



GLOBALIZATION AND NATIONALISM: THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS CONTRADICTIONARY

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Abstract

Globalization and Nationalism have often been evoked as the two defining features of the modern world. Globalization has largely made the world less pluralistic, and the homogenization of the world community as a whole has had large effects on 21st-century nationalism as stated by Erwin (2017). The increased flow of capital, people, and customs due to Globalization has placed the role of contemporary Nationalism into question. At this premise the core purpose of the present study is to examine the relationship between Globalization and Nationalism in the contemporary era. There is a vast literature dealing with globalization and nationalism both separately and in connection with each other as stated by Sabanadze in 2010. The thrust areas of this paper are concept and understanding of Globalization and Nationalism and the changing relationship between Globalization and Nationalism.

Keywords: Globalization, Nationalism, Confrontation, Deterritorialization, Economic evolution, Liberalization, World Order, Crossroads, Cultural Imperialism, Identity Politics.

INTRODUCTION:

The emphasis on an inextricable relationship shared by Globalization and Nationalism in the 21st century has been considerable, the nature of which constitutes, more often than not, resistance and confrontation. They most certainly can be seen playing a major role in the determination of world order as a consequence of factors including, but not limited to, recent accretions in cultural deterritorialization, economic evolution along with liberalization of protectionist policies owing to a development-centric approach of the nations in a world where no nation wants to be left behind by virtue of stifled international relations.

The past few decades have witnessed a convergence where Globalization and nationalism have had a largely contemporary rift due to the magnitude to which globalization has occurred in the 21st century. In an age characterized by the homogenizing nature of globalization, it becomes imperative to study the nature of the interaction between these two concepts where

every nation is at a crossroads with regards to any policy decision, the implications of which have ceased to operate locally.

The scope of this paper, therefore, includes a study of the nature of the relationship between Globalization and Nationalism, concerning arguments where one diminishes the other, where Globalization facilitates and thus increases Nationalism and the existence of a mixed relationship between the two. The paper also discusses the nature of nationalism that has evolved to lay more emphasis on 'superiority' as compared to 'unification'. The study traces the role of nationalism in the past, where nationalistic superiority fueled World wars and economic evolution led to neo-liberal economic policies responsible for shaping the world as it is. An insight into the reaction to an upsurge in cultural imperialism and the effect thereof leading to a recent rise in right-wing extremism and identity politics in countries across the globe have also been deliberated upon amongst other key contentions in this respect.

MEANING OF GLOBALIZATION AND NATIONALISM:

Globalization is defined as the elimination of barriers to trade, communication, and cultural exchange. The world today has become very different from what it was previously, because of globalization. With advances in technology and communications, the world becomes deterritorialized, the constraints of geography shrink and the world becomes more singular and unified.

The term 'nationalism' refers to the feelings of attachment to one another that members of a nation have, and to a sense of pride that a nation has in itself. Nationalism is in itself an international ideology, which can be used to promote and defend a particular culture and way of life. An example of nationalism is when a person moves out of their home country, yet still cheers for their home country's sports teams and continues to stay up to date with the local news. Nationalism is the foundation of modern society and social solidarity; it is also used by politicians to promote national unity and patriotism.

CONCEPT AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBALIZATION AND NATIONALISM

Globalization and nationalism have often been evoked as the two defining features of the modern world. The former represents rising deterritorialization, integration and universal interconnectedness while the latter arguably represents fragmentation, localization and isolation. The coexistence of these two, arguably opposing, tendencies became particularly problematic in the aftermath of the Cold War, when the world seemed to be struggling with the contradictory processes of nationalist fragmentation on the one hand and global integration on the other. As Ian Clark observed: "the 1990s displayed marked tendencies in both directions at the same time; if anything the economic dimensions of globalization have grown vigorously but they coexist with the unforeseen resurgence of nationalism, which has ruptured the international community, as well as some of its constituent states."⁰¹ The simultaneous rise of nationalistic and globalizing tendencies came to be seen as one of the central paradoxes of the past decade taking many observers by surprise. According to Michael Ignatieff, "with blithe lightness of mind, we assumed that the world was moving irrevocably beyond nationalism, beyond tribalism, beyond the provincial confines of the identity inscribed in our passports towards a global market culture

which was to be our new home. In retrospect, we were whistling in the dark. The oppressed has returned and its name is nationalism.”⁰² Similarly Stuart Hall has characterized the resurgence of nationalism alongside globalization as a “remarkable reversal, a most unexpected turn of events.”⁰³ The sense of paradox, according to Anthony Smith, has been heightened by the fact that in the Western half of Europe the national state appeared to be divesting itself of its powers while in the Eastern half it was eagerly re-appropriating those same powers “after the long Soviet winter of political passivity.”⁰⁴

