

Are we entering new era of deglobalization?

Outline

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I Introduction

Thesis statement: Although some skeptics argue that globalization is an irreversible process, substantial evidence, such as rising protectionism, trade wars, resurgent nationalism, and the decline of multilateral institutions indicates that the world has indeed entered an era of deglobalization.

II Conceptualizing the term deglobalization

i) Definition

ii) Historical waves of deglobalization

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case in point: U.S. tariff war

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D- Rise of populist and Authoritarian regimes

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B- Bridging the digital divide

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VII Conclusion

In 2009, The Economist noted that, contrary to the accepted dogmas that globalization was irreversible, "the forces of globalization are in retreat on almost every front." After sixteen years, all assumptions of The Economist are becoming true. After witnessing an unprecedented scale of globalization in the last four decades, the world is rapidly moving towards deglobalization. For example, increase in protectionist measures, uncertainties in global economic policies, and a surge in geopolitical tensions show the fall of a single globalized world. Moreover, other factors, such as decline of multilateralism, resurgence of nationalism, and lack of consensus on global challenges further prove the reality of deglobalization. However, people from another school of thought argue otherwise. They believe that globalization is an irreversible process, and modern technological innovations and certain global challenges will ~~inter~~ inter-connect the world more than

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ever before. Anyhow, deglobalization is indeed a reality, and certain strategies like reforming global institutions and bridging the digital divide ^{are} imperative to ensure inclusive globalization.

Although some skeptics argue that globalization is an irreversible process, substantial evidence, such as rising protectionism, trade wars, resurgent nationalism, and decline of multilateral institutions indicates that the world has indeed entered an era of deglobalization.

Deglobalization is a movement towards a less connected world, characterized by a powerful nation states, local solutions, and border controls rather than global institutions, treaties, and free movement. According to some economists, there has been previous period of deglobalization as well. They argue that a period of globalization followed by the end of Napoleonic wars in the 19th, lasting to the beginning of World War One was followed by a period of deglobalization which lasted until

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the early 1950s. Moreover, the ~~decade of~~ 1980s marked the highly intensive period of globalization. However, this phase of globalization is also on verge of decline, being swiftly replaced by the forces of deglobalization.

Several factors portrays that the world has entered to a new era of deglobalization. Among the many indicators, rise in protectionist policies tops the list. After the establishment of World Trade Organization (WTO), states prioritized free trade and open market access to boost trade. This led to the establishment of a single globalized market where countries took mutual benefit from one another. However, the rules of trade have drastically changed over the last few years. For instance, countries like USA and China have imposed tariffs on each other. Similarly, countries in Europe have also tightened their borders and restricted free flow of goods. Hence, it is true

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that protectionist policies are moving the world towards deglobalization.

In the same way, uncertain global economic policies indicate a shift towards deglobalization. Countries are implementing economic policies that are against internationally recognized economic policies. Moreover, such biased policies discourage business and foreign investment. For instance, in the year 2025, more than four multinational companies ceased their operations in Pakistan due to domestic economic challenges. According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), fell by 11% in 2024. Therefore, uncertain economic policies are a threat to globalization.

In addition, surge in geopolitical tensions is another indicator of deglobalization. Since the start of second decade of 21st century, there has been an unprecedented rise in geopolitical tensions. ~~The values of globalization, such~~

~~as free trade, cooperation, collaboration,~~
~~and diversity~~ are in decline. For examples
 growing tensions between USA and
 China, and the war between Russia
 and Ukraine have divided the world
 into many blocs. Furthermore, the recent
 wars waged against Pakistan by its neighbours
 India and Pakistan also manifest the
 fact of increasing deglobalization. Hence,
 geopolitical tensions affect the smooth
 functioning of globalization.

Moreover, rise of populist and
 authoritarian regimes is a negative omen
 for globalization. Populist and authoritarian
 leaders prioritize vested interests and
 temporary gains over collective benefits. Since
 the start of 21st century, authoritarian and
 populist regimes are on the rise
 from North America to Europe, from
 South Asia to middle East. These regimes
 are violating the fundamentals
 of globalization. For example, crackdown on
 immigrants, ^{reduction in} ~~reduced~~ global trade and investment,
 and increase in tariffs and trade
 barriers show the negative impacts
 of populist regimes on globalization.
 Similarly, Brexit in Europe, the construction

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of Mexico-American states border wall manifest the threats to globalization. Therefore, in the presence of authoritarian regimes, deglobalization is imminent.

Moreover, increased emphasis on national security over economic cooperation is another blow to globalization. Modern states prioritize national security over cooperation. Unlike the past technological revolutions that spread rapidly across the globe, modern technological inventions are kept hidden from rest of the world. To illustrate, China recently banned the export of certain rare earth metals. Moreover, USA also imposed embargo on aircrafts, such as F16 and F35. This trend of prioritizing self-interests over collective benefits of all the states leaves behind negative consequences on world order and disrupts the balance of power. Hence, it can be safely asserted that competition in bolstering national security goes against the principles of globalization.

In the same vein, decline in

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multilateralism also highlights the end of globalization. The multilateral organizations, such as UN, World Trade Organization (WTO), and World Health Organization (WHO), were created to ensure peace and collaboration, increase trade and investment, and to create a single globalized world. However, today the world appears more fragmented than ever before. Most of the multilateral organizations have failed to perform their role effectively. Furthermore, the recent trade wars and global conflicts brutally expose the failure of relevant multilateral organizations. For instance, the United Nation has failed to prevent Russian invasion of Ukraine and Israel's genocide on Palestinian. Similarly, World Trade Organization has also failed to reduce the intensity of trade wars and to promote free and fair trade. Hence, the downfall of multilateral organization is the downfall of globalization.

