

4.2 Global challenges

Globalisation

“ Globalization is a fact, because of technology, because of an integrated global **supply chain**, because of changes in **transportation**. And we're not going to be able to build a wall around that. ”

Barack Obama, former US president

What is globalisation?

Globalisation is described as the process by which countries are becoming increasingly **interconnected** and **interdependent**. Although it is not a new **phenomenon**, the **rate of globalisation** has increased dramatically in recent years. Improvements in **transport** mean that **raw materials** and **goods** can be **shipped rapidly** around the world, and people are able to move within countries and across **borders** to look for better **employment opportunities**. In addition, improvements in mobile communication and the internet have **enabled** people to connect and **exchange** ideas very easily, which means that the world has **shrunk**. Globalisation affects us in many different ways, including **economically**, culturally, environmentally, politically and socially.

Some positive effects

Globalisation has positive **impacts**: it **promotes** international **trade** and **competition**, as **protectionist barriers against imports** are **removed**, and it has **contributed to** economic **stability** in many regions. As companies are able to **access** cheaper raw materials and **labour**, this can also be **beneficial to local communities**. Some large companies **outsource** technology-based **services** such as **call centres** to countries where labour is cheaper. This has **benefited** local **economies**, led to **poverty reduction**, higher **standards of living**, as well as improvements in **infrastructure** and education. **Ethically responsible** companies **ensure** that workers are not **exploited** but are paid fair **wages**. It is also **advantageous** for **consumers** as they can **purchase** goods at lower prices and **have access to** a wider range of products.

Thanks to technological **advances**, **awareness of** global issues has increased, thus also **facilitating collective action** around the world. In addition, it has become easier for **scientists** and **academics** to **collaborate** on international **research projects**.

supply chain D
transportation [ˈtrɒnzˌpɔːrt] S

interconnected D,W,S,A
interdependent W

phenomenon [fɪˈnɒmɪnən]

rate of globalisation D

transport

raw material

goods pl S

to ship sth

rapidly syn quickly

border

employment opportunity [ˌɒpɔːtʊːnɪti] [ˈɒpɔːtʊːnɪti]

to enable sth

to exchange sth

to shrink (shrank, shrunk) S,A

economically [iːkəˈnɒmɪkəli] W

impact [ˈɪmpækt]

to promote sth

trade

competition [ˌkɒmpɪˈtɪʃən] D,W,S,A

protectionist [prəˈtektʃənɪst] **barriers against**

imports

to remove sth

to contribute [kənˈtrɪbjʊːt] **to sth** D,W,S,A

to access [ˈæksɪs] **sth**

→ **to have access to sth**

labour sing S

beneficial to sth

local community

to outsource [ˌaʊtsɔːs] D,W

services pl

to benefit sb/sth

economy [iˈkɒnəmi] D,W,S

poverty reduction

standard of living

ethically responsible

to ensure sth

to exploit [ˌeksplɔɪt] **sb**

wage D,S

advantageous [ˌædvənˈteɪdʒəs]

consumer D,W,S

to purchase [ˈpɜːtʃəs] **sth** fml S,A

→ **purchasing power**

advance [ˈædvəns]

awareness [əˈweərnəs] **of sth**

to facilitate sth S,A

collective [kəˈlektɪv] **action**

scientist

academic

to collaborate

research [rɪˈsɜːtʃ] **project**

Lieferkette
Beförderung

miteinander verbunden
voneinander abhängig
Phänomen
Globalisierungsgrad
hier: Transportmöglichkeiten

Rohstoff

Waren

etw. befördern

(sehr) schnell

Grenze

Beschäftigungschance

etw. ermöglichen

etw. austauschen

schrumpfen, kleiner werden

wirtschaftlich

Auswirkung

etw. fördern

Handel

Wettbewerb

Importschranken zum Schutz der heimi-

schen Wirtschaft

etw. entfernen, etw. beseitigen

zu etw. beitragen

hier: an etw. gelangen

→ Zugang zu etw. haben

hier: Arbeitskräfte

für etw. nützlich/vorteilhaft sein

Gemeinde

etw. auslagern, etw. outsourcen

Dienstleistungen

jmdm./etw. nutzen/zugutekommen

Wirtschaft

Armutsminderung

Lebensstandard

ethisch verantwortungsbewusst

etw. sicherstellen

jmdn. ausbeuten

Lohn

vorteilhaft

Verbraucher/-in, Konsument/-in

etw. kaufen

→ Kaufkraft

Fortschritt

Bewusstsein für etw.