Understanding the relationship between globalization and nationalism is the main purpose of this work. In doing so it tries to address the following main questions: What is the link between globalization and nationalism? How does it translate into reality and what empirical evidence supports the existence of such a relationship? And what does it tell us about the nature of contemporary nationalism? There is a vast literature dealing with globalization and nationalism both separately and in connection with each other. A majority of commentators perceive the strength and resilience of nationalism in the era of globalization as a paradox of a world that is simultaneously coming together and coming apart. In this view globalization and nationalism are contradictory processes, the two opposites that are deeply connected through dialectical or causal links. Globalization is arguably generating nationalist backlash in response to and as a counter-reaction against those globalizing tendencies that appear to threaten local cultures and identities. Nationalism appears to have found a renewed sense of purpose and meaning in the context of globalization, which is one of the reasons behind the “surprising” nationalist revival taking place around the world.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GLOBALIZATION AND NATIONALISM:

When it comes to the relationship between globalization and nationalism, it can be said that there have been three major arguments, they are as follows:

1. The first argument says that globalization has diminished nationalism, through increased interdependence and weakening the national barriers between countries.
2. The second argument says that globalization and nationalism have a mixed relationship in which one has led to the other and one promotes the other.
3. The third argument says that globalization has increased the sense of nationalism in such a way that national extremism has emerged

1. In the first argument, in which globalization seems to diminish nationalism, John Kusumi argues that, “Globalization is the anti-thesis of nationalism as it suggests that there are no boundaries just one globe” (Godfrey, 2008)⁰⁵. The importance of nationalism diminishes, as “we live in a world that is simultaneously shrinking and expanding, growing closer and further apart, national borders are increasingly irrelevant.” (Attale: 1991, quoted in Lerche: 1998)⁰⁶. Thus, with globalization, nationalism has lost the power to keep the people of one nation together and draw a red line between different nationalities.

Aspects where Globalization causes challenges to Nationalism:

- a. Overseas employments causing brain drain
- b. Monopoly of international brands

- c. Impacts on moral values and traditions
- d. Increased demand for foreign attires
- e. Strong influence of international languages
- f. Shift in entertainment activities
- g. Trends of art and literature
- h. Impact on eating habits

2. The second argument is that globalization and nationalism have a mixed relationship in which one has led to the other and one promotes the other. Some see globalization as the result of nationalism, because each nation has participated and gives something to the globe in a successful collective action (unknown, Nationalism and Globalization, 2009)⁰⁷. This suggests that each independent nation has in one way or another been involved in making up the globe as it is now. This could have happened through the interaction of trade in old days. Thus, without the existence of nationalism, globalization would not be happening.

Fields where Globalization and Nationalism can co-exist:

- a. Sharing of democratic norms and values
- b. Globalized struggle for fundamental human rights
- c. Fight against the menace of terrorism
- d. Sharing of technology
- e. Exchange of knowledge
- f. Enhanced tourism
- g. Concerted efforts for women empowerment
- h. Joint efforts for poverty eradication
- i. Globalized banking sector

3. The third argument says that globalization has increased the sense of nationalism in such a way that national extremism has emerged. According to Douglas Kellner, From the quotation, we see that nationalism in the age of globalization is a response to economic and political problems. As globalization is an external force that is pushing on the localities resulting in a diminishing national sense, localities have responded very strongly to this pressure by adopting a stronger national sense. According to Giddens, “The revival of local nationalism and an accentuating of local identities are directly bound up with globalizing influences to which they stand in opposition” (Giddens: 1994 quoted in Natalie: 2010)⁰⁸.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion it can be said that with growing globalization and the associated changes it has brought to the world, minorities, nationalities, and localities have awakened and become more aware of the threat of globalization. This has led to an increased national sense as a response to the force of globalization in order to protect cultures, traditions, and nationalities from melting or adopting the new structure of the world that is caused by globalization (Abdulsattar, 2013). Thus, fearing the force of globalization has given birth to the term ‘Xenophobia’ in which people fear that their nationality and traditions will disappear in the face of globalization and hence, people tend to preserve their customs and traditions or re- establish

old traditions in which they maintain their identity (Abdulsattar, 2013)⁰⁹. Lastly, it is accepted that globalization has the innate potential to contain aggressive nationalism that put emphasis on isolation and insecurity. Along with this, Globalization also creates incentives for the resolution and prevention of conflict because of the integration at the same time.

Therefore, character-building in educational institutions, invigorating local media for promotion of national values, celebration of national days and events with full zeal and zest, strengthening of local industry, creation of employment opportunities to check brain drain, inculcation of moral values and balanced globalized economy and society are required in order to maintain a interdependent relationship between Globalization and Nationalism for the sake of well being of people and state at local and global level.

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