

Chapter 3

The Slide Backwards

ABSTRACT

This chapter will examine the contemporary world order that has been characterized by global cooperation and interdependence, which have spurred a backlash of nationalist ideologies around the world as a reaction to increased immigration and perceived degradation of the cultural identity of the homeland. The chapter will also highlight contemporary issues facing the global community that international cooperation will be necessary to resolve.

INTRODUCTION

The past two decades have been characterized by the deepening relationships and integrated markets that were spawned by the process of globalization, the shared governance of a variety of international concerns (including climate change, terrorism, and the pandemic more recently), and numerous military agreements that assisted in the melding of the international community into the globalized world order. As has been explored, globalization occurs in phases where there is a period of increased integration (often accompanied by a new tool or technology) that are followed by periods of crises and sometimes hostile responses by those living under the conditions. While the challenges of the day continue to become evermore complicated, these challenges can create opportunities to find better solutions, increase communication, and provide insight to other nation-states experiencing similar circumstances. The most effective governments “often realize that their ability to competently deliver the services their populations demand requires answers found abroad”

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(James, 2021). The most recent phase of globalization that followed brutal economic disruptions in the 1970s began as response to the social, political, and most importantly, economic crises and provided the framework for new (and/or more deeply embedded) global connections, alliances, and policy solutions – and although it began as a remedy for a deeply wounded international community (market), the era of globalization that came afterwards altered trade, sociality, and politics in a meaningful way. The modern era of globalization is characteristic from the previous waves because of the sheer number of developing countries coming onto the global market economy as well as the increase in international migration that became a major feature of modern era of globalization. Globalization as defined in the modern era describes the global cooperation of nation-states for the purposes of economic, social, political, and cultural advantages; these associations among modern nation-states occurs via military pacts (NATO, Taiwan Relations Act, etc.), colonization, and an abundance of multilateral free trade agreements. However, the era of globalization that began in the 1980s to present is particularly integrated thanks to technological innovation that have transformed the 20th and 21st century economics, social, and political processes via these new digital tools and capabilities. The transition to the global market economy was built and is sustained upon electronic financial tools and transactions that allows for production and distribution to be performed outside of the country. As the international community has witnessed over the course of thirty some-odd years in this post-modern globalized world, the transition and transformation of consumer market and the way in which we are able to find and purchase goods has been digitized; long have the cries of the failing brick-and-mortar stores been loud as the virtual market offers so much more in a cost effective (and convenient) manner.

There is also a palpable shift in what resources were necessary and/or beneficial in the era of globalization, instead of hard labor and geopolitical resources being the primary driver of capital, in the 21st century era of globalization it is human capital that became the defining feature and product; thus a re-emphasis on education and acquisition of information has been required for developed and developing countries to maintain their status and progress. The modern era of globalization yielded a market that is heavily dependent upon human innovation, advancement of technologies, and the ability to transfer resources via the digital landscape to solidify the global market economy. The “Great Divergence” was the result of the so-called third

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