

## II.1.6

### The World Facing New Challenges

# Living in a Globalised World – Historic mistakes and modern challenges

nach einer Idee von Waltraud Feger



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Die hier vorliegende Unterrichtsreihe setzt sich mit der Entwicklung der globalisierten Welt und den damit verbundenen Problemen auseinander. Dabei werden die einzelnen Phänomene besondere Aufmerksamkeit und widmet ihnen jeweils ein Kapitel, das gegebenenfalls jedes für sich im Unterricht eingesetzt werden kann.

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#### KOMPETENZPROFIL

- Klassenstufe:** 9–12
- Dauer:** 4 Unterrichtsstunden
- Kompetenzen:** Erschließung, Analyse und Kommentierung von unterschiedlich medial vermittelten Texten, klares und detailliertes Präsentieren und Darstellen themenbezogener Sachverhalte
- Thematische Bezüge:** Impact of globalization on culture and communication
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## Auf einen Blick

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### 1. Stunde

Thema: What is globalisation?

M 1 **What is globalisation?/** Einstieg in das Thema, Recherche und Videoanalyse

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### 2. Stunde

Thema: Historic mistakes of globalisation

M 2 **Historic mistakes of globalisation /** Textanalyse und Diskussion

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### 3./4. Stunde

Thema: Challenges and difficulties

M 3 **Human trafficking /** Textanalyse, Recherche und kreative Arbeit

M 4 **Fake news – Can media and other sources still be trusted? /** Textanalyse, Gruppenarbeit, Abschluss

M 1



## What is globalisation?

Find out what GLOBALISATION generally stands for:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNejKHKSblo>

**interconnective (AmE):** interconnecting, linking – **corporation:** company, enterprise – **bulk carrier:** a huge ship that carries unpacked cargo, usually consisting of one substance such as coal or grain – **access:** admission, approach

### Tasks

1. First study the assignment below before watching the video for the first time at reduced speed. While watching and after having watched, put down as many key words as possible into the grid.
2. After a second viewing, fill in more items and then turn to the third task. See below.
3. Look at your notes again. So far you have heard only positive remarks about globalisation. Do you know any negative aspects? What could be the most important disadvantage of globalisation in your opinion? Give reasons.

This video on globalisation is about	acting	in the field concerned
countries	being intercon-	economy & culture
international processes		
people in former times		
Silk Road in the M.A.		
in the past 20 years		
around the globe		
TNCs		
international trade		

## Historic mistakes of globalisation

M 2

Find out what an expert says about past failings and future prospects of globalisation.

### Globalisation: time to look at historic mistakes to plot the future

Joseph Stiglitz, Tue 5 Dec 2017 13.42 GMT

Fifteen years ago, I published “Globalisation and Its Discontents”<sup>1</sup>, a book that sought to explain why there was so much dissatisfaction<sup>2</sup> with globalisation within the developing countries. Quite simply, many believed the system was rigged<sup>3</sup> against them, and global trade agreements were singled out<sup>4</sup> for being particularly unfair.

Now discontent with globalisation has fuelled<sup>5</sup> a wave of populism<sup>6</sup> in the US and other advanced economies, led by politicians who claim that the system is unfair to their countries. In the US, President Donald Trump insists America’s trade negotiators<sup>7</sup> were snookered<sup>8</sup> by those from Mexico and China.

So how could something that was supposed to benefit all, in developed and developing countries alike, now be reviled<sup>9</sup> almost everywhere? How can a trade agreement be unfair to all parties?

To those in developing countries, Trump’s claims – like Trump himself – are laughable. The US basically wrote the rules and created the institutions of globalisation. In some of these institutions – for example, the International Monetary Fund – the US still has veto power, despite America’s diminished<sup>10</sup> role in the global economy (a role which Trump seems determined to diminish still further).

To someone like me, who has watched trade negotiations closely for more than a quarter-century, it is clear that US trade negotiators<sup>11</sup> were not what they wanted. The problem was with what they wanted. Their agenda<sup>11</sup> was set behind closed doors, by corporations. It was an agenda written by, and for, large multinational companies, at the expense of<sup>12</sup> workers and ordinary citizens everywhere.

