

GLOBALIZATION QUOTATIONS

“Globalization is neither new, nor in general a folly... For over thousands of years, globalization has contributed to the progress of the world through travel, trade, migration, spread of cultural influences, and dissemination of knowledge and understanding. When a modern mathematician in Boston invokes an algorithm to solve a computational problem, she may not be aware that she is helping to commemorate the Arab mathematician Mohammad Ibn Musa-al-Khwarizmi.”

—Amartya Sen, economist, Nobel laureate

“Globalization, what does it mean? I keep saying, we are pro-globalization ... we should have global treaties on nuclear weapons, on international justice, on environmental issues, and how can there not be that kind of globalization? It isn't a vague debate about whether globalization is good or bad. You've got to understand what it means ... it keeps warping and changing.”

—Arundhati Roy, Indian novelist and activist

“Globalization has a distinctly American face: it wears Mickey Mouse ears, it eats Big Macs, it drinks Coke or Pepsi, and it does its computing on an IBM or Apple laptop, using ... Therefore, while the distinction between what is globalization and what is Americanization may be clear to most Americans, it is not to many others around the world.”

—Thomas Friedman, journalist, United States

“Underneath it all is a feeling that globalization has not brought the benefits to the poor as promised. The architecture of the world financial system is decided by finance ministers behind closed doors, but farmers and small businessmen are the ones who get hurt.”

—Jeffrey Sachs, economist, Harvard University, April 2000

“To realize the full possibilities of the new economy, we must reach beyond our own borders, to shape the revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations and individuals, economies and cultures: globalization. It is the central reality of our time.”

—President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, January 27, 2000

“In some countries like mine ... because of globalization, people have the right to live and to share their opinions on whatever topic.”

—Lesly Jules, student, Haiti*

*Oxfam International Youth Parliament Action Partner, July 2004

“Free trade is a proven strategy for building global prosperity and adding to the momentum of global freedom.”

—President George W. Bush, signing the Trade Act of 2002

“Globalization means that we get larger and largersized middlemen, fewer and fewer of them making bigger and bigger margins ... When measured in terms of national economies, there’s growth. But, when measured in terms of the worker, the peasant, the farmer, the woman, there’s a huge, huge disenfranchisement.”

—Vandana Shiva, physicist, environmental activist

“The homogenizing influences of globalization ... are actually positive; globalization promotes integration and the removal not only of cultural barriers but of many of the negative dimensions of culture. Globalization is a vital step toward both a more stable world and better lives for the people in it.”

**—David Rothkopf, “In Praise of Cultural Imperialism,”
Foreign Policy, June 22, 1997**

“Globalization is the possibility of knowing what is happening everywhere without leaving a room. It is being able to discuss ideas and exchange information with everyone, and knowing what happens on the other part of the planet as it occurs.”

—Camila Argolo Godinho, college student, Brazil*

*Oxfam International Youth Parliament Action Partner, July 2004

“In an era of global capitalism, cultural distinctiveness can become more important, not less important. Because it’s sort of what people have left.”

**—Theda Skocpol, Professor of Government and
Sociology and Dean of the Graduate School of Arts
and Sciences at Harvard University**