Furthermore, resurgence of nationalism is another threat to globalization. Over the last couple of years,

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Nationalistic tendencies are on the rise.

Nationalism refers to a strong sense of pride and loyalty towards one's own nation, often emphasizing its interests.

Moreover, nationalism affects the very basic principles of globalization. To illustrate, the rise of Hindu nationalism in India under Modi threatens the peaceful coexistence and harmony in the region. India's so called preemptive war against Pakistan further verify the menace of nationalism. Additionally, Trump's America First Policy is another example of ultra-nationalism. No doubt, trade wars, curb on immigrants, and restrictive visa policies manifest the end of principles that once the US champion for. Thus, resurgence of nationalism is ~~a~~ a bad omen for globalization.

Among several other factors, nationalization of ~~a~~ climate policy is another indicator of deglobalization. Some of the powerful global leaders have termed climate change a fake story while some ~~have~~ consider climate change a domestic

threat. To illustrate, the German ruling party in its election manifesto called climate change a national challenge. Similarly, President Trump has long been vocal against climate change and withdrew from Paris Agreement. Hence, terming a global issue as a national challenge proves the ~~beginning~~ starting of an era of deglobalization.

While many analysts argue that the world is entering a new era of deglobalization, others maintain that globalization remains an irreversible process. ~~They contend that technological advancement, digital integration, and cross-border data flows continue to knit the world together in unprecedented ways.~~ Global supply chains, despite temporary disruptions, still dominate international trade. However, this continuity of economic interaction should not be mistaken for actual globalization. The core principles of globalization, such as openness, cooperation, and multilateralism has weakened, indicating ~~an~~ an end to a globalized world order.

Moreover, another argument

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that. skeptics give in favor of globalization is the rising need of increased global cooperation in dealing with certain global threats. They argue that certain challenges like climate change and cybexsecurity cannot be resolved by individual states efforts, ~~but~~ rather they need collective international efforts. However, evidence show that global threats in the past have failed to unite the world and they will continue to in the future as well. For instance, global pandemic Covid-19 could not succeed to ~~connect~~ unite the world; similarly, climate change and cybexsecurity won't make a difference either.

After discussing the factors contributing to deglobalization, it is imperative to shed light on the implications of deglobalization on the world order. Among several of its impacts, reduction in global economic growth tops the list. The global economy is based on open market, free trade, and cooperation. No doubt, disruption of any single upper mentioned factors will severely affect the global economic

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growth rate. Since the start of global trade wars and disruption of supply chains, the global economic rate is slowed by 11 percent. In addition, smaller countries that depended on larger countries are also experiencing slow growth due to the startling waves of deglobalization.

Hence, deglobalization leads to slow economic growth.

Similarly, increase in geopolitical tensions and conflicts are also a result of deglobalization. Deglobalization brings the countries at odd with one another. This is evident amid the rising tensions between China and USA. Moreover, the Russian-Ukrainian war is another example of eroding globalization. Once bilateral engagements, multilateral organizations and platforms engaged countries in peaceful resolving of conflicts and tensions. However, at present all the multilateral platforms are in decline. Therefore, deglobalization disturb the peace and harmony of the world.

While the implications^{and causes} of deglobalization are many and complex, they are not insurmountable. A range of pragmatic

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and well structured reforms can revitalize globalization and align it with the needs of modern world. First of all, the multilateral international institutions must be entirely reformed. At the present, all the multilateral platform are either too weak to enforce their decisions or are dominated by a few powerful states. These institutions must give uniform representation to all the states irrespective of size and status. This will end the dominance of certain states on multilateral organizations. In addition, the decision taken by organisation like UN, WTO and ICT must be binding and be enforced in letter and spirit.

Secondly, states must work to bridge the digital divide. The actual fruits of globalization cannot be enjoyed in a digitally divided world. A significant portion of the world still lacks access to digital and technological innovations. Digital divide can be reduced by providing free digital tools to those who ~~lack~~ don't have them. Moreover, the technologically advanced countries must help the less developed countries in developing

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digital infrastructure. Additionally, the public must be trained and well-educated regarding the benefits and usage of digital tools. Therefore, in the technological era, equal access to digital platforms is imperative for globalization to succeed.

Thirdly, promoting people-centered globalization is important to ensure inclusive globalization. People-centered globalization refers to prioritization of human well-being, social justice, and equality. The earlier waves of globalization benefited a few selective elites as they ^{merely} prioritized profit and economic growth. However, in order to ensure people-centered globalization, prioritization should be given to ~~human rights and dignity~~. Additionally, ~~labors' rights and environmental standards~~ must be protected. Moreover, social protections and welfare, and international accountability are important for ensuring people-centered globalization. Hence, for inclusive globalization to prevail, promoting people-centered globalization is essential.

To conclude, it ~~can be~~ stated

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that the world is enter. to a new era of deglobalization. The factors responsible for deglobalization are many and ~~the~~ its consequences are dire. Free trade, global cooperation and collaboration, and multilateralism are being replaced by tariffs, ultra-nationalism, and unilateral policies. The rise of deglobalization fuels stagnant economic growth and geopolitical tensions. However, everything is not lost yet; with sincere will and determination, the indicators of deglobalization can be reversed. Reforming global institutions and promoting people-centered globalizations can restore globalization. But the question remains—those who hold power choose globalization for the collective benefit of all mankind, or deglobalization for self-benefit?

well done