

The effects of globalization of economy on the function of borders

Researcher: Assistant Professor Said Jalal Ahmadi

Teacher of Geography Department of Faculty of Literature and Humanity, Faryab University, Afghanistan

Abstract

The purpose of creating boundaries, is to apply sovereignty over regions and peoples living in border areas, but with the developments taking place in the world, the sovereignty issue of states has been undermined in their areas of control, and borders have lost their traditional concept. In other words, the function of boundary has been changed, and physically and spatially has been transformed fundamentally which has been exacerbated by globalization and the dimensions of globalization. In the process of globalization, the economies of countries of the world are interdependent, customs and commercial barriers are reduced to the minimum point and financial transfers between countries are made as easy as possible. In other words, the control of nations and governments is greatly reduced in financial and technology transfer, and will be eliminated in the long run and it is in long-term that developing trade and production, the integration of the international market will be realized. Using descriptive-analytic method, this paper has examined the function of boundaries in the process of globalization.

The results show that the impact of economic globalization on the function of boundaries, have their own advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include the elimination of most of existing trade barriers, creation of a context for capital transfers, financial resources and the expansion of international labor division, which will be a great help to increase the efficiency of the international economy. The most important disadvantages of globalization, is that in the event of a crisis and appearing a barrier on the capital flow and global economy, the crises will rapidly spread in other countries, and they will also be involved in crises, and severely undercover the economic ties of neighbor regions.

Keywords: *Economy, politics, globalization, border, country*

Introduction

Globalization first and foremost, affects the economic sector. The globalization of the economy, involves the increasing integration and dependence of all aspects of economic life, including trade, economics, production and consumption. In fact, the globalization of the economy is a historical process, as a result of human innovation and technology advancement. Globalization is related to the growing integration of economies around the world, especially through trade and financial flows (Yazdan Panah Dero., 1397: 60). Some economists believe that the tendency of countries for the globalization of economy, awakes the slept and suppressed economic forces and allow them to use the scarce resources of the world and benefit humans economically. Others, following the accession of countries to the process of globalization, report on economic growth and say that, along with the establishment of free trade between countries, technology and capital flow from developed and industrialized countries to less-developed countries, and it will bring about equality and equity in the distribution of wealth and technology. The globalization of the economy requires the following: 1. The withdrawal of capital competition from the geographical range of a country or specific countries and its inclusion in the global transcranial orbit. 2. Increasing interaction among nations. 3. Uniting people. 4. Creating new regional regimes. The expansion and deepening of the interdependence between countries and national economies, the integration of national markets and the expansion of trade exchanges, deregulation and elimination of trade protective safeguards, and the establishment of the World Trade Organization, are among the most important economic dimensions of globalization. These dimensions are formed through global economic unions and the activities of international companies and institutions such as the

World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (Gaplin, 2000: 47). The general lines of globalization of economy can be found in the following factors:

1. Change in definitions in the keywords of the economy
2. The gradual shift power from local governments to international institutions and transnational corporations
3. Change in global division of labor from cluster to linear
4. The emergence of global imperialism within the framework of economic globalization
5. Change in the theories governing the economy

In the context of the globalization of the economy, a progressive economy is that in which transboundary interactions are rapidly expanding; and economic interdependence between the acts of globalizing units, and public and private governments and institutions in a country is deepening and this means the borders have lost their former functions. Globalization, as one of the leading factors of the recent decade, has affected the borders in different ways and has led to the formation of different and contradictory views among the scholars of the social sciences and so on. The border as one of the key concepts in political geography, has always been one of the most important subjects in the field. Thus, with emerging of the phenomenon of globalization, there has been a lot of discussion about the disappearance and marginalization of the boundaries in the social science. In this paper, the impact of globalization on the nature of the boundary and its functional transformations has been studied.

