

Lecture 1 - September 12

Questions for Study

General

This week's authors cover many of the arguments for and against globalization that we will come across in greater detail throughout the semester. After reading them, ask yourself:

- a. Which arguments do you find most convincing, and why? You may like to reconsider your answer to this question again at the end of the semester to see if you've changed your opinion.
- b. Are the supporters and critics of globalization always as much in disagreement as they appear? If yes, what are the main points of contention? If not, then what do you think drives their disagreements?
- c. What, of anything, is different about the types of evidence used by supporters and critics of globalization? To what degree are the authors' positions on globalization determined by the types of evidence they employ?

Specific

Tina Rosenberg, "The Free Trade Fix"

1. Rosenberg argues both that globalization is too open, and also that it is not open enough. How does she reconcile these apparently contradictory positions? What do you make of her arguments?
2. What are the solutions Rosenberg offers for the ills of globalization? To what degree do they address the criticisms she levels? Do you find them realistic?

The Economist, "Globalization and its critics: A Survey of Globalization"

1. The Economist survey argues that Import Substituting Industrialization (ISI) policies failed in part because policy implementation led to unexpected and pernicious outcomes. How was import substitution supposed to operate? Why is it understood to have failed? Could such policies work if done differently?
2. The Economist survey refutes critics of globalization who argue it harms state capacity. What are the three main charges made by critics against globalization's effect on state capacity? What does The Economist argue in response?

William Greider, *One World, Ready or Not*, ch.1-2.

1. What is the main driver of globalization for Greider? Does this capture everything in your opinion? If not, what does Greider miss?
2. Who are the main actors in Greider's story? Who are the winners and losers in the "One World"? Why? Do you agree?
3. Greider offers a grab bag of social consequences inherent in the development of "One World"? Are all of these persuasive? What evidence does he bring to bear to prove his thesis?
4. Do you think Greider is a supporter or a critic of "One World"? Why?

Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*, ch.6-8.

1. Wolf states that the conflict between "the natural tendency of markets to cross borders, and the need for the states that define those borders to support markets is at the heart of all the challenges created by the global economy." (p.78-79). What does he mean?
2. Wolf argues that liberalization is not "an all or nothing affair." (p.80) Do you agree? Which components of the world economy are most liberalized today? Which are not?
3. What are the advantages of trade, as presented by Wolf? Do you agree that each of these benefits are attributable to trade openness? What other explanations are possible (p.81-82)?
4. On pages 107-108 Wolf shows us the case for a relationship trade and prosperity. Do you find his evidence convincing? If not, why not?
5. Wolf presents a version of history that groups the anti-globalizers of today with collectivist ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries, such as nationalism, fascism, and communism. Is this a reasonable reading of history?