

## The Concept and Causes of Globalisation

### I. Introduction: Understanding Globalisation

- Introduce globalisation as a **widely used but often imprecise concept**.
- Refer to everyday illustrations (call centres, imported goods, new opportunities for women) to show how globalisation penetrates daily life.
- Emphasise: globalisation is not confined to economics; it affects **work patterns, consumption, identity, and values**.
- Highlight that globalisation may generate both **positive and negative consequences**.

#### Core Definition:

Globalisation fundamentally deals with **flows**:

- Ideas
- Capital
- Commodities
- People

The crucial element is **“worldwide interconnectedness”** created and sustained by these constant flows.

### II. Globalisation as a Multi-Dimensional Concept

Globalisation has three major manifestations:

#### 1. Political Dimension

- Challenges traditional conceptions of sovereignty.
- Alters state capacity and decision-making autonomy.

#### 2. Economic Dimension

- Greater trade and capital flows.
- Role of institutions like IMF and WTO.
- Debate over distribution of gains.

### 3. Cultural Dimension

- Impact on lifestyle, food, clothing, media.
- Fear of cultural homogenisation.

⚠ Important analytical caution:

- Globalisation is neither purely economic nor purely cultural.
- It affects societies unevenly.
- Avoid sweeping generalisations; context matters.

### III. Historical Context of Globalisation

- Global flows are not entirely new.
- Movement of ideas, goods, and people existed historically.

What distinguishes contemporary globalisation:

- **Scale**
- **Speed**
- **Intensity**

Globalisation today must be viewed against its historical backdrop.

### IV. Causes of Globalisation

#### A. Technology as a Critical Factor

- Telegraph, telephone, microchip revolutionised communication.
- Printing earlier helped create nationalism; modern technology reshapes global consciousness.
- Internet accelerates idea flows.
- Capital and commodities move faster than people.

Key Insight:

Technology enables globalisation but does not automatically create it.

## B. Awareness and Recognition of Interconnectedness

- People recognise that events in one part of the world affect others.
- Examples:
  - Bird flu
  - Tsunami
  - Economic crises

Globalisation emerges when societies acknowledge these interconnections.

### C. Differential Mobility of Flows

- Capital and commodities move more freely.
- Movement of people remains restricted.
- Developed countries protect labour markets via visa regimes.

This asymmetry shapes global inequalities.

### V. Concluding Analytical Reflection (Page 1)

- Globalisation is complex and layered.
- Driven by technology, awareness, and expanding flows.
- Produces uneven effects.
- Requires contextual and critical understanding rather than ideological reaction.

## Political and Economic Consequences of Globalisation

### I. Political Consequences

Central Question:

How does globalisation affect **state sovereignty**?

There are three major aspects:

#### A. Erosion of State Capacity

- Shift from welfare state to minimalist state.
- State withdraws from welfare functions.

- Market becomes prime determinant of social priorities.
- Increased role of multinational companies.
- Reduced autonomy in economic decision-making.

This suggests weakening of sovereignty.

#### B. Persistence and Primacy of the State

However:

- State remains basis of political community.
- National rivalries continue.
- Core functions remain intact:
  - Law and order
  - National security

State withdraws selectively, not entirely.



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### C. Strengthening of State Power Through Technology

- Enhanced surveillance capacity.
- Information gathering through technology.
- States may become stronger, not weaker.

Thus, globalisation produces a **paradoxical effect**:

- Simultaneous erosion and reinforcement of state power.

- Developed vs developing countries.
- Rich vs poor within countries.

Globalisation generates vastly different outcomes in different contexts.



### C. Critics of Economic Globalisation

Concerns:

- State withdrawal harms poor.
- Reduction in welfare spending.
- Weak sections suffer.
- Demand for “social safety nets.”
- Some describe it as **re-colonisation**.
- Forced liberalisation harms weaker countries.