Indeed, it often seems that workers, who have seen their wages fall and jobs disappear, are just collateral damage<sup>13</sup> – innocent but unavoidable victims in the inexorable<sup>15</sup> march of economic progress. But there is another interpretation of what has happened: one of the objectives of globalisation was to weaken workers’ bargaining power<sup>16</sup>. What corporations wanted was cheap labour, however they could get it. [...]

There are three responses to globalised discontent with globalisation. The first – call it the Las Vegas strategy – is to pull down on the bet<sup>17</sup> on globalisation as it has been managed for the past quartercentury. A bet, like all bets on proven<sup>18</sup> policy failures [...], is based on the hope that somehow it will succeed in the future.

The second response is Trumpism<sup>19</sup>: cut oneself off from globalisation, in the hope that doing so will somehow bring back a bygone<sup>20</sup> world. But protectionism<sup>21</sup> won’t work. Globally, manufacturing jobs are on the decline<sup>22</sup>, simply because productivity growth has outpaced<sup>23</sup> growth in demand. [...] There is a third approach: social protection without protectionism<sup>24</sup>, the kind of approach that the small Nordic countries took. They knew that as small countries they had to remain open. But they also knew that remaining open would expose workers to risk. Thus, they had to have a social contract that helped workers move from old jobs to new ones and give some help in the interim<sup>25</sup>.

The Nordic countries are deeply democratic societies, so they knew that unless most workers regarded globalisation as benefiting them, it wouldn’t be sustained<sup>26</sup>, so the wealthy in these

countries recognised that if globalisation worked as it should, there would be enough benefits to go around<sup>27</sup>.

- 45 American capitalism in recent years has been marked by unbridled greed<sup>28</sup>—the 2008 financial crisis provides ample confirmation of that. But, as some countries have shown, a market economy can take forms that temper<sup>29</sup> the excesses of both capitalism and globalization [...]. (564 w.)

Joseph Stiglitz: Globalisation: time to look at historic mistakes to plot the future, in: *The Guardian*, 5th of December 2017, found at <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/dec/05/globalisation-time-to-look-at-historic-mistakes-to-plot-the-future-joseph-stiglitz>

1 **discontent**: a feeling of being unhappy and not satisfied with the situation you are in – 2 **dissatisfaction**: discontent – 3 **to rig**: to fix, to manipulate – 4 **single out**: to choose someone from a group because he/it is better, worse, more important than others – 5 **to fuel**: to provoke, to increase – 6 **populism**: politics that represents the interests and opinions of ordinary people – 7 **negotiator**: so. who takes part in discussions trying to reach an agreement – 8 **to be snookered (ugs.)**: to be in a difficult position, *alt aussehen* – 9 **to revile**: to hate – 10 **diminished**: reduced – 11 **agenda**: a list of problems or subjects to be dealt with – 12 **at the expense of so.:** at the cost of so. – 13 **collateral damage**: loss or harm that seems to be a by-product – 14 **unavoidable**: impossible to prevent – 15 **inexorable**: unstoppable – 16 **bargaining power**: Verhandlungsposition – 17 **to double down on the bet**: den Wetteinsatz verdoppeln – 18 **proven**: tested and shown to be true or good – 19 **Trumpism**: the way Former President Trump acts, speaks, behaves etc. – 20 **bygone**: in the past – 21 **protectionism**: when a government tries to help its companies in its own country by taxing or restricting foreign goods – 22 **on the decline**: falling, dropping – 23 **to outpace**: to outrun – 24 **social protection without protection**: soziale Arbeitnehmers ohne Protektionismus des Staates – 25 **in the interim**: meanwhile – 26 **to sustain**: to maintain, aufrechterhalten – 27 **to go around (AmE)**: to be enough for everyone to have a share – 28 **unbridled greed**: extreme avarice, grenzenlose Gier – 29 **temper**: to soften

### Tasks

1. Read this newspaper article by J. E. Stiglitz, Nobel laureate in Economics and University Professor at Columbia University. Then complete the following true/false activity:
  - a) Stiglitz's book from 2002 describes the pros and cons of globalisation.
 

true  false proof: "to explain ... so much dissatisfaction with globalisation", ll. 1f.
  - b) The developing countries thought that global trade deals were treating them badly.
 

true  false proof:  
Nowadays, globalisation is popular, but not everywhere.
  - c) Trump thinks the Americans were tricked by the Chinese and Mexicans in the trade deal.
 

true  false proof:
  - d) All participants in the trade negotiations took part in the setting up of regulations.
 

