

## Political Battles over Globalization and Forging for the Global Citizenship

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### *Abstract*

*This is an age of communication; collectivism gives rise to global village that calls for a global citizenry. It is easy to be a globalelectronic (global and electronic) citizen who attains his nationality through internet, multimedia extension, mobile phones, cyber space, and electronic mail etc. It is well-nigh impossible to be a global citizen as every individual has its idiosyncrasy that always grow up with the social milieu lying around him. Therefore, people living in the North are unable to cope with people living in the South in all aspects of life.*

*Political unevenness between the North and the South is a major source of dichotomy between two poles. Globalization is a source that collects people in the form of a whole but ineffectual in forging them to be a global citizen. All political battles over globalization can become to an end if selective morality diminishes. The South is unable to move in the world at will but the North can. Hence claims of laissez faire, peace, human rights, good governance, and sustainable human development are at stake as pluralism facing crises in morality. Thus it seems difficult to have an end product in the form of a global citizenship. It is only possible when morality prevails in attaining its end product through freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of association.*

*This paper is based on inductive, deductive, and comparative methods of research.*

## INTRODUCTION

Globalization is an increased interconnectedness of individuals, technology, finance, information and industry. The major tools of globalization are the multinational corporations (MNCs) and international financial institutions (IFIs). Aggressive marketing, advertisements and catchy slogans are other alluring aspects of this modern phenomenon. It favours the West for being technologically sophisticated and industrially strong. The West can adjust itself for integrating the world economies in to one integrated economic world. The rest (developing world) is unable to adjust itself in the integrated economic world owing to its meager economies.

After the Second World War in 1945, decolonization created industrial, technological and communication revolutions along with human revolution. Most of the colonies were liberated in Africa, Asia and Latin America after the Second World War. This environment revolutionized the world with neocolonialism that kept the newly independent states under the influence of their colonial masters. After the nuclear detonation by Russia in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concentrated on containing communism. On the other hand Warsaw Pact was a shield used by Russia to combat the influence of NATO. Here started the Cold War between America and Russia.

Thomas L. Friedman a journalist from America believes that globalization is a replacement of Cold War era with democratization of technology, democratization of finance and democratization of information, going on through computers, credit cards and internet respectively.

Political battles over globalization mean that there are different world views upon the success of this modern phenomenon. As few believe that the process of globalization can earn its fruits in democratic world. With the on going economic development in China has categorically explained that it is wrong perception. Therefore, globalization can also

work in a centrally controlled administration. It is a matter of 'system capabilities' that are always working in each and every political system at domestic as well as international levels. Immanuel Wallerstein gives his theories of globalization regarding world government, world culture and world polity that based upon attaining global citizenship. In the prevailing circumstances it seems impossible that an individual can attain a global citizenship in reality. Although internet and computers have democratized the technology and information at a large scale that can only assist individuals to become closer to each other at global level, have friendship and other exchange of views yet they are unable to visit each others places at will. There are many restrictions from the West on the rest. Most of the people in the developed world can visit all parts of the world while on the other hand developing world can not follow the suit. Such inequality favors the West will not materialize the dream of global citizenship. The question is what is the obstacle in attaining such goal?

The answer is multicultural and multiracial structure of different societies based on multilingualism and diversified ideologies. Therefore it is pretty difficult to harmonize such societies to see them as one unit or global citizens. It is easier to become a globalelectronic (global-electronic) citizen through internet, email or cyberspace as compare to global citizen.

The definition of a citizen pertains to the birth right of an individual who carries certain rights being a citizen that determine his citizenship of any country. Those rights usually relate to fundamental rights. As for as global citizenship is concerned, seems difficult at the moment especially after the 9/11 incident that entirely changed the whole world.

Kenichi Ohmae's borderless world, end of history of Francis Fukuyama or Jihad vs. McWorld of Benjamin R. Barber are such models that provide us information regarding globalization and its merits vis a vis demerits.

According to Kenichi Ohmae four 'Is' are ruling in the world that named as Individual, Industry, Investment and information technology and collectively it created a borderless world. That was why Fukuyama called this era as culmination of human freedom and calling this age an end of history-the man living in this age is called the last man. Contrary to this Barber believes that Jihad is an anti force of McWorld but both are against democracy. In the presence of Samuel P. Huntington's thesis 'the clash of civilizations' the Western dream of global citizenship will remain at stake.

American war on terrorism has divided the West and the rest vehemently. The North and the South division is a big impediment in achieving the goal of global citizenship. All industrial developments are happening in the North and population increase is going on in the South. This lopsidedness is keeping the two poles at an arm's length from each other. Bush doctrine has further exacerbated the situation in this regard.

Amy Chua writes in her book *World on Fire* that dominant minority in different parts of the world is really breeding seeds of hatred against market democracy and free trade. She gives the example of Chinese investments in Burma and Philippine are accumulating wealth of local people and sending it back to their native homelands. It dissatisfies the local people as well as businessmen.