Methodology

This research, based on purpose is developmental and applied research. Research based on the purpose, is divided into fundamental and applies research. Of course, Zohreh Sarmad believes that research based on the purpose is divided into three categories: fundamental research, applied research and development (Sarmad, 1396: 26). This research is developmental and the method is descriptive-analytical.

According to the nature and type of studied matter, data collection was based on library resources and documentary research. The applied analysis method of this research was qualitative, based on the author's decision. The applicability of this research can provide the methods that can be used in decision-making in political management and decision-makers in countries, about border control and management and measures to improve it. Using the results of this research and its reviews and analyzes, will led to improve the existing conditions and provide helpful solutions to these issues.

Research Purposes

Globalization has had a significant impact on the economies of the countries and has changed the nature of the borders. The globalization of the economy has two main dimensions of increasing the trade in final goods and services among countries, and increasing international mobility of production factors (Capital, technology, and also the workforce). Due to the relative advantage of countries, globalization lead to coordinate their economic structure. Rising the processes of growth and development and the formation of industrial development programs in countries, the status of borders and their control in these countries is in a particular situation. Due to the importance of globalization and the entry into the global competition process, attention has been increased to the function of borders, and thus, there is this hypothesis that globalization will change the function of borders. For this reason, the purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of globalization and transformation on border functions.

Human-beings have to determine some contractual lines in the final and peripheral part of their environment or territory, in order to define their environment, in a way that it does not interfere with the activity scope of neighbors. The expanded form of this concept is the peripheral line, that determines the final part of the activity domain of a nation and finds a political aspect that is called a border (Mojtahedizadeh, 1395: 40). The border is the factor of recognition and separation of a political entity or a country from other neighbor units (Hafeznia, 1395: 69).

The border is also contractual, and is used as a specific internal environment in which people living in that country feel authenticated and share a national identity.

Borders can be divided into two directions: one in terms of how they are created and the degree which they are adapted to the dispersion of ethnic and linguistic groups and other in order to adapt or not to adapt with natural causes.

Borders in terms of their emergence and their adaptation to ethno-linguistic groups: The role of the boundary line is to essentially separate the two countries from each other, divided into four categories:

- A. Antecedent boundaries: The best example of the borderline between Alaska and Canada and the border between Canada and the United States.
- B. Subsequent boundaries: The best example is the borderline between India and Pakistan.
- C. Superimposed boundaries: The border between North Korea and South Korea and Pakistan in the Jammu area of Kashmir has been a good example.
- D. Relict boundaries: The boundary between Eastern and Western Germany can be mentioned (Mir-Heydar, 1395: 172).

Of course, the borders should not be cognized as barriers to human relations and communications, since the borders, while differentiating between the realms of different sovereignty, often generate entente political, economic and cultural relations between neighboring states. As in the ordinary life, the mutual wall between neighbors not only is not a barrier to communication or socializing, but also a reason for friendship and cooperation, the border of the neighboring states is also a valuable geographic factor that plays a big role in consolidating relations between the parties (Motamed Nejad, 1999).

The border has only a role, and it is the restriction of the region within which one kind of power is applied. But governments try to impose other roles, such as immigration, trade, health, etc., even the excessive concentration of government roles on the border can represent changes in foreign policies (Prescott, 1358: 78).

The functions of the boundary can be generally divided into four groups:

