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 gloablity:

• **Hyperglobalists**
  – The end of the nation-state
  – The triumph of the market

• **Sceptics**
  – No change; continuity in interdependence since at least 1890
  – Interdependence measured in trade flows

• **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
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 ↑ < economy ↑ = GDP/capita ↑)
- 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, souvereignty
• 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 c1 450
- 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 $\rightarrow$ profitability $\downarrow$
- All empires before Modern (European-led) Globalization went into this trap
- The European success was to create parallel global empires and maintain links with the rest of the world.