

UNIT 1. WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION?

“Globalization” - certainly no word in recent memory has meant so many different things to different people and has evoked as much emotion. Some see it as nirvana - a blessed state of universal peace and prosperity - while others condemn it as a new kind of chaos.

The exponential growth in the exchange of goods, ideas and people that we see today is the part of a long-term historical trend. Over the course of human history the desire for something better and greater has motivated people to move themselves, their goods, and their ideas around the world.

When the Romans built roads as they marched across Europe during their golden era of conquest and empire-building, they were engaging in a form of globalization. When the Incas created their own empire in the Andes they were also a globalizing force. When Marco Polo traced the trade routes from Europe to central Asia, he was promoting globalization of trade. The Dutch, the Spanish and the British empires of the sixteenth centuries were also further steps in creating a new global world.

Historically there were four main motives that drove people to leave the sanctuary of their family and village: conquest (the desire to ensure security and extend political power), prosperity (the search for a better life), proselytizing (spreading the word of their God and converting others to their faith), and a more mundane but still powerful force - curiosity and wanderlust that seem basic to human nature. Therefore, the principal agents of globalization were soldiers (and sailors), traders, preachers and adventurers. Thousands of years ago traders carried goods from one part of the globe to another across oceans. Missionaries traversed deserts and mountains and sailed the seas.

In place of solitary pilgrims and priests have come vast religious organizations that spread their beliefs, along with their languages, literatures and architecture. The few intrepid adventurers and travelers of past centuries who brought distant societies together have given way to thousands and even millions of refugees and immigrants fleeing across borders, as well as hundreds of millions of tourists jetting around the world. All these comings and goings deepen and broaden the connections among far parts of the world and facilitate the transmission of goods, ideas and cultures.

Ever since the term “GLOBALIZATION” was first used to make sense of large-scale changes, scholars have debated its meaning and use.

The main debates:

- Process vs. Project
- New Era vs. Nothing New
- Good vs. Bad
- End vs. Revival of Nation-State
- Sameness vs. Difference

Process vs. Project

According to one popular view, globalization is the "inexorable integration of markets, nation-states and technologies to a degree never witnessed before - in a way that is enabling individuals, corporations and nation-states to reach round the world farther, faster, deeper and cheaper than ever before" (T. Friedman). By contrast, some groups of scholars view globalization not as an inexorable process but as a deliberate, ideological project of economic liberalization.

New Era vs. Nothing New

Discussions of globalization often convey a sense that something new is happening to the world: global practices, values, and technologies now shape people's lives to the point that we are entering a "global age". Sceptics counter that there is nothing new under the sun.

Good vs. Bad

Globalization used to be widely celebrated as a new birth of freedom: better connections in a more open world would improve people's lives by making new products and ideas universally available, breaking down barriers to trade and democratic institutions, resolve tensions between old adversaries, and empower more and more people. Politicians opposed to America's global influence and now portray globalization as dangerous.

End vs. Revival of Nation-State

According to one line of argument, globalization constrains states: free trade limits the ability of states to set policy and protect domestic companies; capital mobility makes generous welfare states less competitive; global problems exceed the grasp of any individual state; and global norms and institutions become more powerful. Others suggest that in a more integrated world nation-states may even become more important: they have a special role in creating conditions for growth and compensating for the effects of economic competition.

Sameness vs. Difference

A standard complaint about globalization is that it leads to cultural homogeneity: interaction and integration diminish difference; many cultural flows, such as the provision of news, reflect exclusively Western interests and control. The counterargument stresses new heterogeneity that results from globalization: interaction is likely to lead to new mixtures of cultures and integration is likely to provoke a defense of tradition; global norms or practices are necessarily interpreted differently according to local tradition, and one such norm stresses the value of cultural difference itself.

The question frequently asked about globalization is not whether it will continue, but at what pace. Like a snowball rolling down a steep mountain, globalization seems to be gathering more and more momentum.

Exercise 1. Choose the correct answer.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Some see globalization as nirvana - a new kind of chaos.
TRUE FALSE
2. The exponential growth in the exchange of goods, ideas and people that we see today is a new political trend.
TRUE FALSE
3. When the Romans built roads as they marched across Europe during their golden era of conquest and empire-building, they were engaging in a form of globalization.
TRUE FALSE
4. Historically there were two main motives that drove people to leave the sanctuary of their family and village.
TRUE FALSE
5. According to one popular view, globalization is the "inexorable integration of markets, nation-states and technologies to a degree never witnessed before."
TRUE FALSE
6. Globalization has never been celebrated as a new birth of freedom.
TRUE FALSE
7. A standard complaint about globalization is that it leads to cultural heterogeneity.
TRUE FALSE

Exercise 2. Complete the following sentences.

1. "Globalization" - no word in recent memory has meant so many different things ——— different people.
2. The exponential growth ——— the exchange of goods, ideas and people is part of a long-term historical trend.
3. Over the course of human history, the desire ——— something better and greater has motivated people to move themselves, their goods, and their ideas ——— the world.
4. According ——— one popular view, globalization is the "inexorable integration of markets, nation-states and technologies ——— a degree never witnessed before.
5. ——— contrast, some groups of scholars view globalization not as an inexorable process but as a deliberate, ideological project of economic liberalization.
6. Discussions of globalization convey a sense that something new is happening ——— the world: global practices, values, and technologies now shape people's lives ——— the point that we are entering a "global age".
7. Sceptics counter that there is nothing new ——— the sun.
8. A standard complaint ——— globalization is that it leads ——— cultural homogeneity.

Exercise 3. Make sentences using these phrases and translate them from English into Georgian.