1. Defensive Function: Defending is one of the oldest functions of the borders. The fact of international boundaries having defensive role and function, reminds us the concept of natural boundaries. Not all political borders can act as defensive boundaries. Only the borders with natural characteristics can play such a role (Himalaya is an excellent instance of this). The success of such frontiers has always been depended on the power of governments. Nowadays, the borders, though having the physical capabilities, have lost their defensive functions, due to the development of new military equipment.
2. Political Function: The international political system consists of a number of subsystems, among which the authoritative countries have most importance. Since each subsystem is separated from other subsystems by border lines, border lines have great importance in the international system. Each country, as a subsystem, attempts to prevent political influence which may undermine its security and reliability and the international borders help countries by this means. Of course, the function and role of a border varies with the other. The international borders restrict the phenomenon of immigration; because the political ideology of this phenomenon may threaten the unity of a country. Borders as a political barrier restrict the cultural movement of the people, including newspapers, magazines, books, and so on. These boundaries may act as a color filter, preventing the ideas and beliefs that have different and unacceptable characteristics for a political system.
3. Social Function: The concept of the social boundary is induced on all political boundaries, because all of these boundaries, in practice, enclose the boundaries that have socially integrated populations, since all countries are willing to maintain their social specifics and characteristics, borders though, are practically acting as a barrier to social interaction between neighboring countries.
4. Economic Function: Each country has its own policies and economic plans at the global level; therefore, international borders not also are economically important but also act as an economic barrier; because the border controls the movement and exchange of products. Customs tariffs for import of legal goods must be paid at borders and preventing gray market takes place from these borders. Also, in order to prevent competition, foreign imports are controlled by the condition of custom tariffs (Dwivedi, 1990: 141).

5. Generally, the functioning of the borders is impacted by the policy of the countries and the decisions of the relevant authorities, and the resulting spatial development emanates from a political decision. Reopening the borders or their intense control and block, is a decision that rulers take at different levels, and we can see the outcome of this in geographic spaces. This shows, they are those who by their own decisions, push a region toward development or stagnation (Ahmadipour and Mohammadpour, 2006: 152).

The Result of the Evolution of the Boundaries

Ideally, open borders support political, social, and economic interaction throughout them. Such interactions can create new bounds and the continuity of conditions among the peoples of neighboring countries, and ultimately lead to the normalization of relations between neighboring countries. Psychologically, open borders and free flow of people and goods, contribute to the mutual understanding of the sentimental feelings of the two sides of the border, thus this process can lead to the development of friendly relations and the strengthening of cooperation between peoples on both sides of the border and to establish sustainable peace between the former enemies (Feinstein and Dajani-Daoudi, 2000: 13-14). According to Merck(2000), when the effect of boundary decreases, new forms of movement along the border line lead to a series of relationships and dynamism, and even forms new identities and institutions to create more powerful links (Laine, 2007: 52). Also, the liberalization of trade and the movement of production factors leads to a vaster market, coupled with an increase in the use of scale-saving savings, and hence the emerging the opportunities for the specialization and development of the industry. This means that former border areas and settlements will become part of the larger economic market and there will be a positive effect on the reopening of borders (Tykkylainen, 2009: 305).

The lesser barrier effect and the consequent benefit of the border residents, resulting from neighboring the border have a significant impact on strengthening the border regions in order to change their peripheral location in the national space to an international center. The event of reopening of the borders creates new opportunities, new contacts and interactions, the sphere of market influence develops, and competition between the two sides of the border becomes more intense (Laine, 2007: 52). Berezko Cromak (2007), who explores the impact of boundary functions on the development of border cities, suggests that open borders have positive effects on the development of border cities in many respects. He states that open borders create a chance of development for cities and even non-border cities (Brzosko-Sermak, 2007: 77). In the review of the US-Mexico border, Ganster (1998) suggests that the border area of United States and Mexico, have turned to a dynamic region by changing the boundary function and exacerbating a variety of currents and relations. In the following, he focuses on some of the important features of this region, such as rapid population growth, rapid urbanization, political and economic changes, especially in border towns (Ganster, 1998: 1077).

So, according to what has been said so far, how to define the role and function of borders can widely overcome the consequences of the development of borders. Hence, depending on whether the boundary is a deterrent or a binding factor, it can lead to two distinct different and antithetic consequences. In the first case, developing countries and especially their border cities, are described as marginal and peripheral spaces separated from the national and transnational development flow, and lead to the intensification of the migration of the border city, the security of governing atmosphere on border city, the lack of development of the infrastructure of the city and the surrounding area, the small size of the urban population and thus, the lack of necessary thresholds for the establishment of the required activities and services, the reliance of the city's economy on traditional activities and eventually intensify the peripheral area of border cities. But in the case that boundary has a connecting function, developing countries and border cities will integrate into the overall national and transnational development, leading to the non-immigration and even the migration of border towns and other positive impacts, such as the development of infrastructure and transport infrastructures, increasing urban population and expanding their sphere of influence across the border, the expansion of the commercial service economy, tourism development, and, ultimately, the improvement of the periphery of the border cities, or, in other words, urban development (Rafieian et al, 2013: 50).

