

Globalization vs. Sovereignty

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As the concept of economic globalization has developed since the 1980s, capital flows and international trade have grown tremendously. With the use of globalization, the world is more connected than ever. And with this expansion of interconnectedness, anyone anywhere can engage in conversation and the spread of ideas with any other person in the world. Although some might believe that globalization would bring down the sovereignty of the nation-state model, I argue that nation-states will always be the foundation of how we live, and that globalization is only furthering each individual nation-state's advance.

Sovereignty is the idea that states are autonomous and independent entities, and each has total, exclusive control over what happens within their state. It implies power over people and power over geographical areas. Stephan Krasner defines it with the help of four dimensions, domestic, interdependence, international legal, and Westphalian (Krasner, 2019). With this definition of sovereignty, people can argue whether or not a country has sovereignty breaking it down further and arguing within each dimension. Furthermore, Yairmar Bonilla jumps deeper and makes the connection that sovereignty is “not centered around the idea of closed borders, and currency, and a flag, and a stamp and the kind of accoutrements of the state. But that we're instead centered on alternative notions of community and alternative ideas of how to assert power over their lives” (McGuirk, 2017). I think this definition relates more to the greater meaning and goal that sovereignty is trying to achieve.

Although it might seem that globalization is a potential threat to nation-states as it brings down the barriers of communication and international commerce, it has only led to the further advance of each state. With the invention of air and sea transport, same-day travel to other countries has greatly expanded trade, and with that has forced countries to change the way they interact with each other, making it so trade is peaceful and effective. I believe that with the

expansion of globalization, underdeveloped countries that once didn't have a chance to sit at the big table with the rest of the world, are now receiving more opportunities which leads to more sovereignty.

Although Thomas Friedman's arguments don't take into account the entire picture, I think to its core, his beliefs still hold some truth. He argues that technology allows for equal opportunity for people to succeed, and while there are some flaws to that statement, I think the outcome stands true. With big corporations outsourcing and offshoring business and tasks to smaller countries, it allows people in those countries to show off their talents and move up in the world (Friedman, 2005). Which then leads to this waterfall effect that if a country is getting smarter, it starts to grow, and gains more sovereignty. Thus, globalization is actually helping advance these smaller, less developed countries. In addition, countries like the United States, who currently hold lots of power, see these countries on the rise and understand that if they want to stay on top that they need to make more advances, whether that be in technology, economics, or something else. This allows for a healthy gain in sovereignty for all those involved, while using globalization as their means.

The fact of the matter is that "the globalized world" is an unreachable destination. Although we are always striving to become more and more globalized, there will always be nation-states and domestic problems that will take more precedence. However, globalization creates global problems like climate change, global public health, and even global political issues. While these problems affect everybody, there is no higher power or world government who is in charge of these problems specifically. Instead, each nation-state needs to individually decide if they want to take part in their duty of making the world we live in, a better place for all. And with that, I believe that if each state individually decides to help, more advances will be

made. If all of the smartest citizens from every country come together to try and solve these issues, each state will individually reap the rewards. And with reward comes more power and more sovereignty.

References

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