

Globalization – Arguments for Cons

1. Loss of cultural identity (homogenization)

Globalization has caused a rapid spread in a dominant culture, namely, the Western, American culture. This homogenization has led to a loss of diversity that initially encompassed our land when mammals first arrived on Earth. The media displays advertisements, materialistic goods, arousing new desires in people all over the world alike, influencing everybody from different social classes and of different cultures. Let the nation be developed or undeveloped, these Western values, brands are being replicated, promoting them as superior, making them attractive and sought after. Non-western cultures are at risk of becoming extinct as they are less publicized, and are simply not as valued on the global market. Many of these products, ideals contradict the influenced ones culture. But because of their popularity, and how the media has conditioned people to believe that these are the ideals, and the only ideals people should strive for, traditional faiths have become replaced. This leads to a confused generation that find no roots to return to, no unique culture they possess. For example, the Ladakhi people used to have a unique self-supporting culture, without a need for material goods, even without a GDP. However, with the introduction of western material goods, movies, and commercials, people have begun to reject their own backward and inferior traditions for the utopian one dimensional images they encounter everyday. These people have already become dependent on the government for their basic needs, and have turned to buying products on the market instead. This has not only led to a feeling of self loss, weakness and inferiority, it has also led to identity problems. Hence globalization is only beneficial to the West, as it is their product, image that is being promoted, bringing more income for them, at the cost of disintegrating other cultures.

2. Causes economic problems and does not improve the quality of life

Globalization has led to a larger demand of goods, of the same kind to be replicated all over the world. Free trade and deregulation, the lessening or complete removal of government regulations on an industry, especially concerning the price that firms are allowed to charge and leaving price to be determined by market forces are actually fueling poverty and inequality. Globalization excludes the poor and only benefits the middle class and mostly the upper class and elite. Globalization concentrates wealth in the top, retaining the status quo by keeping the poor on the bottom. Globalization has caused a loss of jobs because of increased outsourcing. Many skilled workers in the top especially in the US are feeling the competition and how they are squashed, and sometimes replaced by workers of other nations that do the same job for less. In addition, globalization will only widen the gap between rich and poor on a global scale. Developing countries will fall behind if they do not have a technological revolution. Because of free trade, small farmers, private owners are neglected as they simply do not have the power to compete with the large cooperations and conglomerates. Even though some statistics show that overall wealth has actually

increased, it must be noted that more specifically, the wealth rose only because the wealthy have only become richer, and the poor have actually become poorer. Globalization also does not improve the quality of life. Globalization leads to mass production, which means more factories are established, and more people are employed. However, this leads to environmental damage. For example the Ladakh have lost their previous carefree and natural life due to globalization, and have become just like any other developing or developed nation on earth.

3. Creates mass production of cheaply produced goods

Although globalization has benefited the consumer, by offering a greater variety of lower-priced products and services, they are of a lower quality, putting our young, environment, and future at stake.

Globalization has created an increased demand of the same product, hence, the original designers go to less developed countries with cheaper less skilled labor to do the outsourcing. Yet, cheaply produced goods skim on high quality ingredients so to speak, and the end result is mass recalls, and tarnishing of a company's reputation. For example, China is notoriously known for producing tainted products. This can be attributed to China trying to keep up with the economic globalization trend after being dormant for many years. It was only recently that China stopped exporting Aqua dot bead toys that contained toxic substances, detected to be the same as the chemical often used in date rape drugs. The toys have caused some children who swallowed the craft toys to vomit and lose consciousness. Around 3 children fell into a comatose state and others were severely ill with vomiting and nausea. It ranked as a top 10 Christmas toy, but sadly had to be removed. Mattel toys were coated with lead, cat and dog food contained tainted gluten. All these incidents came as a result of mass production. Hence, consumers may feel that they are being provided with more options, but in fact, they have less confidence in what they buy as what is written on the tag is not necessarily where it was made, and the bigger cooperations get with more projects, the less safe their customers will be as not all safety regulations can be met.