Analysis

The Strategy of Boundaries

First step to manage the borders, according to recent transformations, is to select the appropriate practical strategies in this field; having this purpose, at first we should realize the most appropriate strategy for borders and select the best policies and solutions;

1. **Threat-Centered Strategy:** The basis of this strategy is based on the threat posed by the borders and border regions. Based on this view, the probability of threat is greater than opportunity, in relation to the borders. And due to situation, potential and actual threats that threaten borders and border regions are much more than opportunities. This strategy is dictated to control and manage the borders and border areas of military and police service.
2. **Opportunity-Centered Strategy:** This strategy, in contrast to the threat strategy, gives a great weight to the opportunity probability of the border and border regions. This approach, uses the maximum border opportunities and possibilities to boost the economic, social and cultural development of the community. In terms of Border Management System, this functional management strategy is considered to be the most appropriate way of border management and control.
3. **Integrated Strategy:** This approach considers both dimensions of threats and opportunities in a comprehensive manner in border management. Based on this strategy, the best management model for boundaries and border regions is combined management (Nami, Hasan, 1389: 44-45).

Globalization of the Economy and the Role of the Boundary Cities

Globalization is one of the fundamental theories that have led to reinforcement of the cross-border cooperation. This issue of globalization is associated with the vulnerability and diminishing of political, cultural and economic boundaries. Mark Williams, Harvey and Giddens define globalization as a period of intense spatial-temporal compression, which exacerbates social and cultural relationships across the world (Sardar Abadi, 1380: 160). However, during the globalization, the political delimitation representing a new face, has led to an increase in number of countries, but there is no doubt that countries and cities exist, even more obvious than ever (Houtman, 2000: 58). In the theory of global systems of Valrastein (1974), the border regions and towns in it, provide the raw material required for central areas which are considered as economic and political centers and also, the social and economic progresses of all regions is under influence of their role and situation in the system. If there are long-term business connections and investments, it may facilitate the development of border regions and cities. Therefore, through borderline cooperation, border cities not only are not marginalized in the process of globalization, but also their position becomes especially communicative. Resona believes that globalization and localization are on the same side, as processes interdependent. Globalization, he believes, may reach the border towns previously covered by national boundaries. But, how the border towns are affected by the global economy, depends on other characteristics of whether cross-border cooperation has taken place in their areas. On the other hand, border regions and also their connection to global networks depend on government decisions (Rosenau, 1997: 20-46).

Commercial growth is an important aspect of globalization. If the border cities act as the gateways for communication between countries, then political and economic barriers between the two sides of the neighboring state will disappear. Thus, cities in the border regions will face problems and weaknesses, such as social infrastructure, transportation and economic defects, so that they transform to important economic centers. Therefore, the impact of globalization on border cities and their development depends on the views of governments. If the governments' standpoint follows the expanding the cross-border cooperation, the border cities will be privileged in this process. However, if the view of governments is tended to be localized and not interested in expanding the cross-border cooperation and to consider it as a weakness of central power, border cities will definitely be marginalized (Mousavi, 2009: 337).

