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The Unshuffled Essay #2

Original version

Title: **Examine the impact of globalization on relations between states and their citizens.**

5 Globalization impacts on societies and individual citizens in a multitude of ways, and it is certainly not something with a simple definition, as it involves multi-faceted processes. Whilst the term is still a relatively new one in our contemporary society, the principle has been in existence for centuries. People have traded goods and services since man discovered the ability and the desire to travel and to migrate from place to place. Today, however, globalization is more than the simple trading of goods between a few countries; now it involves the interconnectedness of most of the world, and an expansion of relations between states and their citizens. This essay will be looking at the effect globalization is having on these relationships, and will start by looking at the expectations of both states and citizens, along with the formation of states, including that of both the European and postcolonial African, and including the need for some form of census to enable the state to see its citizens and thereby act effectively. Those citizens who choose to become transnational migrants, and their rights with 'dual citizenship', are also addressed, in particular considering how drawing on rights from their native land and also that of their adopted state can resolve issues which may otherwise seem impossible. These are some of the issues this essay will consider in an effort to discover what impact globalization has on states and citizens.

- 4 It is necessary to consider not only what a state is, but also the type of responsibilities it is expected to carry out in order to satisfy the expectations of the population. A state is an institution, a system of infrastructure in place to support a nation of citizens. It is not a government, which is constantly changing; a state is continuous, and it is a vital component of a market economy. A major responsibility of many states, particularly those newly formed, is to encourage foreign investment, to improve the economic development of the country. The duties of a state are numerous, but there is a basic requirement to provide and uphold laws, and citizenship rights, and to be responsible for the social and economic well being of its citizens. A state also has the unenviable task of levying and collecting taxes, and ensuring military and police forces are in place to protect its citizens. Being a citizen of a nation-state grants certain rights and expectations from the state. The right to be a free citizen is expected by all who live in the democratic countries of the world. This confers the right to vote, and to use the social services provided, such as the education system, and medical facilities. Citizens can expect to have an administrative infrastructure in place, which offers them the support they may require. In order to fulfil the requirements bestowed upon them, a state needs the loyalty of citizens, and in return the population also needs some form of national identity.
- 1 The historical creation of the European states centred on territories arising following many wars, and consequently the need for greater expenditure on the high cost of this warfare, with the advent of taxes levied on the population. These taxes then created need for greater administration, and an infrastructure suitable to implement the collection and dispersal of funds. As citizens began to move around within the state, this infrastructure ensured the state could continue to 'see' them, with a subsequent response from citizens expecting more in return. This created a system almost of bargaining between state and citizens whereby both were aware of the mutual needs of each, and that for both to get the best from this system they needed flexibility and allegiance, and the ability to communicate and cooperate.
- 8 This European system isn't the only way states have been formed. The example of Africa shows how things are very different following a period of colonial rule. When a country is part of a colony, the governing is done from a distance, with little communication with the citizens. Following independence, many African states were unable to rely upon taxes from their citizens, as they had little infrastructure in place to aid this, and often a vast and out of reach territory. Many states therefore relied upon the revenue available from indirect taxation of foreign trade. This allowed them to have an income without the additional need to provide services and benefits to citizens, but, because of the lack of interaction, it also created a distance between state and citizen.

- 2 The ability of a state to 'see' its citizens is also a vital function in its performance. The newly created South African democracy, in response to the demands of its citizens, pledged to improve the supply of water to the population. In order to do this they needed to be aware of exactly who had what type of, if any, water supply. This information was gathered by means of a census, a globally used technique allowing states to identify citizens and their requirements. The census also allowed the state to be seen by the population – perhaps the only time citizens are aware of the state being real, as shown in the image of a population census carried out in India (figure 3.4, Barnett et al., 2008, p. 122). The results of this census not only gave the state clear statistical figures of the delivery of water services from which to plan (as shown in table 3.1, Barnett et al., 2008, p. 116), but also engaged the state and the citizens, allowing both to see where there was further work required, as the statistics became 'real' (see, for example, figure 3.3, Barnett et al., 2008, p. 118).
- 9 The rapid creation of newly industrialized countries in South East Asia is a further example of how globalization affects states and citizens. These countries achieved a high economic growth rate and instead of promising long term reduction in poverty or state support, they purely offer the opportunity for a higher standard of living to those who had the education or financial provision to make their own businesses a success. This reduces any responsibilities of the state to support citizens, and, whilst such a policy benefits the entrepreneurial, for those with no capital and little education, it provides very little. These post-developmental states expect their citizens to be more self-sufficient and they encourage flexibility. This simple management system by the state involves a degree of fragmentation of citizens, as separate groups of society are treated differently, dependent on class, race and gender. Citizens receive more privileges the more they can offer the state economic growth. This creates a disjointed relationship between state and citizens.
- 6 Adaptable relationships give some citizens a greater ability than others to demand more from the state. With an increase in globalization, those succeeding in their nation-state find themselves with the opportunity to move to other states. These transnational migrants often receive 'dual citizenship', allowing them the right to make demands on their parent state, as well as their adopted state.

- 7 The South African government's constitution promised all citizens the right to 'an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being' (Barnett et al., 2008, p. 130). In the area of South Durban, however, it is clear that this particular promise had not been adhered to. This area is heavily polluted from the proximity of oil refineries to residential areas where the poorer citizens live (as shown in figure 3.6, Barnett et al., 2008, p. 131). The local community had been asking for scientific testing and monitoring, to aid them in getting the multi-national corporation culprits to reduce pollution. They were making demands not only of the state, but also of the MNCs, with no response, until transnational activists used the media to promote the issue globally. By doing this they managed to enlist help from external organizations. A Dutch environmental organization tested pollution levels and compared them to other countries. The results caused a reaction from the South African government, and brought the perpetrators into the forefront of people's minds globally. This was only possible because globalization allowed those transnationals to achieve results from their own states, using the powers of both the media and distant states.
- 3 As shown in the example of Durban's environmental issues, citizens are able to make demands on their own states as well as using the media to gain assistance from distant states. Relations between states and citizens are complex and need to be workable, with a requirement for both to constantly adapt in light of new technologies and improving global communications. Citizens have rights to demand from their state and, in return, are expected to show support to encourage the state to provide both social and economic stability. The state and its citizens need to be supportive and loyal to each other, in order for this relationship to prosper.