etw. erleichtern, etw. ermöglichen

kollektives Handeln

Naturwissenschaftler/-in

Wissenschaftler/-in

zusammenarbeiten

Forschungsprojekt

Some negative sides to globalisation

At the same time, globalisation has negative impacts: **critics** say that rich countries have **profited at the expense of developing countries**. The formation of **transnational companies** (TNCs) has **led to** the **demise** of smaller businesses as well as the **homogenisation** of culture. The **relocation** of **production facilities** to countries with cheaper labour costs has led to **job losses** in local communities in developed countries.

Although people say that globalisation has led to a greater understanding of other cultures, it has also caused a loss of **cultural diversity**, causing people to lose their traditional **identity** and languages, as cultures become more **westernised**.

Globalisation also impacts the environment. The **desire for** products that cannot be **locally sourced** means that they are often transported across **vast distances at great cost to** the environment. In addition, this can lead to the **destruction** of **natural habitats** to **make way for** infrastructure. Increased **consumption** puts pressure on **natural resources** and companies sometimes **exploit** weaker **environmental laws**.

The **human cost** of globalisation is also high. On the one hand, people's **eagerness for** cheap products and more choice **coupled with** companies' desire for low **production costs** means that some people work in **deplorable conditions**, and **child labour** is sometimes used. On the other hand, it has also facilitated **human trafficking**, one of today's most **pressing human rights** challenges. According to the UN, two thirds of the **victims** are women and children. Many are trafficked for **sexual exploitation** or **forced labour**. Some are **coerced into** criminal activity, and a small number into **forced marriages** or organ **removal**.

Globalisation is here to stay. But as the former Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, said in a speech at Harvard University in 1998,

“ If globalization is to succeed, it must succeed for poor and rich alike. It must **deliver rights no less than riches**. It must provide **social justice and equity no less than economic prosperity and enhanced communication**. ”

critic *opp of supporter*
to profit D,W,S
at the expense of sth
 → **to be at the expense of sth**
developing country D
transnational company
to lead (led, led) to sth
demise [dɪˈmaɪz] *no pl* S
homogenisation [həˌmɒdʒɪnaɪˈzeɪʃn] D
relocation D,W,S,A
production facility [fəˈsɪlɪti] D
job loss *syn loss of employment*

cultural diversity [daɪˈvɜːsəti]
westernised D,W

desire [dɪˈzaɪə] **for sth**
locally sourced
vast distance
at great cost to sth
destruction [-ɪ-]
 → **to destroy sth**
natural habitat
to make way for sth
consumption [kənˈsʌm(p)ʃn] D,S,A
natural resources [nɪˈzɔːsɪz] *pl*
to exploit [ɛksplɔɪt] **sth** W,S
environmental law

human cost

eagerness [ˈiːgənəs] **for sth**
coupled with sth
deplorable conditions *pl*
child labour [ˈtʃɪlbə] *no pl*
human trafficking *no pl*
pressing *syn urgent*
human rights *usu. pl*
victim
sexual exploitation [ˌɛksplɔɪˈteɪʃn]
forced labour *no pl*
to coerce [kəʊˈɜːs] **sb into sth**
forced marriage [ˈfɔːstˌmæɪrɪdʒ]
removal
 → **to remove sth**

to deliver sth D,W,S
social justice
equity [ˈɛkwɪti] *syn fairness* A
prosperity A
 → **prosperous**
enhanced

hier: Gegner/-in profitieren
 auf Kosten von etw.
 → auf Kosten von etw. gehen
 Entwicklungsland
 transnationales Unternehmen
 zu etw. führen
hier: Niedergang
 Homogenisierung, Vereinheitlichung
 Verlegung
 Produktionsanlage
 Jobverlust, Arbeitsplatzverlust

