

PREFACE

Globalization may not be popular during periods of economic slowdown and high unemployment, but it has benefited the world far more than it cost. Without free or free international trade and investment, improvements in transportation, communication, and information technologies might not have advanced as quickly as they have. It was the lure of higher profits that incentivized business enterprises or investors to seek new and more efficient methods to transport greater quantities of goods across the globe faster and cheaper. Without immigration, the developed economies, particularly the United States might not have earned its status as the world's leader in innovation. Its well-funded universities have attracted and will continue to attract some of the world's best and brightest minds to its shores. Without international cooperation, peace between major powers might not have lasted as long as it did. In short, there is every reason for globalization to be promoted and embraced.

Indeed, it could be argued that globalization, for all its flaws and contradictions, is needed more than ever before in human history. Increasing protectionism threatens to undo all the good things that globalization has given to the world. A return to the era of import restrictions would trigger trade wars from which no country benefits. Rising tensions between major powers could lead the world to a war from which hundreds of millions of people will perish and countless properties destroyed. It is these scary scenarios that prompted me to write this book, hoping to play a small role in triggering a rational debate on globalization in university classrooms, policy communities, and public

forums. Until another planet suitable for human habitation is discovered, the Earth is our only home. World governments must not only preserve it but make it more livable for all of humanity and other forms of life.

It is also the hope that universities and colleges would encourage undergraduate economic, political science, and other students to study globalization. Being future leaders of government, business, labor organizations, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations, they should have an understanding of globalization. Having taught the course for 15 years at Capilano University in Canada, students found the subject informative and relevant for their future endeavors. Indeed, my students and colleagues made valuable inputs in writing this book.

I hope the book is a suitable textbook for an undergraduate globalization issues-oriented course. The lack of a such a reference book impedes teaching effectiveness and learning. This book covers most if not all major and relevant topics of globalization, affording professors and students with the necessary information for teaching, learning, and debating this very important and timely topic.

Whether we support or oppose globalization, its impact on all of our lives cannot be understated. For this reason, we should understand it better so that we can determine for ourselves whether globalization should be promoted or ended. An understanding of the aspects of globalization would also afford us the knowledge to assess the information that is propagated by various vested groups objectively and rationally to avoid disastrous developments. For example, the public should be able to determine whether China, Russia, or any other country is really threatening our interests or security.

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