true  false proof:
  - e) The agenda of the agreement was in favour of large global companies, while workers and normal citizens had no say in any of the decisions.
 

true  false proof:
  - f) Economic progress seems to have a sad by-product: the redundancy of workers.
 

true  false proof:

- h) Stiglitz' second response is embodied by President Trump, who condemns globalisation and wants to turn back the clock.  
 true  false proof:
- i) The Nordic countries have chosen the right way by providing a social safety net for the workers while embracing globalisation.  
 true  false proof:
2. Prof. Stiglitz' article is meant both to criticise President Trump and provide information about recent shortcomings of globalisation. Using a chart like the one below, name three quotations from the article that illustrate each of these purposes for writing.

Purpose	Examples
A) to criticise	1. 2. 3.
B) to inform	1. 2. 3.

3. On the basis of Stiglitz's text, prepare a mock press conference about globalisation:
- Four students ("experts") who will be on the panel: Study the text in order to be well prepared for your classmates' questions.
  - The other students ("journalists") get together in groups of three or four: Prepare questions you can ask the experts on the panel.

## M 3

## Human trafficking

Human trafficking as an unfortunate by-product of globalisation:

“The worst-case scenario is that they are walking straight away into the arms of traffickers,” a radio announcer said, when it became known that smugglers took hold of new arrivals at Libya’s refugee camps. There is even a video by a renowned American news channel that documents an auction of refugees going into slavery for 400 to 500 dollars. At the same time people are shocked by the gruesome<sup>1</sup> information that this was only one of five auctions at the same place on the same day. You can hear the voice of the auctioneer, praising the special physical features of the man on offer to be a farmhand. At once one is reminded of the slave trade in former times on American soil, when Africans were shipped to the east coast and sold to land-owners. Thus, human trafficking is by no means uncommon in human history, as the old Egyptians, the Romans and many others made use of slaves.

Nowadays, slaves are not only to work as farmhands, as many organisations have found out. Modern times have a lot of occupations for slaves and they are especially working in Libya. According to UNICEF USA, anyone can be trafficked if recruited by traffickers. Women, men and even children are subjected<sup>3</sup> to slavery. One can come across slavery in Europe and the USA, where human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states: the rates are especially high in California, New York, Florida and Texas. Human trafficking is, after drug trafficking – the second largest criminal ‘industry’ world-wide with an estimated \$ 32 billion, according to UNICEF. One supposes that half of the trafficked people could be children. Insiders say that 33 percent of run-away children are subjected to sexual abuse within the first two days of running away.

Labour trafficking is documented in many industries: restaurants, bars, hotels, agriculture, construction and travelling agencies. The same trafficking practice of sex trafficking can be found in strip clubs, brothels, massage clubs, prostitution, on the street and on the internet. But this is not all, as slavery is also rife<sup>5</sup> in households, e.g. in Saudi Arabia, or at construction sites, e.g. in Qatar, where 100 migrants will have died before the World Cup starts in 2022. But this is by no means the end of it, for example INTERPOL draws attention to another variety of this crime: human beings are trafficked for the purpose of using their organs, tissue<sup>6</sup> and cells, especially kidneys.

The impact that human trafficking is a crime of such atrocity that cannot be dealt with by any country alone led to the foundation of several organisations fighting this crime. Among them the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) are trying to prevent trafficking and to catch the traffickers on all continents. But as those criminals use rather sophisticated<sup>7</sup> methods to get hold of the most vulnerable<sup>8</sup> and their “business” is so “promising”, their rescue actions are rarely successful. Moreover, there is another form of trafficking such as ransom<sup>9</sup> so that the families are to pay or their relative would go into slavery or would have to face death.

According to a British newspaper, the situation worsened when Italy paid Libyan militant groups to reduce the number of migrants and boat people trying to get to Italy. That is why many people make it to the Italian islands and end up in detention centres<sup>10</sup> of Libyan militia, where they risk being kidnapped and auctioned. The most unbelievable point about this is that potential migrants, being warned about the risks of slavery, would not believe it and would hold on to “their successful trip” to Europe.

A newspaper editor gives a shocking account about slavery in the very middle of English towns as he wants to raise awareness among the people. The same is the objective of Will Kerr, Director of Vulnerabilities of the NCA (National Crime Agency), who says that there is a

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