



The last potluck on an evanescent international roundtable

Saluting Human rights! They will no longer exist in the deglobalization era!

Capacity building training for civil and political cadres

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Scandinavian Institute for Human Rights
Haytham Manna Foundation

Alqudsi Mouhamad Mamdouh

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1. Abstract

This paper presents a succinct discussion on whether we live in deglobalization era, what is deglobalization, and what are its ramifications. Furthermore, the paper answers two vital questions, the first one is how deglobalization impact human rights, and the second one is how deglobalization impact economies, and when it does, what are the consequences that human rights bear. The conclusion is that deglobalization is associated with a vastly negative impact on both economies and human rights. Furthermore, policymakers must widen the lens they are using to view human rights violations from it, because overcoming such a humanitarian crisis requires a new system and a new set of regulations that shape the interactions of the current era, the post-COVID-19 pandemic era.

2. Introduction

Potluck, as defined in [Cambridge Dictionary](#) “an informal meal where guests bring a different dish that is then shared with the other guests”; however, potluck in this paper, figuratively, refers to the contribution, in terms of human rights, those nations brought to the table that shaped 1) states’ constitution, 2) UN resolutions, 3) Courts Sentences, etc. Therefore, in this paper the arguments will be formulated according to what political, economic, and peace building global roundtables have produced and potentially will produce in the current era.

Globalization, unions, international organizations, multinational corporates, etc. made the aforesaid contributions to human rights feasible and realized; the gained benefits over the past decades are impossible to count.

The world of post-WWII till 2019 is what was described in the past three lines, which are sufficient for this mention because what is coming next is terrifying and requires all the dedicated space in this study.

Economic indicators such as inflation and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) together with political indicators including states' tendency towards national protectionism policies, in addition to other factors and indicators, demonstrate a pivotal moment in history which is a movement of deglobalization for the first time since the second world war.

What does this introduction have to do with saluting human rights for one last time?

The broad answer is that the more we advance towards a deglobalized globe, the fewer assurances are there to ensure human rights for citizens. Nevertheless, this

paper clarifies the impact of deglobalization on human rights through two main points of discussion namely: 1) The impact of deglobalization on human rights, and 2) The impact of deglobalization on the economy and the ramifications on realizing human rights.

Yet, it is essential to prepare a conducive environment for the reader to comprehend the danger of this issue. To this end, the next part of the introduction serves as a ground base for a plethora of concepts and used terminologies; the relationship between globalization and human rights is what is a must, to begin with.

The debate about whether globalization has positive effects on humanity and world development is vast. However, some, still argues that with all the magnificent impact globalization is associated with, it brought considerable harm too, in particular, it harmed the very universal human rights we know. According to the Council of Europe, various human rights violations were allegedly caused by globalization; while at the same time it provided movements and activists to fight these negative impacts more efficiently. Among several instances, the Council of Europe has simplified the harm that globalization causes to human rights by explaining how globalization leads to abusive work environments where child labor thrives the most, for instance. Moreover, the Council illustrated in some lines the backlash of civil society actors towards how deregulated financial markets and the unjustified nor regulated power of multinational companies, continuously, contribute to violating human rights such as damaging the ecological systems. The illustration continues to clarify that the concern is not human rights violation in itself, but the incapability of realization of universal human rights around the globe;

this reason is elicited from the lost control of social and economic processes by states because of political and economic globalization. To sum up the council's description of the relationship between globalization and human rights, the council listed various items that are considered at stake in combating globalization: The right to have Equality in dignity, safety, and health; access to food and shelter; property; a healthy environment; and right to life, to work for adequate living conditions, and for indigenous peoples to their culture and development.

What is globalization in the eyes of the Council of Europe then?

It is a description of a variety of "economic, cultural, social, and political changes that have shaped the world over the past 50-odd years, from the much-celebrated revolution in information technology to the diminishing of national and geopolitical boundaries in an ever-expanding, transnational movement of goods, services, and capital."

How have such changes led to harm in the realization of human rights on territories and overseas?