kulturelle Vielfalt
 verwestlicht

Begierde nach etw.
hier: aus lokaler Produktion bezogen
 riesige Strecke, große Entfernung
 mit hohen Kosten für etw.
 Zerstörung
 → etw. zerstören, etw. vernichten
 natürlicher Lebensraum
 für etw. Platz schaffen
 Verbrauch, Konsum
 Bodenschätze
hier: etw. ausnutzen
 Umweltgesetz

hier: der Preis für die Menschheit, die Folgen für die Menschen
hier: Begierde nach etw.
 verbunden mit etw.
 elende Bedingungen
 Kinderarbeit
 Menschenhandel
 dringend
 Menschenrechte
 Opfer
 sexuelle Ausbeutung
 Zwangsarbeit
 jmdn. zu etw. zwingen
 Zwangsehe
 Entfernung, *hier:* Entnahme
 → etw. entfernen

etw. liefern
 soziale Gerechtigkeit
 Gerechtigkeit
 Wohlstand
 → wohlhabend
 verbessert

Migration

Migration is the movement of people from one area or country to another. There are many reasons why people leave their **homeland**. Some are **economic migrants**, so they leave their country **voluntarily** in search of a better job and life. Others are **refugees** or **asylum seekers**, who **flee** their country because of the threat of **persecution**, or sometimes they are **civilians** fleeing conflicts. And some are environmental or **climate migrants**, whose homes become **uninhabitable** due to climate **stressors** such as **rising sea levels**, severe flooding or **persistent** drought.

Globalisation has led to an increase in migration. Economic globalisation has **highlighted** the **inequalities** between nations and caused many people to migrate **out of economic necessity** and the **desire for** a better life. As a result, **destination countries** have **drawn up** more **restrictive immigration policies** and **set** immigration **quotas**. Tighter **border controls** mean that **illegal immigrants** often turn to **criminal networks** and **smugglers** to help them reach their destination country. Criminal networks that smuggle people for **financial gain** now increasingly control the flow of migrants across borders. The price is often very high, travelling conditions can be very dangerous and **inhumane**, and some **lose their lives** along **migration routes**.

migration [maɪ'greɪʃən] D,W
homeland S
economic migrant [ˌmaɪgrənt] D
voluntarily [ˌvɒləntərɪ'li] W,S
refugee [ˌrefjuːdʒiː] W,S
asylum [ə'saɪləm] **seeker** D
to flee (fled, fled) S
persecution [ˌpɜːsɪ'juːʃən] D
→ to persecute [ˌpɜːsɪ'kyuːt] sb
civilian [sɪ'vɪliən]
climate migrant D
uninhabitable [ˌʌnɪ'neɪbəl]
stressor
rising sea level
persistent [pə'sɪstənt]

to highlight sth
inequality
out of economic necessity
desire for sth
destination country
→ transit country
to draw (drew, drawn) **sth up**
restrictive [ˌrɪstrɪktɪv]
immigration policy
to set (set, set) **a quota**

border control
illegal immigrant [ɪˌlɪ:ɡəl ɪ'mɪgrənt]
smuggler
financial gain *syn* profit
inhumane [ɪnhjuː'meɪn] W,S,A
to lose (lost, lost) **one's life** S
migration route [maɪ'greɪʃən ˌruːt]

Abwanderung, Migration
Heimat(-land)
Wirtschaftsflüchtling
freiwillig
Flüchtling
Asylsuchende/-r, Asylbewerber/-in
fliehen (aus), flüchten
Verfolgung
→ jmdn. verfolgen
Zivilperson
Klimamigrant/-in
unbewohnbar
Stressfaktor
Meeresspiegelanstieg
anhaltend

etw. hervorheben
Ungleichheit
aus wirtschaftlicher Not
Wunsch nach etw.
Zielland
→ Durchreiseland, Transitland
hier: etw. betreiben, etw. verfolgen
restriktiv, be-/einschränkend
Einwanderungspolitik
eine Quote festlegen (*hier*: Anteil pro Nationalität)
Grenzüberwachung
illegale/-r Einwanderer/Einwanderin
Schleuser/-in, Schmuggler/-in
Profit
unmenschlich
ums Leben kommen
Migrationsweg, Flüchtlingsroute