 - Ex: Kenichi Ohmae, *The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies* (1995)
- ***Sceptics***
 - No change; continuity in interdependence since at least 1890
 - Interdependence measured in trade flows
 - Ex: Paul Hirst & Grahame Thompson, *Globalization in Question: The International Economy and the Possibilities of Governance* (1996)
- ***Transformationalists***
 - Globalization complex and contradictory; mainly ethical
 - Growing consensus around human rights, e.g. economic, educational, physical, cultural wellbeing
 - Distinctions domestic/foreign blurred, interaction national/global
 - Ex: Gili S. Drori, John W. Meyer, Francisco O. Ramirez and Evan Schofer, *Science in the Modern World Polity: Institutionalization and Globalization* (2003)

Globalization in History

- The term appeared in the early 1990s
- First, enthusiasm around fall of the East bloc, great future and expectations
- Since then, several second thoughts:
 - 1) no equalization
 - 2) resistance
 - 3) conflict growth – ecology
- Reflections on the origins, nature and consequences of globalization
- Chance for historians

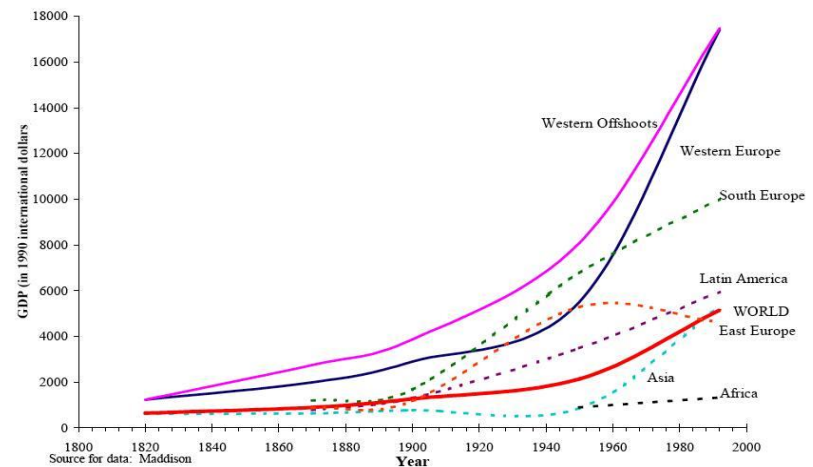
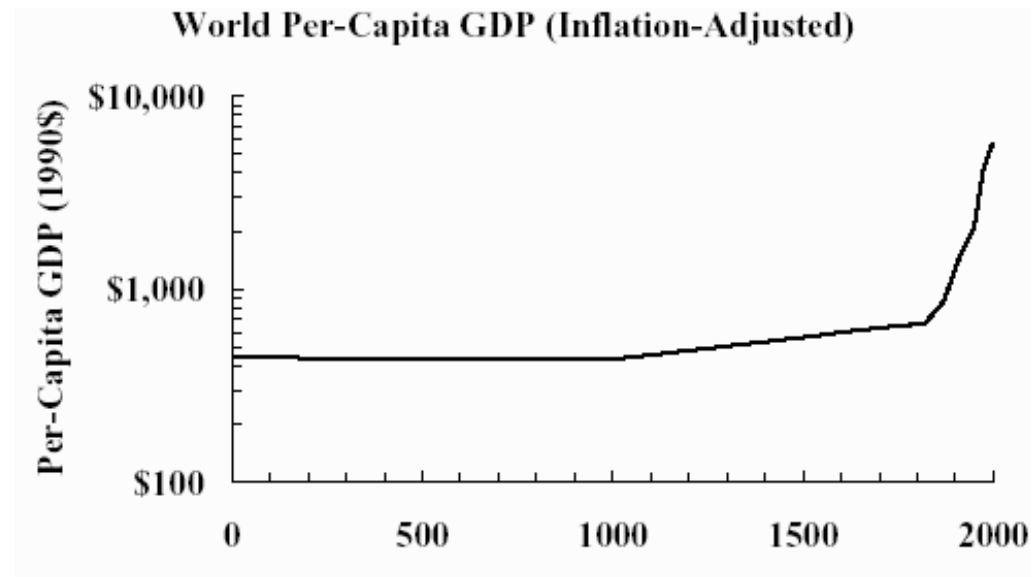
Propositions

- Decentering analysis: globalization is not necessarily or simply a product – or the story of the rise - of the West.
- Globalization is not necessarily capitalistic nor modern: historical forms and sequences
- Non-western dimensions and precursors

Globalization not new nor singular.