The answer probably is the involved economic element and its translation into the daily life of the world's population. For instance, exploiting foreign farmers and/or cheap overseas child labor was not part of the United Nations or League of Nations resolutions; nevertheless, they were brought by greed for the accumulation of wealth at the expense of the rights of others.

The image of how globalization harm human rights, solely, is disturbing, how terrifying the impact of deglobalization would be then? According to Markus and Jon (2021), deglobalization is defined as "a movement towards a less connected

world, characterized by powerful nation-states, local solutions, and border controls rather than global institutions, treaties, and free movement.”

To describe how of horror deglobalization is, the researchers continued their definition by citing Brexit and Trumpism as signs of the commencement of the deglobalization era. This galvanizes the mind to summon the memory of George Floyd (RIP) and the British government's discrimination against immigrants. These very two memories seem to be the beginning of the violation of human rights, and the worst is yet to emerge from the actions of the arising far-right leaders such as Italian prime minister Giorgia Meloni.

To this end, the following sections present the ongoing debate on deglobalization and Human Rights, and they further explain the relationship between them.

3. The impact of deglobalization on human rights

Post World War Two, the formulation of the United Nations pushed for having serious human rights conversations which were crowned not once, not twice, but several times. Perfect illustrations of these crowned efforts are 1) universal declaration of human rights of [1948](#) (UN OHCHA), and 2) the guiding principles on business and human rights of [2011](#) (UN OHCHA).

It may be bold to conclude that there is a direct link between the world's openness and progress, throughout nearly half of a century of globalization, and improvements in the field of human rights. However, it is fair to hypothesize that the cross borders and international interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions have contributed to advancing the field, which is seen in the foregoing example (dedicating a conversation for business and human rights e.g.).

The reasoning behind this hypothesis is a statement made by Jarrod and Katja (2021) about how deglobalization surges the violations of human rights and threatens human security; therefore, this is a matter that requires urgent attention. On the other hand, what researchers had said could be an explanation of how the path of globalization strengthened every element that was mentioned in the statement e.g., human securities and protecting human rights from violations.

Merging economic conversations with humanitarian actions should be considered as crowd efforts of attempts to advance human rights for many reasons. One of them is that the two researchers mentioned the significant role of businesses in mobilizing human rights; adding to this, they quoted the "UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee" who urged foreign businesses and investors to mobilize Human Security in Myanmar.

Have we considered the role of business in this field before? This is a question for future researchers.

An astonishing but not well-credited sign of deglobalization is the Russian/Ukrainian war. First, it is a sign of deglobalization because of the everyday geopolitical changes that are emerging as a result. For instance, US/European sanctions against Russia resulted in a new form of economic trade that changed commercial exchanges among countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa, separately and between each other.

These changes are associated with deteriorated political and diplomatic interactions and therefore are representing "in-groups" between countries that are closing their borders on each other and forming alliances that limit any aspect of globalization to a certain geographic area; ergo, deglobalization! On top of that,

human rights violations are increasing either directly in war zones, or indirectly through weaponizing food and famine for political or military gains Gilles Paris (2022).

The next section besides highlighting the impact of deglobalization on the economy and human rights indirectly, explains the role that COVID-19 pandemic played in advancing deglobalization and in harming economies, and what are the consequences on human rights.

4. The impact of deglobalization on the economy and the ramifications on realizing human rights.

Contributing to peacebuilding is, in one way or another, contributing to realizing human rights. This indirect contribution could be better explained as it is a “contribution by proxy”. Deglobalization’s impact, however, does not only affect human rights, but also the economy as well as other aspects of life. Nevertheless, in terms of human rights, deglobalization impacts them directly, and indirectly as a result of the harm it causes to the economy.

According to Bittar (2018), deglobalization is associated with economic inefficiency that has consequences on the life of the citizens including but not limited to unemployment, exchange rate fluctuation, deterioration of public investment in social development, etc. What is concerning here is that the impact of these concerns is becoming a primary influencer on the economy. As Harold said in 2017 “Radical doubts are gripping the global economy”; one of the radical thoughts is deglobalization.

This could be astonishingly shocking, but the echo of deglobalization was amplified during the nineties, yet it is not something that humans are not familiar with, Christopher (2017). Moreover, Christopher further explained that impacts including expansion of the poverty gap and increased inequalities between rich and low-income nations.

