

# Global Sociology

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Systematic study of character of human interaction.

1. What is Global Sociology?
2. Globalization
3. Globality

Historical events, beliefs, social influences, acting on an individual, family, or wider social groups, structure human behavior.

Local, national, regional and global -> 1960: world had become a singular system in 3 senses:

1. Remarkable concurrence in the ideology of economic development.
2. Pool of options was limited in number, and worldwide in scope.
3. The life of individuals anywhere is affected by events & processes everywhere.

➔ Multiple, interlocking, and sometimes dangerous transformations.

Some are the product of earlier changes, such as imperialism and the spread of nation-state industrialization projects. In order to understand these changes, we need a sociology for ONE world.

## Recent Global Changes:

1. Shift in economic & political power -> Extraordinary development of China (dominant communist party) & India. BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India, China. + Turkey, Australia, Nigeria, South-Africa.
2. Global warming & climate change. -> The rise of economies decreases the availability of Key-resources, like minerals, oil.

➔ Melting polar icecaps, -> Cause/aggravate food shortages.

3. Increasing inequality both within and between societies. Technological change and open markets have enabled TNC's and financial institutions to spread operations across the globe.

➔ Tax fraud, decline in job-security. Increasing disparity between elite-countries and "fourth world" -> serious economic development is impossible. (Marxism/I-system, CC//PP)

X World inequality is dangerous; -> fuels racism, Islamophobia, genocidal wars, growing crime & gender violence, and unmanaged migration flows. -> Increase of dependence on credit.

4. Trend towards individualization. (self-realization). -> "ME-culture", -> counters strong civil society/community.
  - Mass media, internet, "consumerist-world".
  
5. Worldwide recession. -> caused by banks who lend too much unsecured credit to too many borrowers who can't pay it back.
  - In major economies, like the USA, UK, Japan & Italy, the recovery remained weak. Consumer-confidence was low, and high unemployment.
  - ➔ Reduce social services/pensions, -> social unrest: Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Ireland.
  
6. Social protest & audacity (willingness to take risks/dedication) of hope.
  - Social movements protest against financial greed, corrupt politicians and welfare cuts.
  
7. The Arab Spring. -> Tunisia & Egypt. **Crucial significance:**
  - 1: Signifies the power of ideas: Freedom, democracy, legitimate government. (after decades of repressive auto-regimes).
  - 2: Power to mobilize people through internet and social networks.
  - 3: Captures the anger of educated people, with ambitions, but no perspective.
  - 4: Long-term implications for balance of power between Israel & neighbors.

**Arab uprising face 2 major challenges:**

1. Genuine Transformation: real change of regimes, many counter-democratic forces are still in power (Egypt/Tunisia)
  2. Major external actors which try to influence democratic process, and preserve a kind of "right of control" over new democracies.
- ➔ **Many external actors prefer a "limited" democracy.** The democracy must remain dependent on foreign influence.

**Sociology contributes to understand Social Issues.** -> Interactions, transactions & processes.

How does the elite, who manage & control bodies like the UN, World Bank, government's and IGO's, reach international agreements, formulate policy & make decisions ?

Economics is primarily concerned with the rational decisions which entrepreneurs & consumers make to satisfy their needs.

➔ Market economy governed by competition and price-mechanism guarantees 2 benefits:

1: Maximization of social welfare for the majority

2: Efficient deployment of scarce resources.

+ Individuals can seek their private/selfish goals.

➔ Always power-relations behind the Global trade regimes & patterns.

➔ Focus on Micro-relations -> contribution to global process

## Interpretations

### CHAPTER 1. The Making of Global Sociology

Local level = community

Nation-State level = society

**Globalization:** How the world is knitted together by the increased volume & speed of cross-border transactions. (refers to the external objective ties that bind us together) -> This globalization of social & cultural activities leads to the notion of **Globality**. (subjective and personal awareness of common fate)

- How does social change arise, and become diffused?

Nation-state is a very recent political organization, derived from the French Revolution. (1789: peasant revolt, Guillotine) -> Replaced, multi-national kingdoms, religious domains & empires.

- Will globalization lead to a decline in power and influence of the nation-state ?
- > Changing role of the state

Global sociology provides a vital insight in our evolving world. -> Great depression (1929-39, Wall street, stock crisis -> Fuelled German Nazism and Japanese Fascism.

- ➔ **Gross National Product:** Measure countries wealth; fails to measure welfare and internal divisions.

Developed in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, positioning itself against dominant philosophy, history and theology.

- ➔ Unable to capture import and drama of: Industrialization, Urbanization & Revolution. -> These processes were rapidly transforming the modern world.

- **Xenophobia:** Hatred and fear of foreigners.
- **Third World:** mainly used during cold war, to distinguish nonaligned poor countries from the first (USA/West) and Second (USSR) world.
- **New International Division of Labor:** subdivides production-line into different skills & tasks, and spread across regions and countries.
- **Postmodernism:** Family, class, community, national loyalties are becoming increasingly less important in determining individual lives & ambitions. -> Overload of data & communication.