

GIACOMINI

Angelina

5°C

013 BAC BLANC

Part 1

19/03/21

Graded at 19,5

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or
experienced

Geography essay 2

- Coop. & tensions at different scales -

Thatcher

Since the 1980s under the Reagan or Thatcher administrations, free trade has known an unprecedented growth with the low cost of labor in developing countries and the delocalization of western companies overseas.

it operates
at all →
scales

Operating at ~~either~~ local, interregional, or global scale, globalization has three main actors: transnational corporations, states, and international organizations. Present in multiple fields (industry, finance, culture), some are now questioning the limits of free trade and its impact of environment and politics of a country. We could argue that globalization is endowed of a paradoxical nature: it is both a catalyst for development through states' cooperation and for inequalities and tensions due to the countries difference.

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↓
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argued'

To begin with, globalization is ensured by international organizations as they promote cooperation. Constituted of major actors (World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), International

Monetary fund) and international summits of major powers (G7, G20), they encourage the deregulation of exchanges to provide a better level of integration to states into the global economy. For instance, the WTO values free trade and helps nations solve their differences to limit custom barriers. Thus, all of this various measures and institutions affect globalization positively through cooperation.

This latter gives birth to specific economic partnerships between states. We could take the example of the peculiar relationship between the West Indies and Caribbean region and North America. Due to their proximity, many american companies have delocalized ~~themselves~~ into the free zones of the many islands. Therefore, it fosters technologies, generates trade, and creates jobs. For instance, the Dominican Republic free zone sector comprises 71 parks, 665 companies, and over 150,000 direct jobs. ^{Furthermore} As well, the EU-Russia entertain a specific partnership. Even though it seemed to have hit rock bottom in the past decade, recent developments have since proved otherwise. After all, their economic relationship could be described as intensive: trade with Europe accounted for more than 45% of Russia's total foreign trade volume. On the other hand, a significant share of foreign investment in Russia is made by european companies. Furthermore, the two aim to strengthen their relation in the face of mutual threats and challenges such as terrorism, illegal

* in the area

immigration, drugs and human trafficking, and the effects of climate change. To sum, the example of this two partnerships illustrates further how cooperation in globalization allows states to develop and address issues.

These issues and development perspectives are reinforced by projects and alliances in globalization. Latin America ~~perfectly~~ illustrates this notion with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the bi-oceanic corridors, or the Pacific Alliance. The BRI, also known as the 21st century silk road, would mark a paradigm shift in worldwide development of infrastructures. Signed by 131 countries and mobilizing \$575 \$ worth of investment, the project extended to Latin America. After all, the BRI would be a great opportunity to further international engagement and cooperation. Not only would it allow the region an expanded access to China, the level of dialogues and exchanges would increase and long term ^{commercial} relation would be forged. As the BRI would contribute to integrate the region on a global scale, the Bi-oceanic corridor would be a catalyst for a development network in the region itself. Indeed, by linking the Pacific and Atlantic coasts by railway, it would give the landlocked states an access to the sea. Furthermore, the Pacific Alliance is another example of the ~~the~~ nation's will to integrate the region. Comprising Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Colombia, the ~~alliance~~ ^{*} actively searches for trade deals with the rest of the developed world. In 2015, ~~they~~ met ASEAN and spoke about the potential benefits of forging economic ties. Hence?

* economic
and political
bloc

this make of the Pacific Alliance an efficient and auspicious alliance that aims to integrate the Latin America into globalization. All in all, different actors ensure the running of the global economy through cooperation. This latter is achieved due to multiple processes such as infrastructures projects, alliances, partnerships whether it is against threats or in a strictly economic viewpoint.

attempts at

Nonetheless, tentative attempts of cooperation are not always successful: some alliances are doomed to end, or at least, encounter difficulties. This is the case for the Mercosur Alliance, another Latin American economic and political bloc. Built at a time where Argentina and Brazil sought to improve their relations, the alliance ~~has~~ since failed to live up to its ambition to integrate the region. Not only the bloc commitment to democracy is being questioned after the election of right wing presidents in Argentina and Brazil, Brazil's controversial environmental policies has led the European Union to refuse a deal with them. Hence, Brazil domestic policies is knowingly or unknowingly sabotaging the alliance. Similarly, the EU-Russia relation is quite complex. Despite that Russia is Europe's key energy supplier, their partnership is characterized by escalating contradictions and tensions (Belarus's political crisis, discord over Navalny poisoning, accusation of interference in election and domestic affairs).

As a result, the safeguard of peace and stability of the continent is limited.

comprising
also Paraguay,
Uruguay,
and
Venezuela

Geography essay 2

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Therefore, actors' viewpoints tend to diverge, whether it is on a regional or global scales, and lead to tensions. Thus, globalization and even worldwide integration is slowed by diverging political beliefs and policies, reluctance, and disagreements.

These tensions can only be exacerbated by the terms used to describe this uneven integration. The terms north and south to divide developed and developing countries is now irrelevant. More accurate after WW2 in the political context of decolonization, certain states in the south (geographically) could be classed as Northern countries and vice versa. The apparition of BRICS questioned this unnecessary division. Both India and Brazil, located in the South, are ~~globally~~ ranked respectively as the 5th and 8th world's biggest GDP. The fact that India is ranked higher than France and the United Kingdom, two nations considered as great powers, shows that the division is basically a western vision of the world. Thus, as the west tend to undermine southern ~~most~~ powerful countries, tensions are doomed to happen which lead to the transformation of the pattern of international relations.

Finally, globalization and its consequences can generate issues and inequalities. For that reason, globalization actors are criticized by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) due to the significant political, environmental, and

* This feeds
illegal immigration
flows, along with
drug and
humans
trafficking.

social costs of free trade. The exploitation of labor and their surroundings greatly degrade the environment and create important inequalities. These disparities have for instance been reinforced in the West Indies and Caribbean region with the delocalization of companies in the island's fiscal paradise. The Bahamas and the Caymanas have a HDI higher than 0.8 whereas neighboring islands like Haiti are suffering from under development. As a result, recently, protectionist practices seem to have reappeared on the economic scene. Opposing free trade, these practices aim to protect a country's domestic economy from international competition. Thus, this return, directly linked to tensions between actors, means a step back in globalization. Similarly, bilateral accords have been preferred over multilateral agreements. The world is gradually transforming towards a more individualist one where states only do what's relevant to their interest.

All in all, tensions and cooperations between states, transnational corporations, and international organizations greatly influence the running of the global economy. While cooperation enables development and assistance in the face of challenges, some states are unavoidably left out of this process. As a result, this development gap lead to illegal traffics (animals, drugs, human) and

immigration. As well, rich and developed states have also been affected by globalization. western democracies suffer from political instability after a significant disappearance of jobs towards manufacturing countries. That is why a new society is progressively paving its way: protectionism and bilateralism are returning while southern states are becoming the pillars of globalization.