Speaking of low-income nations, one of their primary sources of revenue is the foreign direct investment FDI which is usually used to enhance the life of the citizens. With this source fading, the economic power that any citizen possesses will be weakened in that particular "low-income country".

What happens when the FDI decline occurs in parallel with inflation and a pandemic that crippled the world?

Douglas (2020) explained how the pandemic (COVID-19) severely harms the economy, and he presented two of the economic damages that we are already witnessed 1) a decline in the world GDP, and 2) a decline in the world's trade deals. These harms are deglobalization accelerators, figure 1 demonstrates how deglobalization is reflected economically.

Globalization is in retreat for the first time since World War II

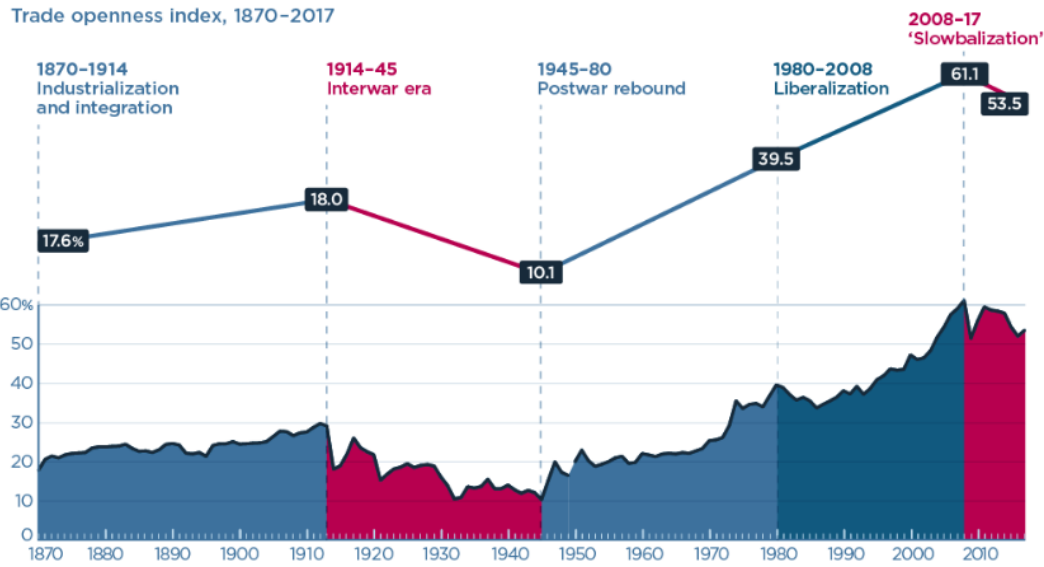


Figure 1 – Douglas (2020)

In a recent report, OECD confirms the deterioration of Foreign Direct Investment during the same period, as seen in figure 2.