Although communication revolution is providing information to the people, also creating 'relative deprivation' among the same. It causes 'migration of dreams' among the peoples of the third world. The difference between haves and have-nots creates conflicts in the society. Electronic media is very gaudy in its glamour that caused relative deprivation among the have-nots who remain unable to attain all such precious things, shown in dramas and films that they believe will get one day, remained unfulfilled. Therefore, it is disuniting the peoples of the world. It is not only America but other states for example; China, India,

Pakistan, and U.K. are also facing threats of terrorist activities. Suicide bombing and killing of innocent people is going on in these countries by unknown enemies of peace. They do not belong to any religion, country, or community they are just terrorists.

Such circumstances alarms international security. That not only involves undeclared wars, armed interventions but also diseases like HIV aids, Hepatitis A, B and C etc. India is very vulnerable in such domains where poverty is forcing women to have sexual relations with other people for money that they could support their families. So, such women become citizen of an HIV community rather a citizen of a country.

### **FORGING FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

Media fabrications have distorted the world in many ways. America puts allegations upon Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan for supporting terrorists. Monopolization of economic resources is going on by the haves in the name of democracy, governance, sustainable human development, and human rights. All such discrepancies on the part of the West are real hurdles in getting a global citizenship.

American invasion in Iraq in 1991 and 2003 and in Afghanistan in 2001 are pertinent examples to admonish the guarantors of peace and human rights. No system or culture can be imposed on any other country; it always evolves out of the native peoples and their interaction with each other. Respect for each other's sovereignty is a prerequisite for sustaining world peace. Today the United Nations is silent over the aggrandizement policy of the U.S. that is detrimental for globalization. That was why nation states seem to go to an end and regional economies are uniting to face the imminent danger in the form of the U.S. The European Union is a success story in this respect. There may be Islamic Union or Asian Union and Gulf Union in future if America and its allies go on expanding their tentacles to grapple the economy of the world.

In present circumstances, globalization forces a person to be a global citizen but pragmatically it is impossible as every individual is groomed up through his own cultural values that can be given up for some time or in specific circumstances but not all the time. Idiosyncrasy plays an important role in determining the role of an individual at the domestic and at international levels. Therefore, it is well-nigh impossible for all peoples of the world to harmonize their attitudes and values for a global world. America successfully assimilates various identities and culture of the world, besides that we all know that there have been many precedents of racial discrimination. The victory of elected president Barack Obama is very pertinent example for American society that speaks volumes about the racially unbiased community. Same president also believes in sending more forces to Afghanistan for war on terrorism that means the Bush doctrine is still alive. Hence it is not Obama or Bush who make policies but it is the American establishment that dictates them for attaining certain national interests.

In the contemporary age forging, imposition, forcing and compulsions are such words that better not be used in the international politics. One can believe that modern society demands for a global citizenship but varying characters, values, cultures, languages and customs in different parts of the world kept people segregated. This segregation is usually making any community proud. As, whites always consider them better than the rest of the peoples of the world. A constant divide between the North and the South on the basis of riches and poverty restrained the world to get closer for a global citizenship.

Charles Norchi explain the situation in his writing as “the picture is one of contrasting extremes - inside, the great beneficiaries of globalization, and outside its discontented, for whom globalizing trends are paved by organic repression dictated by a closed oligarchy. These conflicting

perspectives must be bridged or a new global architecture will rest on a shaky foundation.”<sup>1</sup>

### **RISE OF REGINALISM**

The direct corollary of globalization is the rise of regionalism. America is unwilling to share the world resources therefore; other developed countries of the world are integrating for their survival in the future. The European Union is the only success story so far competing American influence. China and the ASEAN are other groups adopting themselves according to international environment. Regional integrating agreements are categorically explaining the strategy of the developed world to escape itself from American influence.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is sine qua non that variations in cultural perspectives must be considered important for attaining the objective of a world government that may lead to global citizenship. Imposition of the Western model over the rest of the world will be dangerous for the world. The ‘cultural sensitivity’<sup>2</sup> is very much considerable in this respect.

In the prevailing circumstances it seems difficult to see global citizenship for an individual but easy to see globalelectronic citizenship. Since it is an age of globalization, assisting people to share, exchange, laugh, play and interact with each other without any government intervention through internet, emails, and mobile phones. Therefore, it is favourable to all people of the world, not to bother governments for attaining globalelectronic citizenship. There is no need for any documentation, formalities regarding citizenship and expenditures etc. it is clear that world governments remain unsuccessful in sustaining peace in the world owing to pursuing their national interests. For national interest of a country is a national disinterest of another country.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Norchi, *The Global Divide*, Boston Globe, February 1, 2000. Website <http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/tncs/davos/davos10.htm> visited on January 26, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

The United Nations has become defunct in the present circumstances. Big powers are pursuing the policy of might is right. America has adopted the policy of white man's burden and monopolizing the economic resources of the world. The ongoing war on terrorism is disuniting the world and pushing it towards another World War. It is better to learn lessons from technology based citizenship that is uniting people without any discrimination and harmonizing human emotions to take care of each other even sitting in far flung areas of the world. The 'Bush Doctrine' is a real terror for the peace of the world. Today America is really under threat owing to the unilateral policies of the Bush government.