### D. Advocates of Economic Globalisation

Arguments:

- Greater trade leads to efficiency.
- Each economy does what it does best.
- Generates growth and well-being.
- Considered historically inevitable.

## II. Economic Consequences

Economic globalisation generates intense debate.

### A. Meaning of Economic Globalisation

- Greater economic flows among countries.
- Trade liberalisation.
- Reduced import restrictions.
- Capital mobility.
- Foreign investments.

Institutions:

- IMF
- WTO

But economic globalisation involves more than these institutions.

### B. Uneven Distribution of Gains

Critical issue:

Who benefits? Who loses?

Moderate view:

- Globalisation should be engaged intelligently, not uncritically rejected.

### III. Core Economic Insight

Despite disagreements:

There is undeniable **increased interdependence** among:

- Governments
- Businesses
- Ordinary people

This interdependence is the defining feature of contemporary globalisation.

#### IV. Concluding Analytical Reflection (Page 2)

Political and economic globalisation:

- Weakens some aspects of state power.
- Strengthens others.
- Generates growth but unevenly.
- Produces both integration and inequality.
- Remains deeply contested.

#### Cultural Consequences, India and Globalisation, and Resistance

##### I. Cultural Consequences of Globalisation

Globalisation shapes:

- Food habits
- Clothing
- Media consumption
- Thought patterns
- Identity

##### A. Cultural Homogenisation

- Fear of uniform culture.
- Imposition of Western (especially American) culture.
- “Soft power” of US hegemony.
- McDonaldisation.
- Dominant culture influencing weaker societies.

Concern:

Shrinking of global cultural diversity.

##### B. Cultural Heterogenisation

However:

- Cultures are not static.
- External influences may enlarge choices.
- Hybrid combinations emerge:

- Jeans with khadi kurta.
- Cultural borrowing in multiple directions.

Cultural exchange is rarely one-way.

Thus, globalisation produces both:

- Homogenisation
- Differentiation

#### II. India and Globalisation

##### A. Historical Experience

Colonial period:

- Exporter of raw materials.
- Importer of finished goods.

Post-independence:

- Protectionism.
- Self-reliance.
- Restricted imports.
- State-led development.
- Sluggish growth.

##### B. Economic Reforms of 1991

- Financial crisis.
- Desire for higher growth.
- De-regulation.
- Liberalisation of trade and foreign investment.

Key evaluation criterion:

Not just growth rates,  
but equitable distribution of benefits.

##### C. India's Role in Globalisation

- Call centres and services.
- IT sector.

- Integration into global markets.
- Cultural exports.

India both experiences and shapes globalisation.

### III. Resistance to Globalisation

Globalisation is highly contentious.

#### A. Left-Wing Critique

- Makes rich richer, poor poorer.
- Weakens state capacity.
- Leads to economic disparity.
- Viewed as imperialism or re-colonisation.

#### B. Right-Wing Critique

- Fear of cultural erosion.
- Demand for protectionism.
- Concern over traditional values.
- Opposition to westernisation.

#### C. Global Anti-Globalisation Movements

- 1999 Seattle WTO protests.
- World Social Forum (from 2001 onwards).
- Global networks of resistance.

Interestingly:

Resistance movements also use global networks.

#### D. Resistance in India

- Political parties.
- Indian Social Forum.
- Trade unions.
- Farmers' protests.
- Opposition to multinational entry.

- Cultural resistance (foreign TV channels, Valentine's Day).

Resistance comes from multiple ideological positions.

### IV. Concluding Analytical Reflection (Final Page)

Globalisation is:

- Multi-dimensional.
- Uneven.
- Contested.
- Historically rooted.
- Technologically accelerated.

It produces:

- Integration and inequality.
- Homogenisation and heterogeneity.
- Weakening and strengthening of the state.
- Opportunity and anxiety.

Final Evaluative Position (in textbook spirit):

Globalisation should neither be:

- Uncritically celebrated, nor
- Entirely rejected.