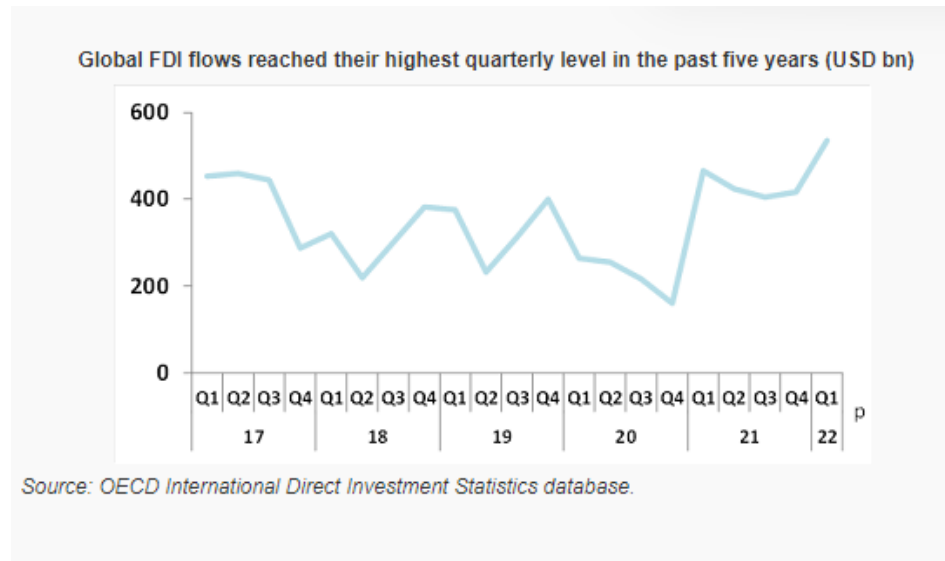


Figure 2 – OECD Foreign Direct Investment Report

Policymakers tend to isolate factors and elements and then deal with each of them as a separate indicator that can be relied on to engineer a policy. In the case of inflation, for instance, policymakers focus on solving the problems that emerge

directly as a result of economic inflation. Shang-Jin and Tao (2022) advised policymakers otherwise, they recommended a more explicit acknowledgment of the inflationary impacts of deglobalization if they are to tackle it; the reason is that the consequences of the war in Ukraine as well as the consequences of the pandemic are interconnected with deglobalization.

Finally, a process of deglobalization is progressing and this is a reason to worry because this means shattering the path to prosperity of low-income (poor) countries (World Economic Forum 2020). In other words, slaughtering the hope of these poor countries.

It is possible to understand that at the beginning of the current decade, COVID pandemic influences and drives deglobalization and will determine its path for the next few years. To this end, the World Economic Forum in the same article presented two scenarios for the development of deglobalization: 1) "a generalized retreat in which deglobalization accelerates as countries and firms reassess the benefits of trade against the risks of import dependence", and 2) "the next phase of deglobalization could be more limited and driven by China's economic transition".

The world seems to go with the first option that the World Economic Forum has suggested, and this was clearly seen in the approach that rich countries and multinational corporates (of rich nations) have used to respond to COVID Pandemic. On one hand, COVID vaccines that were developed in the US and Europe cured the white privileged and then international trade deals of the vaccines took place. On the other hand, the vaccines that were developed in Russia, India, and China, mostly remained within these countries. Some exceptions were

made of course, however, they were associated with western political agenda since western countries denied recognition to any eastern vaccine. This has left the global south and the least fortunate people to encounter danger and risks.

The pandemic together with economic deterioration presented an opportunity for humanity to experience how the world will look if we continue all the way towards isolation, disconnection, and deglobalization.

When the economy is hurt, poor countries suffer the most. In the recent pandemic case, non-vaccine-producer-rich countries such as gulf countries had no problem with vaccine accessibility because they had the economic power that allowed them to possess the cure. On the other hand, many African and Latin American countries suffered from COVID consequences because they were obligated to wait for the vaccine donations that were delivered very late. This is one way to explain, very broadly, how the economy is among the most important factors in achieving the needs of any human being; achieving human rights, by proxy! This is how deglobalization impacts the economy and this is part of the ramification of human rights, and humanitarian crises.

5. Conclusion

We live in a pivotal moment in history since humanity is about to realize that Peace and Economy are inseparable; economy and human rights are inseparable; what hurts the economy hurts any attempt to ensure, assure, or maintain human rights.

The conclusion of this paper is that deglobalization severely harms human rights and its consequences form obstacles in front of the opportunities to realize them. Furthermore, deglobalization, also, negatively impacts economies and this

negative impact has always been associated with ramifications on realizing human rights.

To sum up, we passed the time when acceptable solutions and policies to tackle human rights violations consisted of elements that are linked, solely, in a direct way to these violations. Policymakers, currently, must broaden the lens they view from it, this issue, and they must recognize the interconnectivity of political and economic factors together when it comes to humanitarian response at all levels, global, local, national, regional, etc.

Last but not least and due to the world deglobalization tendency, this paper was titled "The last potluck on an evanescent international roundtable", It is a sign that with deglobalization occurring, roundtables will no longer contribute to human rights conversation, they would rather dismantle the already broken system that the UN put in place for assuring human rights. This is why we need a new set of discussions, a new system, and a new vision for the future.

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