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:
  o At the one end is the conventional view focuses largely on economics and economic transactions;
  o 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.