

GLOBALIZATION: justified?

I would like to ask you whether globalization could mean any threat or danger for democracy in the world.

I think it is already proved to be a danger for democracy for many countries. Particularly, structural adjustment policies deeply affected so many countries (those in Africa and many others...). It is eliminating milk for children and free clinics. Those countries cannot pay back to the World Bank. Another interesting example of this is the handling of the global justice movement that protests against world trade organization or IMF. The police are beating people on the street and jailing them.

What about the future of globalization. You were talking about the relationship between labor and capital and how technology influenced these two parts. It sounds like a tragedy. Do you think that exploitation of labor will continue in the coming years?

Absolutely yes; how could it not continue? I mean, how does capital makes profit? Let me ask you: Both of you have these jobs. Do you think that you are ever paid full value of your labor? Do you get everything back in your pay check, everything of the value that you made for your company? Think about your own situation. If you are paid full value, what will your company get from your labor? Then, how can capitalism exist without exploitation? So, some ideas are old, but they are still good.

Everybody who is talking about globalization thinks that it will be said that it would be worse and worse in the future...

That's interesting because I think that they [the critics] have a new and interesting development plan that particularly the West brings to them. The emergence of China, the emergence of India, the emergence of Brazil, the emergence of South Africa, the emergence of Russia, etc. These countries are becoming very powerful on the global stage. They have hundreds billions dollars in revenue from investments and trade, now they are going out and they are buying corporations and they invest a lot of money. I think in many ways, it might not be helping the majority of the population in the India or in all Asia, but definitely it would be helping the middle class section and intelligentsia. They definitely benefited from globalization. They are becoming powerful players in many different ways through the state rather than trade.

Then, is it possible to stay away from globalization? Can we escape it?

It is possible to stay away if it collapses. There are many aspects: I can maybe lay out two or three. One possible feature that globalization will consolidate over a period of the next 50 or 100 years or there will be some political conflict or worldwide struggle and it will continue, maybe here comes all sorts of

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internal problems, not all of them good, like economic collapse, reactionary nationalism, fundamentalists' religions such as Islam, Christianity or Judaism, manifestation of guns. There is also the possibility of a global movement for justice and human solidarity that we see through global social forms. So, all these possibilities exist and they will be determinants for historical processes. So the industrial closed economy that we experienced from 1852–1952 (that is, a hundred years) does not exist anymore. It will be very difficult to return to that because I think the technology that we have today is so closely integrated, and communications as well. There have been some qualitative changes from globalization, absolutely. Maybe we have reached the apex. We would have to destroy these technologies, destroy the knowledge and step back. I don't view this very happily. There can be a nuclear war or some epidemic or something like this.

Do you see any advantages of globalization for the world?

I think that against the emergence of the third world (China, India and Brazil, etc.) is this stage progressive and good. Even in the three hundred years of Western domination this is a historical progressive step. It doesn't mean that workers in China are not exploited although I think that globalization is good and unexpected.

You were also talking about the radar station in the Czech Republic. What is your own opinion?

Well, the plan is so obvious to bring the Czech Republic as a new partner into a military alliance with U.S. But it is also does not deal with Iran. Everything is to push U.S. military closer to Russia and the Czech Republic is good territory. In my view it is also better not to have missiles around Georgia, Kazakhstan and other former Soviet republics. So as the Soviet Union disintegrated, the U.S. military started to occupy that space. So I think it is very dangerous for the Czech Republic.

So you do not agree...

Absolutely not! It is really dangerous for countries to create military relationship with U.S.

Do you think it is better to have radar in Russia, as Russian politicians have suggested?

I think it was just smart political move by Putin. I think he was not serious and he really does not want U.S. radar in Russia. He started political maneuvers around the Czech Republic and Poland. But I don't think that radar would be in Russia. Once you are in military relationship with U.S., what follow next is: Will you send your soldiers to Iran? The U.S. Army will have future wars; that

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would mean that country should support their army. Although it is a little step, it opens the door.

How would you describe the relationship between USA and China?

It is a really interesting and very contradictory relationship. On one hand there are many who politically fear China, as do some business firms. China is a very easy enemy for many politicians to blame for loss of jobs and imbalance in trade. There is widespread propaganda against Chinese. And there is also some military fear. U.S. defense has many military universities which divide the world in the regions to study, but the only country studied by itself is China. On the other hand there are huge investments in China such as U.S. transnational corporations. They are eager to promote a good relationship with China. We want to develop a strategic relationship, to bring China to all those nations. That is true even with the Bush administration: the finance department of U.S. government and talk with China about investments, diplomatic and political relationships but for example other nations consider China as a strategic enemy.

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