

## Week 2                      Globalization - Dimensions & Domains

**Below are some highlights. These comments are not intended to be exhaustive of the issues discussed in class. They are indicative at most.**

### 2.1 Background

- **Last week we talked about the dimensions of globalization – the topics across which globalization takes place – meaning and activities**
  
- **Among the key dimensions are –**
  - 1 economic
  - 2 demographic
  - 3 environmental
  - 4 strategic
  - 5 communication
  - 6 constitutive
  - 7 decision (collective action)

Please note that item 2 above was not included in the list discussed in class. An oversight. Part II of the course is on migration, hence 'demographic'.

**What are the implications of each? What is missing from the above?**

#### 2.1.1 The Global System

- In principle, the global system refers to the **earth, its geological and geographical** features, its flora and fauna, and its surroundings (including the sun) which provide a unique and indispensable environment for life as we experience it.
  
- Includes **humans** and their habitats

- To simplify, once we have **released our toxins into the soil**, water, and air, for example, nature's processes take control – with no respect for regimes and boundaries.
- And the **forging of cyberspace**, an essentially technological achievement, invariably alters the traditional distributions of ‘voices’ in international relations, possibly shaping new domains for interactions – relevant to human behavior, the role of the state, and the structure of the international system.

### 2.1.2 The Globalization Continuum

- From a theoretical perspective, however, the spectrum of globalization definitions is bracketed by two views, one at each end of the symbolic continuum:
  - At the one end is the conventional view focuses largely on economics and economic transactions;
  - at the other is an emergent view that stresses the of the complexity of globalization and transformations that are generated by the complexities.

#### Conventional View

- Defines globalization as the increased integration of national economies in terms of input, factor, and final product markets.
- Much of the related scholarship pertaining to globalization thus focuses on *within-state* impacts and state-based responses. It also concentrates largely on cross-border coordination and harmonization, most notably on matters of divergence and convergence in policy responses.

#### Emergent View

Globalization refers to the *movements* of populations, goods and services, influences, effluents, actions and reactions, etc., *across state boundaries* that

- Alter the *structure* of national economies and societies,

- Create new *interdependencies* across economies and societies, and
- Change the established *processes* of movements across boundaries;

These changes, in turn, significantly *alter the structure* of the international system;

- Changes in structures and processes forge *new policy spaces* and
- Require *new forms of coordinated* policy responses

### **The Core**

On this basis, then, the essence of globalization, then,

- lies in the *transformations* in structures and processes
- that lead to the formation of common and
- overlapping *policy spaces* and shared institutional responses.

The emerging logic of globalization suggests that almost everyone is involved in process and everyone is affected – albeit in different ways.