However:

- After c1800:
- Growth in population and economy (population \uparrow < economy \uparrow = GDP/capita \uparrow)
- Demographic transition
- Regional disparities
- Industrialization
- Urbanization
- Globalization

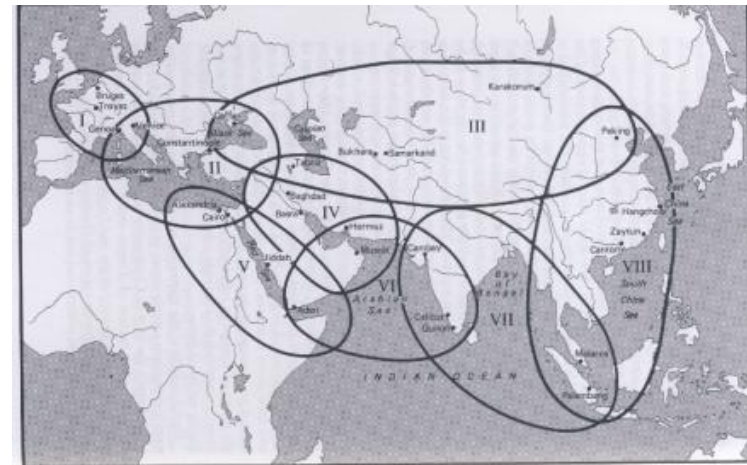


Hopkins's taxonomy

- **Archaic globalization (-1600)**
- **Proto-globalization (1600-1850)**
- **Modern globalization (1850-1950)**
- **Post-colonial globalization (1950-)**

Archaic globalization (-1600)

- Promoted by empires
- Operationalized by mobile diasporas in urban centres
- Universalism, localism, no nation-states
- Cosmopolitanism
- Co-ordination > assimilation
- Geographical specificity, exotism (Bayly)



Proto-globalization (1600-1850)

- Strengthened links territory, taxation, sovereignty
- Globalized luxury consumption patterns (sugar, coffee, opium, tea, tobacco)
- Beginnings of Western supremacy (Britain)

Modern globalization (1850-1950)

- Nation-state → nationalized globalization, territorialization (Africa)
- Industrialization, urbanization
- Middle class
- Division and specialization of labour
- Wage labour
- Persuasion and command (free trade, empire)
- Assimilation, association
- Western supremacy → reaction

Post-colonial globalization (1950-)

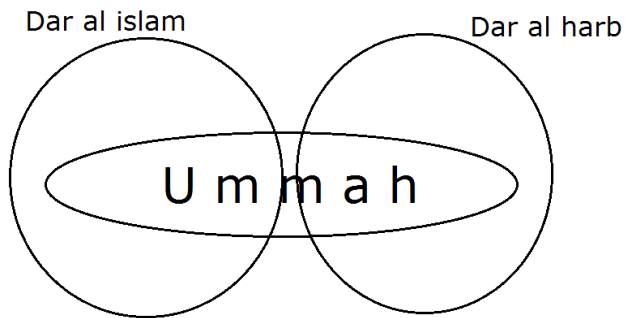
- Nation-state withers away, transnational corporations
- Non-territoriality
- Intra-industry trade
- “Global village” (McLuhan)
- “Time and space compression” (Harvey)

Economy

- Transnational companies
- Increased (free) trade
- Trafficking
- Strategic commodities

Politics

- Spread of democracy
- Globalized civil society
- "Hacktivism"
- Clash of differences



Islam before 1798

Localism-universalism in economy, politics, religion – movement of goods, people, ideas, language under universal religion.

- *Dar el-islam, dar al-harb, umma* (non-territorial, non-ethnic, non-political but juridical cohesion, *sharia*)
- Special importance by gateways for pilgrims, Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad, pivotal network nodes, loci for exchange.
- Only important boundary to *dar al-harb*
- Universal political rule symbolized ideally by caliphate. But not subjects to the caliph, only to God

Islam since 1798

- Reactionism during modern globalization: imitation and defense (rebuild political muslim entities, esp Ottoman, pan-islamism, pan-arabism as a consequence of denial of Turks monopolization of islam), modern European-style armies to defend *dar al-islam* (*jihad*)
- War between muslim states uncommon (cf Kuwait 1990). Compare Christians.
- Fragmentation of *dar al-islam*.
- Restoration of muslim self-confidence must result from independence and restoration of *dar al-islam* → League of Arab States 1945, nasserism..

China until c. 1800

- Universal rule
- Merchant networks
- Chinese globalization in Southeast Asia; migration from 12th c under Song – shipbuilding, state protection.
- Expansion under Mongol Yuan dynasty 13th c.
- Early 15th c: emperor Yongle → Zheng He. Trade links of spices and manufacture integrated China, Japan and Southeast Asia.
- Pol problems c1450
- New expansion 1570-1640 (silver from America 1571, European intermediaries taking over Chinese shipping, changed consumption – sugar, maize, potatoes)

China since c. 1800

- 19th c. new changes: opium main trading item, export of people to America (coolies)
- But late 19th c: minority uprisings, silver dried up, negative balance of payments (opium)
- But again expansion 1880-1914:
 - 1) rise in trade in normal agricultural goods
 - 2) new institutions, Imperial Maritime Customs Service
 - Chinese but with British staff, efficient ,
 - separate from local society, import of Western ideas,
 - 3) technology and finance, railways, shipbuilding, telegraph
- Incorporation of Western elements to strengthen China's defence of traditional values.

Conclusions and reflections

- Globalization not a linear progress
- Historical diversity and uneven process of global forces: many globalizations through history, Europe's was one of them
- Multiplicity is not 'noise' in European expansionst history
- World-systems = economic but not political entities
- Empire = an economic entity transformed into a political entity → profitability ↓
- All empires before Modern (European-led) Globaliza-tion went into this trap
- The European success was to create parallell global empires and maintain links with the rest of the world.