The Function of the Boundaries in Globalization of the Economy

Considered as one of the leading factors of recent decade, globalization, has impacted the borders in different ways and led to the formation of different and contradictory attitudes among the scholars. Boundary is one of the main topics of political geography, and this field can represent the best arguments in this regard, given the globalization

debate. The border as one of the key concepts of the political geography has always been one of the most important subjects in the field. Consequently, emerging the phenomenon of globalization, there has been a lot of debate about the diminishing and devaluation of the borders in the social sciences. Economic globalization implies that, economic decisions and actions have significant consequences for individuals and economies, in one part of the world. The globalization of the economy has two dimensions: the first dimension implies the concept of geographic expansion. Therefore, the globalization of the economy increasingly occupies a wider geographic space. In the second dimension, the concept of the globalization of the economy has a concept that involves the intensification and compression of interdependencies, links and interactions that ultimately do not recognize the existence of traditional boundaries and keep countries interconnected and integrated. Thus, the globalization of economy is a must in many ways, multiplied and widespread. The globalization of the economy emphasizes the boundless nature of economic flows and, finally, the globalization of the economy has a particular emphasis on the convergence of the world, especially the global economy, to a convergent unit.

Nowadays, we see the permeability of the political boundaries against economic currents and global interdependence has reached a low level where there is little to do with isolation policy and economic self-sufficiency, yet countries adjust these flows based on their own interests. In fact, it is pursuing the national interests of the countries in the world which leads to response to some flows of commodities and investments of corporations and facilitate the entry of some other commodities and corporation in the country. Janet Kaglevsky, in evaluating the boundary between the United States and Canada, one of the most open and unobstructed boundaries in the world against the economic flows, concludes that the US-Canadian border has a wide impact on trade flows and relative bilateral prices, for instance. Most of the evidence that her data are based on, do not show that the economic pressures on the borders are actually less than the past, or not. Also, the reasons for the inherent impacts of borders are still not completely configured. Hence, it does not seem correct to think that recent advances in communications such as transportation, the Internet, etc. have decreased the economic boundaries between nations. Moreover, only the liberalization of trade or devaluation of transport costs between markets of the nations, cannot be sufficient reason for the disappearance of the borders. National boundaries, generally, continue to be of growing significance; capital, though, remains in distinct national, social or institutional structures; the nation-state continues to be the medium of domestic and transnational political, economic, and cultural activities; governments continue to play an effective role in shaping the flows that take place within their boundaries.

The globalization of the economy reduces the governments' control power on the borders, facilitates financial and technological transfers and increases the interactions among nations, eliminates capital competition from specific geographic territories and, globally, unconditionally encompasses and forms new regional systems. Globalization from this point of view, creates a situation in which geographic boundaries plays the lowest role in economic activities, such as trade, investment, production and financial transfers. Relationship between capital and commodities, regardless of the boundaries of state-nations, is established, and "the weightless economy is created" according to "Dani Kawah", the well-known economist (Pishgahi Fard, 1380: 162). The concept of weightless economy refers to a growing economic value at the global level, which is relied on information trade, not commodity trade. The entire financial economy, and especially the services trade, is weightless. The weightless economy is an electronic economy. Obviously, it is not claimed that basic and industrial goods have lost their significance in contemporary capitalism, but rather that they are no longer regarded as the main processes of accumulation as before (Shirzadi, 1393: 132).

The developments will have significant consequences that will affect the globalization of the economy in various national and international spheres. Accordingly, the globalization of the economy will lead to the development of markets beyond national boundaries and will significantly expand the size of the market to export goods. Since competition in these type of markets is far more difficult than domestic markets, this phenomenon leads to the specialization of activity and, consequently, the distribution of international labor. In other words, production will be based on comparative advantage and any country will produce commodities with high comparative advantage and competitiveness. Globalization will also lead to the free movement of capital, so that, if there are prerequisites for production, capital will be deployed to seize the opportunity. Technology transfer across national borders, creating competitive space, multinational corporations' activities, foreign investment in Research and Development in developing countries, diminishing the role of governments in direct manipulation of economic activities, limiting the implementation of introspective development and self-sufficiency policies and rising wages for skilled labor and... are considered as other consequences of the globalization of the economy (Behkish, 2010: 45-48).