To evoke emotion

Universal peace and prosperity

A new kind of chaos

Exchange of goods, ideas and people

A long-term historical trend

The desire for something better and greater

To promote globalization of trade

To be basic to human nature

To bring distant societies together

To deepen and broaden the connections among far parts of the world

To facilitate the transmission of goods, ideas and cultures

Inexorable integration of markets, nation-states and technologies

To convey a sense

To enter a "global age"

To improve people's lives by making new products and ideas universally available

To break down barriers to trade and democratic institutions

To resolve tensions between old adversaries

To empower more and more people

To portray globalization as dangerous

To limit the ability of states to set policy

To have a special role in creating conditions for growth

To compensate for the effects of economic competition

To lead to cultural homogeneity

To diminish difference

To result from globalization

To provoke a defense of tradition

To gather more and more momentum

ROLE PLAYING
DISCUSSION LEADER

The discussion leader's job is to ...

- read the text twice, and prepare at least five general questions about it;
- make sure that everyone has a chance to speak and joins in the discussion;
- guide the discussion and keep it going.

Usually the best discussion questions come from your own thoughts, feelings as you read.

MY QUESTIONS:

OTHER GENERAL IDEAS (Questions about the theme):

SUMMARIZER

The summarizer's job is to ...

- read the text and make notes about the ideas.
- find the key points that everyone must know to understand and remember the text.
- retell the text in a short summary in your own words.
- talk about your summary to the group, using your writing to help you.

MY KEY POINTS:

MY WORD: 2. _____

MEANING OF THE WORD

REASON FOR CHOOSING THE WORD

MY WORD: 3. _____

MEANING OF THE WORD

REASON FOR CHOOSING THE WORD

MY WORD: 4. _____

MEANING OF THE WORD

REASON FOR CHOOSING THE WORD

PASSAGE PERSON

The passage person's job is to ...

- read the text, and find important, interesting, or difficult passages;
- make notes about at least two passages that are important for the text;
- read each passage to the group;
- ask the group one or two questions about each passage.

You might choose a passage to discuss because it is:

***important *informative *confusing *well-written**

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PASSAGE

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSAGES

Memorize these phrasal verbs.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Examples
make for	go to or toward	Her teen-aged children are always hungry. As soon as they arrive home from school, they make for the refrigerator.
make off with	run away with	The thief made off with a valuable necklace.
make out	pretend	Tim made out that he hadn't seen the No Smoking sign.
make out	manage to see or understand; to see, hear, or understand (something or someone), often with difficulty; see / hear something well enough to understand what it means	Bob saw something on the horizon as he was looking through his binoculars. At first he couldn't make out what it was, but after a few minutes he could just make out the shape of a yacht.
make out a cheque	to write (a cheque)	I made out a cheque for ten pounds.

make someone out	understand someone's behaviour	Janet is really odd. I can't make her out.
make up	to become friends again after a quarrel	Yesterday Joan and Jack had a big argument about politics. Earlier today they decided to forget their differences and make up.
make up	invent / create (imaginary) information	Judy's story is hard to believe. I'm sure she made it up.
make up	compensate for something missed or not done by doing extra or equivalent work	I'm sorry I missed the test. May I make it up?
make up for a mistake /doing or not doing something etc.	to compensate for	Our success makes up for all the hard times.
put (someone) out	inconvenience someone	I hate to put you out, but I need a ride to the train station and hope you can take me.
put across	communicate ideas	Harry is clever but he can't put his ideas across.
put forward a proposal / a plan / a suggestion / an idea etc.	to offer (a proposal / a plan etc.) for consideration	Mr. Smith put forward the idea of introducing traffic lights at the crossroads as a way of preventing traffic jams.
put in for	apply for a job	Sue has put in for a teaching job.
put off / put (someone) off	to discourage, or distract, (someone) from doing something, upset	Ron was trying to read, but the noise from the television put him off and he had to stop.
put on	try to make someone believe something that is ridiculous or untrue	Don't believe a word of what Jim was saying. He was just putting us on.

put up	return something to the proper place	Your toys are all over the floor, Timmy. Please put them up.
put up	offer accommodation; provide someone with a place to sleep	There's no need for you to check into a hotel. I'll be happy to put you up.
put up with	to suffer (a difficult situation or person) without complaining	When Uncle Mike comes to visit us, the children behave very badly. They hit him, they play tricks on him and they make a lot of noise. Uncle Mike must love them very much because he puts up with everything they do, and he never gets annoyed with them.
put up with	tolerate; bear	I can't put up with all this noise!
burn up	cause someone to become very angry	Did you hear how rudely Fred talked to me? That really burned me up!
come about	happen	Let me explain how the situation came about.
come down with	become ill with something	George won't be at the office today. He came down with the flu over the weekend.
come in for	receive - especially criticism, blame	The government has come in for a lot of criticism over the decision.
come into money / property / a fortune etc	to receive something (usually money or property) after someone's death.	Peter came into a fortune when his father died.
come off	take place successfully	I'm afraid that deal didn't come off after all.

come out	appear	When the news came out, everyone was shocked.
come round	to regain consciousness	James fainted when the air-conditioning stopped working. Two of his colleagues took care of him until he came round.
come to	total	Your charges come to \$124.38. Will you pay by check, in cash, or with a credit card?
come up	occur- usually a problem	Look, something has come up, and I can't meet you.
come up against	meet a difficulty	We've come up against a bit of a problem.
come up to	equal - especially expectations	The play didn't come up to expectations.
come up with an idea/a plan/a suggestion etc.	to think of; to produce; think of - especially an answer, a plan, a solution	We still haven't come up with a solution to the problem.

Exercise 4. Make sentences using these phrasal verbs.

make for

make out

make up

put someone out

put across

put in for

put off

put on

put up

put up with

burn up

come about

come down with

come in for

come into

come off

come out

come round

come to

come up

come up against

come up to

come up with
