

Globalization in International Relations: Impact on National Identity and National Interest Of Sovereign Nations.

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Abstract

Today the world community cannot resist the onslaught of the swift currents of globalization that are increasingly hitting every country in either hemisphere. Globalization is an important part in the dynamic development of international relations; it cannot be denied that international relations develop along with the development of world globalization. Globalization has affected many aspects of global community life which directly or indirectly affect the constellations of international relations, both in terms of actors who play a role in global interactions as well as debated issues. In the last few decades the existence of globalization has become increasingly clear. With globalization, the boundaries of one country with another are increasingly unclear and the nature of dependence between countries are getting closer, besides the emergence of actors other than the state, who play in the interaction of international relations, is a sign that globalization is increasingly influencing the constellations of international relations.

Keywords: *Globalization, development, constellations, international relations, social, economic, political, actors, community, developing, state.*

Globalization

Globalization as a world phenomenon cannot be interpreted into a single definition; everyone has their own perspective in defining what globalization is. Globalization is a very broad idea, which includes the interdependence of social, cultural, and political states. Globalization also refers to the integration and interaction between different people and nations. Take the European Union as an example, where member states share the same democratic values and norms, or the convergence and equality of member states' constitutions, which could lead to European law or constitution. (*Ofran Badakhsani, 2001*). In simple terms, *globalization is defined as the increasing inter-relationships between people; an event that occurs in one part of the world affects other people, even those who live far away in other parts of the world. A globalized world is a situation in which political, economic, cultural and other community events are interrelated and influence each other. These events can be divided into three categories - namely social, economic and political. (Smith & Baylis, 2001)*

Here are some definitions according to *Realists, Liberalists and Marxists*, thinkers.

According to *Realists*, globalization does not have a significant influence in the world of politics. Globalization attributes to the division of the world into *nation – states*. Meanwhile, the relationship between the economy and society makes them more dependent on each other. Globalization may affect the social, economic and cultural life of the world community, but the influence does not exceed the international political system.

The *Liberals* tend to see globalization as the end product of a long - running transformation of world of politics.' For liberals, globalization has fundamentally disrupted world politics because globalization shows that the state is no longer the *central actor* it used to be, due to the revolution in technology and communications that globalization represents. Globalization increases the economic and technological inter-relationships between society led outcomes in a very different pattern of world political relations as compared to the earlier one. The state is no longer a closed unit and as a result, the world looks more like a *cob-web* of relationship. (rather than the relationship model presented by the state 'realism or the theoretical class model').

Marxists considers that globalization is just a charade, there is nothing new in globalization, and globalization is just a new phase of the development of world capitalism. Globalization is just a phenomenon led by western countries which is basically a further development of world capitalism. Instead of making the world more equal,

globalization widens the gap that exists between the classes, viz. the lower middle class, and the poor. (Smith & Baylis, 2001:6)

Jan Aart Scholte, describes five common uses related to globalization.

- Globalization can be defined as *inter - nationalization*, namely increasing interaction and dependence between countries so that an intense dynamic relationship between countries will be created to meet their increasingly complex needs. Globalization describes growth in exchange - exchange and global dependency.
- Globalization as *liberalization* refers to the process of decreasing boundaries between countries in order to create an open country or borderless countries. An example is the increasing openness of world economic interactions between countries as it happened in the *ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)* agreement where free trade was created between *China and Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand*, which increased economic relations between them.
- Globalization as *universalization*. In this usage, global is used in the sense - all over the world; and globalization - the process of spreading various objects and experiences to people in all corners of the earth. In other words, universalization can be interpreted as “*events that happen somewhere in the world, can have an impact on the whole world*”. An example is the financial crisis that took place in the European Union countries which resulted in a sluggish economic activity and investment in entire Europe, which had an impact on many countries of the world.
- Globalization as a process of *westernization or modernization*; especially in the form of *Americanization*. Here, globalization is understood as a dynamics, where the social structure of modernity, capitalism, rationalism, industrialism, bureaucratism, etc. (which has spread throughout the world, and usually destroys the existing local culture.)
- Globalization as *de-territorialisation* - the decreasing meaning of distances and boundaries between regions in the world.

Anthony Giddens (2001) defines globalization as ‘*the intensification of worldwide social relations linking distant regions so that existing local events can affect places that are miles and miles apart.*’

The Historical Development of Globalization

The historical origins of globalization are subjects of debate. Although some scholars place the origin of globalization in the modern era, others consider it a phenomenon with a long history. “*Several authors argue that the early stretch of globalization far back in time renders the concept completely inoperative and useless for political analysis*” (Daniele, 2010).