The convergence resulting from the globalization of the economy, though, creates struggles and challenges for national politics and economy, decreases the national independence and challenges the national sovereignty. These challenges of the national economy make governments incapable of controlling events and incidents in the domestic economy. National sovereignty assumes the existence of the state-nations and takes into account the choice and economic management without interference of others; this form of economy is influenced by common standards and preferences, in the process of globalization (Sajadi, 2004: 95). The transformation of boundary functions in the era of economic globalization makes governments ineradicable by multinational corporations and deprives the state of the discipline and management of economic, social and political affairs, therefore. The emergence of these simultaneous developments will lead to the dispersal of power within societies, and, on the other hand, lead to the transfer of power to the international capitalist class. At the same time, there is no solidarity or challenge to the power of multinational corporations, at the global level. Consequently, capitalists and employers are freeing themselves from the limits of political and welfare institutions, which are methods of democratic control over capital, in fact. With the transformation of the traditional borders and reduction of its efficiency, the globalization of the economy will grow more and development of international financial markets and the growth of transaction volumes in foreign markets and capital markets are inevitable. Advances in information and communication technologies, liberalization in capital markets, and the provision of new financial instruments have led to greater mobility in international capital flows and reduced efficiency of cross-border boundaries.

If the national boundaries which are obstacles to the international capital flow, are considered as filters, the costs on-balance-sheet transactions increase and its components grow up and therefore cannot pass through the filters; on the other hand, off-balance-sheet transactions have low transaction costs and their components are small, thus, they can pass through filters. Derivative transactions can convert large components of the on-balance-sheet assets into small components of multiple assets and increase the distance between filter components. In addition, the advancement of information and communication technologies and the abolition of financial regulation will reduce barriers and, ultimately increase the gap between the filter components and the enlargement of its holes, which will reduce the cost of transactions and, consequently, diminish the dimensions of its components (Malcolm Waters, 2000: 21).

Conclusion

In current study, the impacts of globalization of the economy and transformation of boundary functions have been examined from a variety of dimensions. Economic globalization is the strongest and the most popular aspect of globalization. Nevertheless, countries still regulate economic flows based on their own interests; pursuing the national interests of the country in the global arena, responds to some commodity flows and corporation investments and facilitates the entry of some other commodities and corporations in the country; capital remains in distinct national, social or institutional structures. Regarding the globalization of politics, it can be inferred that countries make decisions on their own national interests based on the interests of their nations on the borders; governments have divided the land into separate territories according to their boundaries, and this continues to grow increasingly; Despite the process of globalization, national governments, continue to play a leading role within the framework of certain boundaries, defining its policies and roles. On the other hand, globalization of economic processes has been intensified with great progresses in technology, especially the development of so-called soft technologies in communications and information field. The boom in the power of computers and computer software and the transformations in communication technology have facilitated the compression of the world in many ways. Exchange of money, commodities, and individuals has been accelerated due to numerous technological advances, and traditional boundaries no longer have the ability to block the information flow. In fact, the communications and information revolution, which is the product of the development of technological dynamism, has facilitated the cross-border integration and acquisition processes, and has eliminated or neutralized the physical and geographical barriers and restrictions. Nowadays, global markets in goods and services link countries, regions, cities, organizations and individuals together at a point far beyond the notion of trade as the exchange of national products. In the era of globalization of the economy, the trade is out of its traditional and limited forms, and continue to its growth in new forms, namely, the management of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the emergence of regionalism, and in conjunction with other economic phenomena. The fluid flow of foreign direct investments, today is the most recent phenomenon of the globalization of the economy, which extends beyond the boundaries of countries. In the light of the globalization process, in order to make more profit, and with enormous volumes around the world, regardless of the traditional boundaries, capitals easily move. And this flowing current creates the most important economic developments across the world, and ultimately the dynamism and vitality of global capitalism. The fluidity of capital and the growth of foreign direct investments have boosted the advantages across the world,

and the process of globalization have been accelerated, and the functions of borders has been transformed by increasing the economic dependence of countries.

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