Thomas L. Friedman divides the history of globalization into three periods:

- *Globalization 1 (1492 - 1800);*
- *Globalization 2 (1800 - 2000) and*
- *Globalization 3 (2000 - present).*

He further states that:

- *Globalization 1 involves **globalization of countries,***
- *Globalization 2 involves **globalization of companies and***
- *Globalization 3 involves **globalization of individuals.***

- (Friedman, 2005)

It is difficult to pin point the correct time when globalization began or developed. *Theodore Levitti* was the first to use the term globalization in 1985. *Robertson and Chase Dunn*, are right that the earliest signs of globalization emerged a century ago and more, albeit to a much lesser extent and at a much slower speed, for example, telegraphic communication started in 1840, some global social movements (feminism) and regulatory bodies like *The Universal Postal Union* appeared later around 19th century. Intercontinental shortwave radio began in 1920, and there was an intergovernmental meeting discussing trans-boundary pollution in the 1930’s. However, the development of globalization is continuous, comprehensive, intensive, and with a rapidly increasing frequency in the lives of most of mankind, occurred until about the year 1960. In the year 1990, 5 million telephone connection points had been developed, 1.1 billion tele receivers, 60000 cross-border corporation, 16500 cross-border association, 1.5 trillion USD foreign exchange transactions to place every day, and nearly 1.5 billion passengers travelled per year on scheduled flights. Globalization is a very long process of

development of human civilization that requires us to make fundamental adjustments to the new world development pattern. (Smith & Baylis, 2001:17). Globalization is a long process to reach maturity; it requires fundamental adjustments from society to understand the increasingly complex world political order along with the development of globalization.

The Implication of Globalization to The World's Constellation

Today, globalization and all its effects have brought significant implications for the constellation of the world and all aspects of human life. Globalization is increasingly unavoidable, countries cannot close themselves off from the effects of globalization, as described above globalization has made all aspects of human life more integrated and united. Globalization increases external interference in a country's policy making. According to Jan Aart Scholte, "globalization is the process of increasing interdependence between state and non-state actors on a global scale so that social relations in a society are significantly shaped and influenced by the wider dimensions of social relations on a world scale" (Ottoway, 2003). Based on this understanding, it can be seen that globalization creates a dependent relationship between countries, especially developed countries, so it is inevitable that one of the state's sovereignty will slowly weaken, especially for the developing state.

This is due to the increasingly strong dominance of developed countries over the policies of developing countries by using the institutions they have created. It is intended to facilitate the operation of interests in each country (Ottoway, 2003). External parties also have a big influence in making a country's policy, when viewed from a Neo-Marxist perspective; this also makes external parties get a very large role in line with the rapidly growing globalization.

There is a shift in the role of the state as the sole actor in international relations. According to Theodore Chaikin Sorensen, there will be a shift in the role of actors in international relations, where globalization has grown actors and other actors besides the government, including actor *sub-state* and *supra-state*, which plays an active role in influencing government policy. However, the role of the state as the main actor will not disappear completely in the context of globalization, the state still has a role to ensure the survival of its people. So, the state must be able to plan a change related to foreign policy to increase the strength of the state itself. Regulatory activities in world politics today also involve institutions, sub-state organs, supra-state, market institutions and regional civil society organizations, and several other bodies were created since the 1970's. The private sector has taken an active role in contemporary governance, for example, through market-based supervisory agencies, foundations, and advisory boards. At the city level, sufficient cross-border cooperation has been developed between local governments, especially issues related to pollution control, crime prevention, gun ownership restrictions, and the development of cooperation." Some of these collaborations have been institutionalized into organizational bodies such as 'The World Association of Major Metropolises,' were founded in 1985, and 'The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives,' was started in 1990. Global capital flows, and telecommunications networks have connected one country to another.

Viewed from a socio-cultural perspective, globalization has created an atmosphere that forms a global society, where the world's people have become one, by the diffusion of various cultures from various ethnic groups in the world. The world community has been able to put issues such as issues of economic growth, and gender equality, as well as environmental issues into priorities. On the other hand, this diversity can also threaten national identity a nation, over time people will tend to care about global culture compared to the culture of its own nation.

The implication of Globalization towards the Development of Globalization cannot be separated from the development of International Relations, along with the development of globalization, international relations are also developing, and there are many developments in the constellation of international relations from time to time. Today, international relations are not only limited to issues of a country and the achievement of peace, but it is more than that, international relations involve issues of world economic development, cooperative relations between countries, humanitarian issues such as human Rights, HIV/AIDS drugs and gender equality. Globalization which brings a dependency effect on every country in the world makes the development of one country affect other countries too, there is collective cooperation between actors in achieving the national interest of each country. Non-state actors also play an active role in the development of international relations, including the establishment of private bodies and agencies that handle several special issues which are not enough to solve the role of the state alone, the development of the role of non-state actors is due to the increasingly unclear boundaries between countries in the world making it easier for them to communicate. Globalization is like two different sides of a coin, on the one hand globalization can have a good impact on the development of a country, but on the other hand globalization can bring about a destruction of a country if the country cannot filter the incoming globalization currents. For example, the identity of a nation is threatened

because it is too easy for cultural diffusion between countries which is not necessarily compatible with the ancestral culture of the nation.

Concluding Observations

From the above explanation, it can be concluded that the development of globalization has accompanied the development of international relations. The complexity of globalization has changed the constellation of international relations, for example the shift in the role of state actors and the emergence of the dominance of non-state actors in international relation interactions. Globalization is like two sides of a coin where each side has a different effect on the development of countries in the world, on the one hand globalization has a positive impact, namely by increasing dependence between countries and reducing barriers to communication that can increase cooperation between nations, but on the one hand globalization can also bring destruction to countries that are not able to fortify themselves with a shield of nationalism to maintain their own national identity.

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